



Ministry of Defence

Address by Mr. Jan Salestrand, State Secretary to the Minister for Defence, Sweden, at the opening session of the Forum for Security Co-operation, Vienna, September 5, 2018

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Madam Chairperson,

Mr. Secretary General,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

It is a privilege to be here today, addressing the opening session of the Forum for Security Co-operation of the OSCE.

In 1984–1986, Stockholm hosted the Conference on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures and Disarmament in Europe. An agreement was reached in 1986 on confidence- and security building measures, designed to increase openness and predictability about military activities in Europe. The 1986 agreement continues to hold its relevance in today's efforts in achieving security by employing transparency and openness. And just that, transparency and openness, will constitute the main theme of the Swedish chairmanship.

The FSC holds a central place in our efforts to build common security in our region. It is an important and challenging undertaking to assume the role of chair.

Swedish Foreign Minister Margot Wallström addressed the Ministerial Council last December. She noted that the strength of the OSCE lies in our commonly agreed principles and commitments, from Helsinki and Paris and onwards. The OSCE must remain the guardian of these principles. There are no alternatives to our common principles such as territorial integrity, sovereignty, inviolability of borders, and the sovereign right of each country to choose its own security arrangements.

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Therefore, it is of utmost concern that the rules based European security order, as it is laid down in Helsinki and Paris, is threatened and that not all participating States abide by their commitments. Today, fundamental principles are being blatantly violated and questioned. Sustainable peace, security and a rules based order in Europe can only be achieved by restoring respect for the principles and commitments of the OSCE and international law. This is how we can safeguard the continued indivisibility of European security. This is the approach of Sweden in the OSCE, including for the Swedish chairmanship of the FSC.

The OSCE's politico-military tool box is central. We need to make sure the documents and agreements are upheld. There is room for improvement in how we utilize these formats and existing tools. Security is not a zero-sum game, and the rules based order can only function when everyone adheres to the rules.

Sweden believes that challenges to European security must be met through deepened cooperation and joint action. But on a national level, every country must accept its share of the responsibility.

Many participating States agree that modernization of the Vienna document is a necessary step towards achieving common security. While we are on that path, we may increase military transparency and predictability by preserving and developing existing arrangements. These include the Vienna Document and the Open Skies Treaty. We may also explore possible new arrangements on risk reduction and incident management.

In this context, the leadership of Ambassador Paul Huynen, in his role as chair of the Structured Dialogue Informal Working Group, is to be commended. The Structured Dialogue offers us an opportunity to increase military transparency and predictability. Sweden recognizes the need for the work of the FSC to be in concert with discussions and work which take place within the Structured Dialogue.

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Now, I would like to briefly touch upon the work planned for this fall in the various security dialogues of the FSC.

The Swedish chairmanship's first security dialogue will focus on regional cooperation with the goal of increasing transparency and confidence. Preceding chairmanships have offered valuable insights into the conditions shaping various regions. We will outline examples of Nordic-Baltic cooperation in the Baltic Sea region, such as the work carried out in Nordic Defence Cooperation and Sea Surveillance Cooperation Baltic Sea.

Our chairmanship plans two security dialogues for discussions on the Code of Conduct. We will seek to emphasize the core value of democratic control of the armed forces. One focus will be how defence planning and defence policy can be used as tools to this end. The second dialogue will consider the freedoms, rights and obligations of military personnel. One important aspect is how these issues are reflected in military training, especially officers' programs.

Further, a security dialogue will present a country of destination perspective on small arms and light weapons. Preceding chairmanships have shone a light on this topic from the point of view of countries of origin or transit. The Nordic countries tend to be on the receiving end of this illegal flow of arms. We will give attention to the experience of countering illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons in the Öresund region.

This security dialogue will be followed by the Review Meeting on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition in October. The aim is that the Review Meeting will be able to start a process concerned with the normative side of this issue.

There will be an opportunity for participating States to explore military doctrines. The Vienna Document calls for information exchange on defence policy, including military strategy and doctrine. Such exchange is regularly carried out, for example within the framework of the Structure Dialogue. However, these issues have not recently been highlighted in FSC security dialogues. In this instance, we will turn our attention to doctrinal change in a selection of participating States.

A security dialogue will be held on the role of international organizations in the implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. In 2011, the OSCE undertook to cooperate on these issues with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. Disarmament and non-proliferation form a recurring theme in the FSC.

On the 31st of October, the Swedish chairmanship will dedicate the session to the 18 year anniversary of the adoption of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on women, peace and security. Focus will also be on other, connected resolutions, such as United Nations Security Council Resolution 1820 on sexual violence in conflicts. Women's active participation in peace processes is a strategic issue for international peace and security. Strong influence by women is needed in every peace process to create legitimacy, ownership and sustainability.

The Swedish chairmanship has called on women and men in various leadership roles to come and share with the FSC their expertise and ideas in the security dialogues. The chairmanship has invited women flag officers from both East and West of Vienna as speakers. We look forward to a constructive and meaningful exchange.

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I would also like to highlight what the Chief Monitor of OSCE Special Monitoring Mission, Ambassador Ertugrul Apakan, spoke of at the Annual Security Review Conference here in Vienna this past June. The Ambassador brought up the civilian casualties in Ukraine. He pointed out that they are caused by the same factors that continue to pose risks for the civilians in the service of the Special Monitoring Mission: ongoing shelling, small arms fire, and the threats of mines and unexploded ordnance.

This reminds us of the urgency of the dangerous and dedicated work carried out by the Special Monitoring Mission. And, further, underscores our concern for the safety and security of the women and men from 44 participating States who serve in the mission in Ukraine.

We also remember the tragic loss of paramedic Joseph Stone in May last year. Let us remain committed to supporting the monitors as they seek solutions to pressing humanitarian problems. They carry out their work in the wake of the violation of basic principles of international law and the European security order.

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Before closing, let me direct sincere thanks to the Italian chairmanship of the OSCE for providing support and coordination to our FSC chairmanship. Sweden takes up the task of chairing the Forum for Security Co-operation under the leadership of Ambassador Ulrika Funered. Therefore, it is my pleasure to offer thanks to the outgoing Slovenian chairmanship under the leadership of Ambassador Andrej Benedejčič.

I wish to commend the example set by the previous chair in dedicated work, especially in the OSCE Code of Conduct implementation meeting. Thanks to the efforts of the Slovenian chairmanship, the work to achieve cooperation and security has remained at the forefront of this Forum. Allow me, also, to commend the Ambassador for his personal dedication as chair in the MenEngage Network.

I also wish to offer our thanks to Slovakia, now leaving the Troika, for much appreciated cooperation over the course of the past several months. Please let me also offer a sincere welcome to incoming Troika member Switzerland, who will be set to take over the chairmanship in the new year.

Thanks are also due to the FSC coordinators for carrying a large part of the burden of the work that makes it possible to have continued dialogue and maintenance of the instrument that is the FSC.

I commend the *chefs de file* for their leadership and contributions:

Mr Luis Manuel Cuesta – Spain

Colonel Dr Lászlo Szatmari – Hungary

Dr Isa Ghivarelli - Italy

Mr Marian Doris Şerban – Romania

Colonel Hans Georg Lüber – Switzerland

I am grateful to have had the opportunity to join you here in Vienna today for the opening of this autumn's work in the FSC. I wish you success as you continue your dialogues over the coming months. You will be seeking solutions to the challenges which affect us all, ensuring that our commitments and agreed principles can be honored in an environment of transparency and openness.

Thank you, Madam Chair.