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**STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON**

Madam Chairperson, Mr. Secretary General, distinguished permanent representatives, ladies and gentlemen,

It's a pleasure for me today to open the autumn session of the Forum for Security Co-operation at the beginning of the Chairmanship of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

I would like to extend my warm thanks to the Georgian delegation for steering the Forum during the middle part of the year. As we all know, this has been a sensitive period for Georgia to steer the Forum and to combine the roles of Chair and participating State after the conflict that took place last summer. We look forward to benefiting from Georgia's experience and guidance as part of the FSC Troika. I should also like to welcome Greece, our current Chairmanship-in-Office, to the FSC Troika, and say a sad goodbye and thanks to France, which leaves the Troika at this stage.

The United Kingdom's work as Chair will be guided by the Ministerial Council decisions taken in Helsinki, notably those on the work of the Forum and on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition. We will also look to the experience and guidance of participating States in bringing together the work of the Forum in preparation for the Ministerial Council at Athens. The UK's indicative schedule for plenary meetings this session has been published under the reference FSC.INF/14/09/Rev.2. We hope you will agree that we have combined an interesting programme of discussions under the Security Dialogue, with space to take forward the bread-and-butter work of preparing for the Ministerial Council. We look forward to working with all participating States in bringing forward and maturing FSC decisions, and working on drafting appropriate Ministerial Council decisions in advance of the Athens meeting.

The Vienna Document 1999, the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, and the Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) remain the basic normative documents of our Forum. In order to enable us to continue to make progress in these areas, the United Kingdom Chairmanship, in agreement with the other members of the FSC Troika and the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), has decided to confirm the mandates of the FSC Chairmanship's co-ordinators, together with the Chairperson of the informal Group of Friends on SALW:

- Lieutenant Colonel Petersen, of the delegation of Denmark, as the Co-ordinator for projects involving stockpiles of conventional ammunition;
- Colonel Eischer, of the delegation of Austria, as the co-ordinator for projects involving the Code of Conduct;
- Colonel Hartnell, of the delegation of the United Kingdom, as the co-ordinator for projects involving small arms and light weapons;
- And last, but by no means least, Colonel Schweizer, of the delegation of Germany, as the Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW.

We are particularly grateful to Colonel Schweizer for his hard work in preparing the forthcoming SALW meeting, on 22 and 23 September, which will review the OSCE Document. We would also like to note that he will leave Vienna in late September after the review meeting. In addition to wishing him all the best, we note that we do not yet have a replacement for him and, as Chair, would welcome delegations' nominations of individuals to continue the Colonel's important work.

My thanks go to all the co-ordinators for the work they have done so far this year, and in advance for the work they will do during this last session. I am most grateful to them for accepting the continuation of their assignments. Our work as Chairmanship is helped a great deal by their unstinting application and dedication to their work.

Thank you.