

Chairmanship: United States of America**970th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 17 March 2021 (via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.
Suspended: 1 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Closed: 3.25 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ms. D. Pappas
Ms. C. Austrian

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson reminded the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) of the technical modalities for the conduct of FSC meetings during the COVID-19 pandemic, as outlined in FSC.GAL/2/21 OSCE+.

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE: CONFIDENCE- AND
SECURITY-BUILDING AMID STRATEGIC AMBIGUITY

- *Interactive simulation presented by Ms. S. Rybski, Director of Training and Exercises, European Centre of Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats*
- *Discussion moderated by Mr. R. Hindren, Head of International Relations, European Centre for Excellence for Countering Hybrid Threats*
- *Concluding presentation by Mr. D. Roh, Acting Principal Director, Office of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Special Operations & Combatting Terrorism, US Department of Defense*

Chairperson, Ms. S. Rybski (FSC.DEL/104/21 OSCE+), Mr. R. Hindren, Canada, United States of America, Finland, Russian Federation, United Kingdom, Turkey (FSC.DEL/93/21), Georgia (FSC.DEL/96/21 OSCE+), Mr. D. Roh (FSC.DEL/83/21 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

- (a) *Situation in and around Ukraine*: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/86/21) (FSC.DEL/86/21/Add.1), Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/89/21), United Kingdom (FSC.DEL/88/21 OSCE+), United States of America, Canada, Russian Federation (Annex 1)
- (b) *Unnotified large-scale military exercise in Azerbaijan*: Armenia (Annex 2), Azerbaijan (Annex 3), Turkey (Annex 4)
- (c) *Military exercises to be held in the Russian Federation in March 2021*: Russian Federation (Annex 5)

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Donor meeting for South-Eastern Europe, to be held on 24 March 2021*: FSC Co-ordinator for Assistance Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Austria)
- (b) *Call for papers for the second 2021 OSCE-IFSH essay competition on conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures, for students and young professionals*: Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre (Annex 6)
- (c) *Report on the thirty-first Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting, held via video teleconference on 2 and 3 March 2021*: Montenegro (Annex 7)
- (d) *Financial contributions to the FSC e-learning project and to the project on the Information Management and Reporting System (iMARS) for collecting, processing and reporting on exchanged military information*: Sweden, Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre
- (e) *National military exercise “Response 2021”, to be held in Serbia on 17 and 18 April 2021*: Serbia (Annex 8)
- (f) *Distribution of the first full draft of a “Best Practice Guide for implementation of UNSCR 1540: an OSCE compendium of suggested implementation practices” and invitation to a meeting of the Informal Group of Friends on UNSCR 1540 to be held on 27 April 2021 (FSC.DEL/82/21 Restr.)*: FSC Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues (Belarus)
- (g) *St. Patrick’s Day, celebrated on 17 March 2021*: Ireland

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 24 March 2021, at 11 a.m., via video teleconference



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/976
17 March 2021
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

970th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 976, Agenda item 2(a)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Madam Chairperson,

The delegation of the Russian Federation has repeatedly stated at plenary meetings of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) that the question as to which country the Republic of Crimea and the federal city of Sevastopol belong to is definitively closed and not up for discussion. Nevertheless, in the light of the clearly delusional statements heard today from a number of participating States, I should like to state the following.

A significant date, a truly epochal event, is being marked in our country this week, namely the seventh anniversary of the reunification of Crimea with the rest of Russia. I recall that, on 16 March 2014, in a free democratic expression of will, 96.77 per cent of Crimeans voted for a return to their “home port”. On 18 March 2014, the treaty of accession of Crimea and Sevastopol to the Russian Federation was signed.

At present, it is fair to say that Crimea’s integration into the common political, legal and socio-economic space of Russia has been completed. Russia legally and in accordance with its Constitution exercises State sovereignty over the territory of the Crimean peninsula, including measures to strengthen the country’s defence capability. Crimea is one of the most dynamically developing regions of Russia. We invite our esteemed colleagues to visit the peninsula and see for themselves the commitment of its inhabitants to the free choice they made in March 2014.

Now, Madam Chairperson, let me turn directly to the matter under discussion – the politico-military situation in Ukraine.

The Russian Federation is deeply concerned about the surge in tension on the line of contact in Donbas. Since November last year, the frequency and number of instances of shelling of certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions by the Ukrainian armed forces have been increasing steadily. There have been casualties among the civilian population, along with widespread damage to civilian infrastructure. The Ukrainian military is making increased use of mortars of various calibres, and there are reports of rocket-propelled artillery strikes on the northern outskirts of Donetsk.

These are not violations in response to provocation, nor are they accidental violations. These are deliberate acts carried out with the complicity of the Ukrainian authorities. One need only recall the comment on 19 February this year by the Secretary of the National Security and Defence Council of Ukraine, Oleksiy Danilov, that the Ukrainian military could make “instant decisions” as regards opening fire in Donbas.

The OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) has confirmed the movement of additional forces and hardware of the Ukrainian armed forces through railway hubs to the line of contact and the deployment of military equipment in residential areas. Since mid-February, the monitors have recorded at least 300 tanks and other weapons systems belonging to the Ukrainian armed forces, including large-calibre systems, outside their designated storage sites. I would be interested to hear from the delegation of Ukraine as to what the Ukrainian Government is so actively preparing for in the east of the country.

The escalation of tension in Donbas has miraculously coincided with a stalemate in the negotiations within the framework of the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG). After all, it was in November that the Ukrainian side was confronted with the need to respond to the concrete proposals by Donbas for a comprehensive settlement of the conflict. Nevertheless, in violation of the Minsk agreements, the Ukrainian Government continues to stubbornly avoid substantive dialogue with the representatives of Donetsk and Luhansk. Over the past six years, there has been no answer to the question: how exactly does Ukraine intend to resolve the conflict by peaceful, that is non-military, means?

It is also worth recalling that the additional measures to secure the ceasefire regime, to which the Ukrainian delegation to the TCG signed up after six months of stubborn resistance, have been unilaterally disavowed by the Ukrainian Government. Another destructive step was taken in September, when the Ukrainian side rejected a joint mechanism with Donbas to verify ceasefire violations.

While the Ukrainian Government continues to deny the shelling it has initiated and to claim that it is implementing the measures to strengthen the “silence regime”, the casualties of the armed confrontation in Donbas continue to mount. According to the United Nations Human Rights Monitoring Mission in Ukraine, the internal armed conflict in Ukraine has claimed the lives of 3,077 people, including 148 children, since April 2014. As a co-mediator in the peace process, Russia stresses that any further prolongation of the armed violence in the east of Ukraine is unacceptable.

We can see, however, that the current Ukrainian authorities prefer to take no notice of either the residents of Donbas themselves or their representatives in the TCG, continuing with the support of their external “minders” to push the canard about so-called “Russian aggression”. It is obvious that in this way they are trying hard to cover up their own inaction and blatant sabotage of agreements reached previously on an internal Ukrainian settlement and to shift the blame for bringing the peace process to a standstill through their own actions. In doing so, they are banking on the idea that Russia is allegedly a “party to the conflict” and that it allegedly has “certain obligations” under the Minsk Package of Measures.

We suggest that our colleagues take a look at the legal basis of the internal Ukrainian settlement. The parties to the conflict are most clearly and unambiguously identified in paragraph 2 of the Package of Measures, which explicitly refers to the Ukrainian troops and

to the armed formations from certain areas of the Donetsk and Luhansk regions. In other words, the provisions of that document imply that their implementation is equally dependent on joint and concerted action by only two parties – Ukraine and Donbas. I would also point out that the United Nations Security Council, which unanimously endorsed the Package of Measures in resolution 2202 of 17 February 2015, has also recognized them as the parties to the conflict. So, my esteemed colleagues, it is time finally to study the material carefully and start a serious and fact-based discussion on how to overcome the crisis.

Madam Chairperson,

As a response to the statements heard today from a number of Western delegations, which unfortunately contained a distorted interpretation of the situation in Donbas, I should like to stress that it is their actions in support of the destructive steps by the Ukrainian Government that constitute a fundamental challenge to European security. While continuing to lavish praise on the Ukrainian Government's "efforts" and "endeavours" to achieve a peaceful settlement, colleagues are showing the height of cynicism. Perhaps they can remind us today who initiated the punitive operation against their own people for having refused to recognize the outcome of the bloody coup d'état in Kyiv in February 2014? Who, instead of engaging in dialogue with their own citizens, has been raining down bullets and shells on them for seven years now?

It is clear to us what is really behind the tactic of encouraging the Ukrainian Government's aggressive attitude. The United States of America and the Western countries regard Ukraine as nothing other than a bridgehead for the "containment" of Russia and have made systematic efforts to maintain a hotbed of tension near our borders.

In that context, the words of the Deputy Prime Minister of Ukraine for European and Euro-Atlantic Integration, Olha Stefanishyna, who during a recent meeting with a delegation of the Allied Land Command of the North Atlantic Alliance (10 and 11 March this year) said that "the invaluable experience of countering Russia allows Ukraine to transfer to the next stage of its integration into NATO", seem very telling.

The economic and military advantages of the coup d'état in Kyiv for the United States and its allies are plain to see. Over the past seven years, exercises by NATO countries have intensified on the territory of Ukraine (eight are planned for this year), and the most attractive sectors of its economy are being taken over by US and European companies. For example, the Odessa aviation plant will soon start assembling US Bell UH-1 Iroquois utility military helicopters.

Western countries continue to fund, train and beef up the Ukrainian army with weapons and military equipment. We have taken note that, in early March, a group of military advisers from the United Kingdom visited Ukrainian positions near the so-called Joint Forces Operation in Donbas and assessed the training of the Ukrainian troops deployed there. It would be very interesting to hear those very assessments from our esteemed British colleagues, and also to ask whether they would also like to familiarize themselves with the situation on the other side of the line of contact. This would be a true indication of their desire for a peaceful settlement of the internal Ukrainian conflict on the basis of the balance of interests of the parties.

Madam Chairperson,

To sum up, I would like to emphasize that the only thing the external “minders” of the current Ukrainian Government can and should do is insist that it implement its part of the Minsk agreements. We urge our Western colleagues to work closely with their “charges” so that, instead of armed provocations and distortions of reality, they engage in restoring dialogue with the residents of eastern Ukraine, as stipulated by the legal framework for an internal Ukrainian settlement. Furthermore, with increasing shelling from the Ukrainian side, it is essential that the partners use their influence to prevent the resumption of a full-blown civil war. The position of covering up for the Ukrainian Government is nothing but a betrayal of the people living in the conflict zone and of the much vaunted European values that our Western colleagues are so fond of talking about.

We sincerely hope that the Ukrainian leadership will succeed in preventing an escalation of tension and in reaffirming its commitment to the Ukrainian Head of State’s signature on the Minsk Package of Measures. As a mediator, the Russian Federation, along with the OSCE, Germany and France, is prepared to assist in every possible way in resolving the situation in the east of Ukraine. As Russian President Vladimir Putin has stated, an attempt to retake Donbas by force could have very grave consequences for Ukrainian statehood in general.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/976
17 March 2021
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

970th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 976, Agenda item 2(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Madam Chairperson,

On 15 March 2021, the armed forces of Azerbaijan started a large-scale military exercise which will end tomorrow, 18 March. According to the official information provided by the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan, the military exercise involves up to 10,000 military personnel, 100 tanks and other armoured vehicles, 200 missiles and artillery systems of various calibres, multiple-launch rocket systems and mortars, and 30 military aviation and unmanned aerial vehicles.

In accordance with Chapter V (Prior Notification of Certain Military Activities), paragraph 40.1.1, of the Vienna Document 2011, these exercises should have been notified at least 42 days before the start date, since the amount of troops involved in the exercise exceeds the threshold of 9,000. Furthermore, if Azerbaijan's declared good intentions and "sincere" invitations to establish good-neighbourly relations were genuine and real, then these exercises should have been notified regardless of the number of troops involved in the exercise.

Madam Chairperson,

This is already the third unnotified military exercise in our region since the cessation of hostilities in the war of aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan against Artsakh and its people in September 2020. We would like to recall that when, here at the FSC back in January, the Armenian delegation requested the delegation of Turkey, for the sake of transparency, to provide information on the parameters of the joint Turkish-Azerbaijani military exercise held from 1 to 12 February in Kars, which, by the way, was described in the Turkish and Azerbaijani media as the largest military exercise of the winter season, the delegations of Turkey and Azerbaijan refused to provide information and in unison accused Armenia of hindering the efforts aimed at bringing stability and security to our region.

We continue to believe, as we have previously asserted, that all the pronouncements of the delegation of Azerbaijan about building safety and security and promoting co-operation in our region are nothing more than attempts to project an image of Azerbaijan as a peace-loving nation. For this to become true, words and statements are not sufficient on their own but must be followed by concrete actions.

The statements and pronouncements of Azerbaijan ring particularly hollow when one considers them in the light of its continuous claims to the right to use force against Artsakh and its threats to use force again. Peace is not just a pretty word. It cannot be built on the use of or threat of use of force. In this context, the conducting of unnotified large-scale military exercises with clear offensive objectives and accompanied by highly provocative and hostile messages reveals Azerbaijan's true intentions.

In recent years, unnotified military exercises conducted by Azerbaijan have twice resulted in military aggression against Artsakh – in 2016 and 2020. And we view the conducting of the current exercise as a real security threat to Armenia and Artsakh. We call on the OSCE participating States to support our efforts to create an environment conducive to building trust and confidence in our region, and to react to such provocative actions, which are also clear violations of the provisions of the Vienna Document.

Madam Chairperson,

We are convinced that the OSCE politico-military toolbox should serve its objective of promoting trust and confidence through the enhancement of transparency and elimination of misperceptions.

This having been said, I would in the spirit of transparency like to inform the Forum about the military exercise currently being conducted by the armed forces of Armenia which is not subject to notification under the Vienna Document. The tactical and tactical-professional exercise, which will last from 16 to 20 March, is being conducted according to the readiness plan of the armed forces of Armenia. The exercise involves up to 7,500 military personnel, 200 missiles and artillery systems, 100 armoured vehicles, more than 150 anti-tank systems, 90 air defence systems, and aviation. The exercise is aimed at: assessing the combat readiness of the troops, command and control, and their rapid reaction capabilities, assessing co-ordination among the organic, attached and combat support units and means, and conducting fire control training, with live fire and tactical-operational war-game scenarios.

I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



970th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 976, Agenda item 2(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Madam Chairperson,

I would like to exercise my right of reply in response to the statement delivered by the delegation of Armenia on the issue of military exercises being held by Azerbaijan.

The operational-tactical military exercises are conducted by the armed forces of Azerbaijan from 15 to 18 March 2021. The exercises involve up to 10,000 personnel, which represent different components, branches, formations and units of the armed forces. It includes the land and air defence forces, as well as reserve forces, internal troops, civil defence units and border troops. The exercises also involve up to 100 tanks and other armoured vehicles, up to 200 missiles and artillery systems of various calibre, multiple-launch rocket systems, and mortars, up to 30 military aviation assets, as well as unmanned aerial vehicles for various purposes. The purpose of the exercises, among others, is to fulfil tasks related to fighting against terrorist groups, in particular illegal armed formations. It must also be emphasized that the exercises do not pose any risks for stability and security in the region and no other regional country except Armenia expressed concern with the exercises.

Contrary to the claims of Armenia, the exercises also do not fall under military activities requiring prior notification as per Chapter V, paragraph 40.1.1 of the Vienna Document, neither in terms of the composition of military personnel nor in terms of the number of military equipment involved in the exercises. Nonetheless, the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan, in the spirit of transparency, has announced the holding of the exercises in advance and on a regular basis issues updates related to different stages of the exercises.

Speaking of military exercises, we would like to inform the Forum that presently Armenian armed forces are also holding large-scale military exercises which started on 16 March and will continue until 20 March 2021. According to the information shared by the Ministry of Defence of Armenia, the exercises involve about 7,500 servicemen, about 200 missiles, rocket and artillery, more than 150 anti-tank equipment, about 100 armoured vehicles, more than 90 air defence equipment.

We further recall that Armenia for decades, in gross violation of its international obligations and fundamental OSCE principles and commitments, illegally deployed its armed forces, engaged in massive military build-up and conducted countless illegal military exercises in the formerly occupied territories of Azerbaijan, using these territories as a training ground for its armed forces. Since last year's counteroffensive of Azerbaijan's armed forces put an end to the three-decade-long occupation of Azerbaijan's territories, Armenia is forced now to train its armed units within its own State borders. Thus, one could expect to see Armenia holding such exercises more often.

Furthermore, we would like to draw the attention of the Forum to the alarming fact that Armenia still attempts to illegally transfer its armed personnel to the territories of Azerbaijan under various disguises. Thus, Armenia attempted to transfer its servicemen wearing civilian clothes to the territory of Azerbaijan via the road passing through the Lachin district in civilian trucks and construction cargo by escaping control procedures of the Russian peacekeeping contingent. Such attempts run counter to Armenia's obligations under the trilateral statement of 10 November 2020, which envisages the withdrawal of Armenian troops from the territory of Azerbaijan concurrently to the deployment of the peacekeeping contingent of the Russian Federation. Moreover, in line with the trilateral statement, Azerbaijan gave its consent to facilitate the movement of civilians, trucks and cargo through the road passing through the Lachin district exclusively for humanitarian purposes. Attempts to misuse it for illegal military goals represent a grave violation of the provisions of the trilateral statement as well as of fundamental OSCE principles and commitments.

In the same vein, it must be reminded that the sabotage group of 62 Armenian servicemen was transferred into the territory of Azerbaijan in late November 2020 after the signing of the trilateral statement and committed series of attacks on Azerbaijani military and civilians, causing the death of four servicemen and one civilian. This led to serious military tension, before the group was detained as a result of anti-terror operation of Azerbaijan. Thus, to avoid the re-occurrence of such incidents and prevent the resumption of tensions in the region, Armenia must abandon its futile attempts to illegally send its military personnel into the territory of Azerbaijan. Armenia should also cease the practice of forcing its servicemen to engage into military activity in the territory of another State against their will and putting their safety in danger, which among others is a blatant violation of the human rights of the servicemen.

To conclude, we urge Armenia instead of perpetuating its protracted narratives and unfounded allegations against Azerbaijan in the FSC, to focus on implementation of its politico-military commitments in good faith, to put an end to its destabilizing actions and statements which may undermine the realization of the trilateral statement of 10 November 2020 and the process of post-conflict rehabilitation and reconciliation. The trilateral statement provides clear guidance for attaining durable peace, security and stability in our region and thus, must be implemented in a comprehensive manner without reservations.

I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/976

17 March 2021

Annex 4

Original: ENGLISH

970th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 976, Agenda item 2(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Madam Chairperson,

I should like to take the floor to exercise my delegation's right of reply to the issues raised by the Armenian delegation.

At several earlier meetings of both the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Permanent Council, we provided detailed information about the joint exercise "Winter 2021" conducted between 1 and 12 February in Kars, Turkey, joint exercise by our country and Azerbaijan. I shall therefore be very brief here.

The exercise was held at the battalion level. The numbers of military personnel and equipment involved were below the thresholds laid down in the Vienna Document 2011.

Accordingly, we did not give any prior notification of the exercise.

However, Turkey, acting in a spirit of good faith, provided information about this military activity via the official channels.

The Armenian delegation has asked about the parameter for providing information on such exercises. As far as Turkey is concerned, the parameter consists of the thresholds enshrined in the Vienna Document.

From the way that the Armenian delegation keeps referring over and over again to this joint exercise in its statements, we understand that our colleagues there have a problem with the thresholds and provisions of the Vienna Document. We therefore urge them to join the efforts to modernize the Vienna Document, and to put forward their suggestions.

We also note that the Armenian delegation, for the sake of "transparency", provided information on the exercise currently being conducted by the Armenian armed forces. However, as is well known, Armenia has since July 2020 unilaterally suspended the implementation of its commitments and obligations vis-à-vis Turkey under the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and the Vienna Document. This is a clear violation of

legally and politically binding documents. If Armenia is in earnest about wishing to increase transparency, we expect it to revoke that decision.

Madam Chairperson, we kindly request you to attach this statement to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/976
17 March 2021
Annex 5

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

970th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 976, Agenda item 2(c)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Madam Chairperson,

In keeping with the principle of voluntary transparency, we should like to inform our esteemed colleagues in the Forum for Security Co-operation about the exercises by the armed forces of the Russian Federation planned for March this year.

From 16 to 22 March, a command and staff exercise with groupings of troops (forces) of the Central Military District will be conducted at training ranges in the Orenburg and Kemerovo regions. The exercise will involve a total of up to 11,500 troops (up to 5,750 troops per training range, with the Kemerovo region not included in the zone of application of the Vienna Document 2011), some 250 weapons and pieces of equipment, and up to 50 aircraft. It should be noted that mandatory notification and invitation of observers under the Vienna Document is not provided for in this context.

From 19 to 26 March, an air and air defence forces command exercise of the Eastern Military District will be held on the territory of the Transbaikal region. The exercise will involve up to 7,000 troops, some 2,000 weapons and pieces of equipment, and up to 120 aircraft and helicopters.

From 29 March to 2 April, a command and staff exercise with groupings of troops (forces) of the Eastern Military District is also planned on the territory of the Transbaikal region. It will involve up to 9,000 troops, around 3,000 pieces of military equipment, and up to 80 aircraft.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson. I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/976
17 March 2021
Annex 6

Original: ENGLISH

970th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 976, Agenda item 3(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONFLICT PREVENTION
CENTRE**

Jointly with the Institute for Peace Research and Security Policy at the University of Hamburg (IFSH), and in partnership with renowned research and academic institutions including the Geneva Centre for Security Policy, Moscow State Institute of International Relations (MGIMO University) and the Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre has issued a call for papers for the second OSCE-IFSH essay competition 2021 on conventional arms control (CAC) and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) for students and young professionals.

Following the first and highly successful competition in 2020, the 2021 competition is aimed at facilitating the ongoing cultivation of knowledge and expertise on conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures at the OSCE among students and recent graduates interested in peace and security studies.

We encourage the participating States and Partners for Co-operation to disseminate information about the aforementioned essay competition at universities, relevant research institutes, and governmental agencies.

The call for papers is distributed under reference number SEC.INF/12/21 dated 18 March 2021, and can also be found on the OSCE website under:

<https://www.osce.org/OSCE-IFSH-Essay-Competition-CSBMs-2021>

I would like to request that this statement be added to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/976
17 March 2021
Annex 7

Original: ENGLISH

970th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 976, Agenda item 3(c)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF MONTENEGRO**

Madam Chairperson,

Thank you for giving me the floor. I wish to deliver a quick report on the recent Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting.

Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,
Distinguished representatives of participating States,

Montenegro had the honour of chairing the closing session of the 31st Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting held in Vienna on 2 and 3 March 2021. Because of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic restrictions, the meeting was held via the video teleconference platform Zoom.

The 31st AIAM was organized under the United States Chairmanship of the FSC in accordance with FSC Decision No. 7/20 and the annotated agenda and indicative timetable issued under the reference number FSC.AIAM/1/21/Corr.1. The meeting was co-chaired by Mongolia and Montenegro and consisted of an opening session, three working sessions and a closing session.

The meeting was well attended, with a total of 294 registered participants (225 male and 69 female) from participating States, Partners for Co-operation, international organizations and the OSCE Permanent Council and Conflict Prevention Centre. The great majority, 260, were representing participating States.

The aim of the meeting was to explore options and look for possibilities for jointly advancing the implementation of the Vienna Document 2011. It was a rewarding and successful event that yielded new ideas, raised questions, and identified some solutions and means of further improving implementation. I therefore wish to express my sincere satisfaction at the meeting's proceedings and once again to thank all delegations for their engagement and valuable contributions to the two days of fruitful discussion. We are looking forward to the further development of confidence- and security-building measures as a continuation of these discussions.

Let me inform you that the remarks made by the Chairperson of the closing session of the 31st AIAM were distributed under the reference number FSC.AIAM/21/21 on 5 March 2021, and that the journal of the meeting was distributed under FSC-AIAM.JOUR/24. The consolidated summary will be distributed in due course.

Madam Chairperson,

Let me seize this opportunity to express our appreciation to the United States FSC Chairmanship, the Conflict Prevention Centre, the two Chairpersons, the co-ordinators and rapporteurs of the working sessions, and the entire logistics staff for their excellent preparation and execution of this important meeting in the circumstances of the present pandemic.

I kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the meeting.

I thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/976
17 March 2021
Annex 8

Original: ENGLISH

970th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 976, Agenda item 3(e)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF SERBIA**

Madam Chairperson,
Your Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

Allow me to inform you that on 17 and 18 April 2021, at the Pasuljanske Livade and Orešac military compounds, the Republic of Serbia is to conduct the national joint tactical live-fire exercise “Response 2021”.

The general purpose of the exercise is to demonstrate the determination, competence, firepower of the units of the Serbian Armed Forces and the high level of synergy and co-operation between the Serbian Armed Forces and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia in responding to challenges, risks and threats to the Republic’s security.

The tactical objectives of the exercise are: practical training for the Air Force and Air Defence units in provision of aerial support to the Army, Special Operations Forces and Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia; enhancing the competence of units of the Serbian Armed Forces in conducting tactical activities and procedures during the combat operation and successfully carrying out live-fire tasks under various terrain and weather conditions; and enhancing synergy between the units of the Serbian Armed Forces and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia.

The holder of responsibility for the conduct of the exercise is the Army Command of the Serbian Armed Forces.

The exercise is to involve all components of the Army and the Air Force and Air Defence, special units of the Serbian Armed Forces, and the Ministry of Interior of the Republic of Serbia.

Owing to the current problems and the interruption in the functioning of the Integrated Notification Application (INA), the Verification Centre of the Republic of Serbia has not yet submitted the notification of the exercise in the F-25 format. Immediately after the resumption of normal functioning of the INA, the format will be transmitted to all OSCE participating States through the OSCE Communications Network.

This announcement of the upcoming activity of the Serbian Armed Forces, although not obligatory under the provisions of the Vienna Document 2011, is an expression of good will and support on the part of the Republic of Serbia with respect to building confidence and security both in the region and in the OSCE area.

I thank you for your attention and kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.