

**Chairmanship: Azerbaijan**

**1007th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 6 April 2022 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 11 a.m.

Closed: 12.50 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador R. Sadigbayli

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

Agenda item 1: CLOSING SESSION OF THE AZERBAIJAN  
FSC CHAIRMANSHIP

- *Statement by Major General H. Mahmudov, Head of the International Military Cooperation Department, Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan*

Chairperson, Major General H. Mahmudov (Annex 1), Ukraine (Annex 2), France-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) (Annex 3), Switzerland (FSC.DEL/179/22 OSCE+), Turkey (FSC.DEL/185/22 OSCE+), United States of America (Annex 4), Belarus (FSC.DEL/182/22 OSCE+), Canada (Annex 5), United Kingdom (Annex 6) (FSC.DEL/184/22), Russian Federation (Annex 7), France-European Union, Armenia (Annex 8), Germany (Annex 9), Lithuania (Annex 10)

Point of order: Austria, Russian Federation

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

None

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Expert assessment visit to Azerbaijan from 28 March to 1 April 2022: FSC Co-ordinator for Assistance Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Austria) (Annex 11), Armenia*
- (b) *Closing remarks by the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation: Chairperson*

4. Next meeting:

To be announced



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

FSC.JOUR/1013

6 April 2022

Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

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**1007th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 1013, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished ambassadors,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is my pleasure to speak today at the closure of the Chairmanship of Azerbaijan in the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC).

For the first time in 17 years, Azerbaijan has had an opportunity to chair the FSC. We approached our Chairmanship with due seriousness and throughout the Chairmanship tenure, exerted the utmost efforts in good faith in order to add value to the work of the Forum and provide effective guidance to the discussions among the participating States.

The FSC Chairmanship of Azerbaijan has been taking place against the backdrop of serious challenges, including in the politico-military domain, that continue to persist and further complicate the security environment in the entire OSCE area. Trust and confidence among participating States continues to erode. Rivalry among politico-military blocs keeps exacerbating, having a detrimental impact on multilateralism, including on the work of the OSCE and this Forum.

Needless to mention that all these developments undermine comprehensive and co-operative security – a unique asset of this Organization – and put at risk the indivisibility of security underpinned in fundamental OSCE documents.

As it was stated by the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan, H.E. Mr. Jeyhun Bayramov, at the opening session of our Chairmanship on 19 January, Azerbaijan's outlook and approach on co-operation within the OSCE, including in the areas of work covered by the FSC, has been shaped by our experience in the last nearly three decades. Azerbaijan's sovereignty, territorial integrity and internationally recognized borders were severely undermined as a result of grave violations of the core principles of inter-State conduct, before being restored in the autumn of 2020.

Thus, our main priority as FSC Chairmanship has been centred on upholding the fundamental norms and principles of the OSCE along with the implementation in good faith of politico-military commitments.

We strongly believe that unconditional respect for the fundamental norms, principles and commitments enshrined in the core OSCE documents, starting from the Helsinki Final Act, in particular, respect for the sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of the internationally recognized borders of States, remains the bedrock of security and stability, as well as the basis for co-operation within the OSCE, including the FSC.

The FSC as an important pillar of the Organization focusing on the politico-military dimension does not exist in a vacuum. It is a part of the broader politico-military environment. Thus, politico-military tools which have been designed to contribute to peace, security and stability in the OSCE area, can accomplish this task only if accompanied by strict adherence to the fundamental principles and commitments that the OSCE is built upon.

Only such an approach by participating States can provide a chance in order to restore trust and confidence among them, reinvigorate the application of politico-military instruments, enhance predictability and transparency, avoid threat multiplication effects and aggravation of threat perceptions, and by so doing underpin peace and stability in the OSCE area.

Mr. Chairperson,

Now let me turn to our Chairmanship programme, which aimed at striking a balance between established and relatively new topics within the FSC. In line with our vision, it included issues of high importance and relevance to the Organization.

Our Chairmanship programme started with the Security Dialogue on compliance with international humanitarian law and protection of civilians. The logic of this topic being the first one on our agenda is self-evident. Notwithstanding the existing legal norms, standards and a wide range of commitments, civilians continue to suffer the most from armed conflicts and inadequate protection. Thus, the Security Dialogue aimed at promoting and strengthening the commitment of States to abide by obligations under international humanitarian law and related OSCE commitments.

Among others, it reflected the experience and measures taken by the armed forces of Azerbaijan to ensure and enhance compliance by our military servicemen with the provisions of international humanitarian law on the protection of civilians. As a country whose civilians suffered immensely in the course of the recently ended three-decade-long conflict, Azerbaijan and its Ministry of Defence recognize all too well the utmost significance of this obligation.

The efforts of the international community, including the OSCE, in this direction should be strengthened to ensure protection of civilians during armed conflict. Moreover, compliance with international humanitarian law and addressing its violations should not be overlooked as a necessary element for post-conflict rehabilitation and peacebuilding.

The FSC Chairmanship of Azerbaijan paid special attention to the topic of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), which is one

of the core FSC topics. To this end, we devoted two Security Dialogues to various aspects of SALW and SCA.

The first one was convened on the specific topic of mine action, focusing on United Nations Security Council resolution 2365 and the importance of international assistance to countries severely affected by mine contamination. We considered the major threats and challenges caused by mines in the OSCE area and discussed how the international community could better mainstream mine action in practice and facilitate assistance to countries affected by mines. We also dwelled on mine action as a confidence-building measure, including in post-conflict contexts, as well as on how the OSCE's practical assistance mechanism in this area could be strengthened.

Furthermore, the FSC Chairmanship organized a side-event entitled "Humanitarian mine action – Challenges, innovative solutions and international assistance", which brought together the representatives of international and non-governmental organizations, national agencies and the private sector. The side-event stimulated wider discussions and provided deeper insights on some of the aspects of this topic.

The second Security Dialogue on SALW and SCA took place during the 1000th FSC plenary meeting, which marked a historic occasion and symbolic milestone in the development of the Forum. This Security Dialogue took a broader perspective on the topic by reviewing the implementation of OSCE commitments on SALW and SCA, including normative aspects, life cycle management of SALW and SCA, and combating illicit trafficking in all aspects. Bringing to the fore developments in the global normative framework in these fields, we explored ways of addressing existing gaps in the OSCE area.

The above-mentioned events presented a good opportunity to promote the full and effective implementation of commitments on SALW and SCA, as well as entertain ideas on their further operationalization and enhancement. To this end, participating States need to exert further efforts. In particular, the OSCE assistance mechanism on SALW and SCA remains the most practically oriented tangible tool in this field able to make a difference on the ground. Thus, ensuring that the assistance mechanism is implemented and applied in an impartial and de-politicized manner is of the utmost importance.

The role and place of non-aligned countries in the European security architecture has featured high on our Chairmanship agenda. Non-aligned OSCE participating States have demonstrated their experiences, security policies and approaches in contributing to security and stability in the OSCE area.

Being a non-aligned member of the Organization, Azerbaijan has always regarded and valued the OSCE's role as indispensable for the realization of the vision for Europe without dividing lines and zones of influence. An important point for non-aligned participating States remains the issue of provision of security guarantees to them by the States belonging to the politico-military blocs. Proper attention to this issue may serve as an important dimension of stability and security in the OSCE area.

Countering terrorism in all its forms and manifestations has been another priority of our Chairmanship. We considered the existing global framework set by the United Nations with wide-ranging commitments on various aspects of countering terrorism. We also aimed

to promote the implementation of these commitments in the OSCE area, particularly through a holistic approach by utilizing the Organization's concept of comprehensive and cross-dimensional security, which also covers the FSC's areas of work.

While concerns and risks to the traditional realm of security increase, it is essential to look at the root causes of terrorism. Threats from terrorism, especially its nexus with separatism and violent extremism, organized crime, corruption, money laundering and other illicit activities should remain in focus. Moreover, we should bear in mind that traditional security threats and challenges may exacerbate the problem of terrorism.

The last Security Dialogue under our Chairmanship focused on post-conflict rehabilitation and peacebuilding in the OSCE area. We dwelled on the lessons learned in the OSCE area, as well as aimed to give a further impetus to post-conflict rehabilitation as an integral part of the Organization's conflict cycle toolbox. Multiple aspects of post-conflict rehabilitation were addressed based on the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security covering all three dimensions of security, including politico-military.

Since the success or failure of post-conflict rehabilitation has wide-ranging security implications beyond the borders of any State, it is a shared interest of the international community, including the OSCE, to be engaged in and render support to achieving the goals of post-conflict rehabilitation, reconstruction and peacebuilding, including through planning for post-conflict rehabilitation at the earlier phases of the conflict cycle. Thus, the efforts aimed at effectively utilizing the OSCE's post-conflict rehabilitation capabilities, including in the FSC's areas of work, should stay high on the agenda.

In addition to this, we are also convinced that the Forum should keep high on the agenda United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and follow-up resolutions on women, peace and security. The implementation of these resolutions in all their aspects and across all phases of the conflict cycle can provide an important contribution to peace and security in the OSCE area.

We also emphasize the significance of the topic of conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures. At the same time, we strongly believe that their primary purpose should be giving effect and expression to the shared foundational principles and commitments of the OSCE.

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to conclude by reiterating that Azerbaijan's Chairmanship in the FSC did its utmost to promote the principles and agenda of the Forum in line with its mandate and our shared commitments despite the complicated security environment.

I would like to thank participating States, FSC Troika members – Austria and Belarus, the FSC Chairperson's Co-ordinators and the Secretariat for their co-operation, support and assistance in realizing Azerbaijan's Chairmanship programme and in helping us contribute to the implementation of our shared commitments.

We wish the best of luck and success to Belarus as the next FSC Chairmanship and to Belgium as an incoming FSC Troika member. Azerbaijan in its capacity as the FSC Troika member in the next trimester will continue contributing to the work of the Forum.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/1013

6 April 2022

Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

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**1007th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 1013, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE**

Mr Chairperson,

We are grateful to Major General Huseyn Mahmudov, Head of the International Military Co-operation Department of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Azerbaijan, for his comprehensive statement.

On behalf of the delegation of Ukraine let me also express our gratitude to His Excellency Mr Rovshan Sadigbayli and the entire team of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship for leading the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) in these extremely challenging times. We appreciate the efforts by the Azerbaijani Chairmanship to organize the work of our Forum during the first trimester of the year in a professional and impartial manner.

This year began against the backdrop of the unprecedented military build-up of Russian troops along the State borders of Ukraine with the Russian Federation and Belarus as well as in the temporarily occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol and parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions.

Being fully committed to peaceful means of conflict resolution, including those provided by the OSCE politico-military toolbox, Ukraine tried to de-escalate the situation. However, the Russian Federation, manipulating the idea of the indivisibility of security in the OSCE area and in blatant disregard for its commitments under the Vienna Document, refused for months on end to engage in dialogue to increase military transparency and dispel the legitimate concerns of Ukraine and other participating States regarding its large-scale military build-up.

Russia's claims that its military activities did not pose any threat turned out to be yet another lie. With the first missile launched by the Russian Federation against Ukraine on 24 February, the Vienna Document in its current form was dealt a serious blow.

When the time comes, we will gladly discuss appropriate ways to modernize confidence- and security-building measures so as to restore trust and confidence in the OSCE area, but before that, we must put an end to Russia's unprovoked and unjustified war against Ukraine and restore our country's sovereignty and territorial integrity.

This war of aggression is a brutal violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act. The despicable acts of cruelty and violence committed by the Russian armed forces in Ukraine constitute a gross violation of the laws and customs of war and the norms of international humanitarian law.

The acts of aggression by the Russian Federation and its accomplice Belarus against Ukraine – which clearly meet the definition given in United Nations General Assembly resolution 3314 of 14 December 1974 – have shaken the international security architecture and undermined our work within the OSCE.

In view of this, there can be no “business as usual” in the work of the OSCE and the FSC as the main politico-military body of our Organization. In that regard, we took positive note of steps by the Azerbaijani FSC Chairmanship to adapt the work of our Forum to the new security realities.

During the first trimester, the military and political aspects of Russia’s war against Ukraine remained the focus of the FSC. We are grateful for the unwavering support shown by participating States for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders.

Broad international backing and solidarity in the face of a brutal act of armed aggression remain a vital element in our common efforts to restore peace. We thank all our international partners for their support and practical assistance in the political, military, economic and financial spheres.

We are also grateful to the delegation of Austria, the outgoing member of the FSC Troika, for its work during this trimester, and warmly welcome the delegation of Belgium as a new Troika member.

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



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**1007th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 1013, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE EUROPEAN UNION**

The delegation of France, in its capacity as EU Presidency, passed the floor to the representative of the European Union, who delivered the following statement:

The European Union and its Member States wish to take this opportunity to thank you, Ambassador Sadigbayli, and your able team for your efforts in chairing the Forum for Security Co-operation in times of war.

Usually, we refer to a “challenging trimester” – but this would be a serious understatement this time. In the middle of your Chairmanship, a brutal war of aggression was launched by one participating State, Russia, against another, Ukraine. Due to this, our Forum had to switch into crisis mode – business as usual was not and is no longer possible.

We are deeply shocked by the news about massive atrocities committed by the Russian armed forces in a number of occupied Ukrainian towns that have now been liberated. Haunting images and reports of large numbers of killings and barbaric acts against innocent civilians as well as destruction of civilian infrastructures show the true face of the brutal war of aggression Russia is waging against Ukraine and its people. The perpetrators of such crimes will be held accountable. Denials we are hearing from Russia lack any credibility.

Mr. Chairperson, we therefore must reiterate our strongest condemnation of this unprovoked and unjustified aggression against Ukraine. By its illegal military actions, Russia is grossly violating international law, the principles of the UN Charter and the OSCE *acquis*, thereby jeopardizing European and global security and stability. We also deplore the complicity of Belarus in enabling and supporting the Russian military aggression by providing its territory for the attack on its neighbour. Ukraine has an inherent right to defend itself against this invasion and to choose its own future and destiny. Russia bears full responsibility for its acts, including the loss of life, massive displacement and all the destruction it is causing.

This war and the war crimes committed will remain a bloody stain on the reputation and the conscience of those who decided to wage it, those who were conducting criminal and abhorrent acts and all those who were trying, futilely, to justify these atrocities, including in the diplomatic sphere. Russia attempts to destroy Ukraine and its statehood, but in reality it is also destroying its own future. We reiterate our unwavering support to the sovereignty,

territorial integrity, unity and independence of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders and demand that Russia – as ordered by the International Court of Justice – immediately and unconditionally cease its military actions and withdraw all its troops.

Mr. Chairperson, we firmly believe that the use of force and coercion to change borders has no place in the twenty-first century. Tensions and conflicts should be resolved exclusively through dialogue and diplomacy, which is what our Organization, the OSCE, stands for. The resolution of all the conflicts in the OSCE area remains a top priority of the European Union and we will continue our efforts to that end.

Mr. Chairperson, Russia's behaviour has radically undermined our politico-military *acquis*. The Vienna Document is considered a key set of confidence- and security-building measures to provide for military transparency and predictability. We have seen how these important provisions were disregarded on the eve of the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Russia and Belarus deliberately flouted the risk reduction mechanism, one of the cornerstones of the Vienna Document, with Russia refusing any co-operation while Belarus was only pretending to follow the letter but was not following the spirit of the provisions. Belarus claimed the Russian troops were to leave Belarus after the joint drill but in reality they took part in the invasion. Risk reduction mechanism is of no avail if one participating State has an intention to attack another participating State. Nonetheless, we wish to thank Azerbaijan for chairing, together with Poland as OSCE Chairmanship, the respective joint meetings of the Forum for Security Co-operation and the Permanent Council.

We also underline the importance of respecting, in particular in the times of war, the provisions of the Code of Conduct with regard to international humanitarian law. The responsibility of superiors does not exempt subordinates from their individual responsibilities with regard to exercising the command authority in accordance with international law. Each and every perpetrator will be identified and held accountable for war crimes committed in Ukraine.

Mr. Chairperson, there is no doubt that Russia's premeditated aggression of Ukraine will cast a long shadow on geopolitics, and on the workings of the OSCE and of this Forum for Security Co-operation. Security co-operation presupposes as a basic premise the existence of good will and trust. Russia has completely shattered this hard-earned trust by its actions. For us, it is clear that as long as this war of aggression continues there cannot be "business as usual". The European Union and its Member States are united and determined on putting continuous pressure on Russia to end the brutal war Russia has unleashed on Ukraine, to end the bloodshed and human suffering. The European Union and its Member States are standing by the people of Ukraine in their darkest hour. We call on Russia to stop this war. And when the war is over, it will still take a lot of time and effort to retrieve the minimum of trust on which a fruitful work in our Organization could be based. In the meantime, we hope that the important role of this Forum can be preserved. However, difficult times lie ahead of us.

Thank you.

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

The candidate countries the Republic of North Macedonia<sup>1</sup>, Montenegro<sup>1</sup>, and Albania<sup>1</sup>, the EFTA countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Ukraine, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

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1 The Republic of North Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.



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**1007th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 1013, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and welcome Major General Mahmudov.

The United States recognizes that yours was not an easy task as Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) Chairmanship at this critical time for European security. Russia's unprovoked war of aggression, abetted by the Lukashenka regime in Belarus, has rendered "business as usual" in this Forum for Security Co-operation impossible.

We know this is not how you expected to conduct your Chairmanship – against the backdrop of a brutal war. Yet your selection of Security Dialogue topics was sadly prescient. We recall that the first such dialogue convened under Azerbaijan's Chairmanship was dedicated to international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians. As we continue to digest the appalling images of bodies strewn on the streets of Bucha and reports of a mass grave, and hear accounts of summary executions, rape and forced disappearances in other Ukrainian towns under Russia's control; and as we continue to bear witness to horrific bombings hitting civilians and civilian objects in Mariupol and other cities, let us reflect on Azerbaijan's concept note for that Security Dialogue on 27 January:

"The rules comprising IHL, essentially laid down in the 1907 Hague Convention IV and Regulations on the Laws and Customs of War on Land regarded as declaratory of customary law, the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols, concern in essence the regulation of the conduct of hostilities and provide, *inter alia*, for the protection of civilians. Ultimately, compliance with IHL prevents civilian deaths and injuries; illegal executions and reprisals against protected persons; unlawful destruction or appropriation of civilian property; hostage-taking; ill-treatment of detainees and prisoners of war; enforced disappearances; ethnic cleansing; forced displacement and the changing of the character of occupied territories; the exploitation of natural resources; the destruction of cultural heritage; and damage to the natural environment; and ensures the establishment of the fate of missing persons."

As the concept note also recalled, the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security stipulates that States ensure their armed forces are commanded, manned and trained, consistently with the provisions of international humanitarian law and take due care to avoid injury to civilians. If only our Russian colleagues had listened to the message from

that Security Dialogue, which occurred a month before Putin launched his inhumane assault on Ukraine.

Mr. Chairperson,

We also note the dialogue you convened on the European security architecture on 16 February, the week before Russia's war of aggression upended that security architecture. We appreciate your co-chairing of joint meetings of the FSC and the Permanent Council with the Chairperson-in-Office that same week in response to Ukraine and the Baltic States having invoked Vienna Document risk reduction mechanisms to address concerns about unusual military activities with regard to Russia and Belarus, respectively. Unfortunately, Russia boycotted these joint meetings of the FSC and the Permanent Council and Belarus stonewalled, and as a result, Vienna Document mechanisms could not be implemented to dispel concerns, though they served as early warning. For this reason, we could not participate in "business as usual" in the Annual Implementation and Assessment Meeting once Putin had unleashed his war – our assessment was clear, Russia failed to abide by key obligations under international law and OSCE principles and commitments, including those in the Vienna Document. Because it is complicit in Russia's aggression, by having provided a launching pad for Russia's invasion, Belarus is also responsible for these failures.

Mr. Chairperson,

We acknowledge the importance of the other topics on your agenda, including mine action and OSCE commitments in small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, areas in which the United States is heavily vested, and note that on 4 April we marked the International Day for Mine Awareness and Assistance in Mine Action. We hope to be able to return to these topics as well as to discussions of post-conflict rehabilitation but first, Russia must end this war and withdraw its forces from Ukraine. Until then, this illegal war will remain our singular focus.

Congratulations, Ambassador Sadigbayli, on the conclusion of Azerbaijan's Chairmanship and thank you for steering the FSC through an exceptionally difficult period. Thank you also to our colleague, Farid Osmanov, and the rest of your team. The United States thanks Austria as well as it departs the Troika and also welcomes Belgium to the Troika and looks forward to our collaboration during their Chairmanship.

Please attach this statement to the journal of the day.



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**1007th Plenary Meeting**  
FSC Journal No. 1013, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Mr. Chairperson,

Canada would like to thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and your entire team on the Azerbaijani delegation, for their efforts during your term as Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation. We appreciate and understand the challenges faced by your Chairmanship, during this, the most difficult period in the history of the OSCE.

We regret that the semester was dominated by a blatant act of aggression by the Russian Federation against its sovereign neighbour. An act of aggression which was planned and initiated under the very noses of this Forum, with the Russian Federation and Belarus making a mockery of our shared confidence- and security-building measures, with bold, but blatantly false statements in this very room. We heard: “Russia had no intention to invade Ukraine, there will be no war, the ‘West is hysterical’, and troops along the border are on exercise or are returning to their home bases”. All of this was simply an outright lie, an attempt at deception, and a gross abuse of this Forum to do it.

Russia’s act of aggression manifested itself as a full-scale conventional attack along multiple axes of advance, with the indiscriminate targeting of civilians and civilian infrastructures, resulting in over 4 million refugees and 11 million internally displaced people. In a shocking display of violence, not seen on the European continent in over 75 years, the Russian Federation has conducted its war of aggression, a war built on a pretext of lies, with little to no regard for the lives of innocent Ukrainians. This is a truth that has become painfully evident to the entire world in the recent days with the discovery of the abhorrent abuses committed in Bucha.

Amongst all the lies and propaganda, one undeniable truth remains incontrovertible: Ukraine and its people have done nothing to provoke or instigate this conflict. Ukraine is not the aggressor. Quite the contrary. There was no threat to the people of Donbas; Russia manufactured it. Russia created a fake threat, a fake refugee crisis, and a fake need to “intervene”. In the face of this unimaginable tragedy, the Ukrainian people are demonstrating tremendous courage, standing their ground and fighting for their homes. They are resolute in their desire to be a free and democratic country, in control of their own destiny.

Canada reiterates its unwavering support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. We have, and will be, along with our allies and partners, continuing to forcefully and collectively respond to these reckless and dangerous acts. Canada is continuing to work to step up its military support for Ukraine.

We join the chorus of nations all around the world in reiterating that we stand with Ukraine.

Let me close, by once again thanking our Azerbaijani Chairmanship for their much appreciated efforts and patience this past term.

*Slava Ukraini!*



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**1007th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 1013, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Usually, the closing session of a Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) meeting is a time for reflection. A time to consider our work as a forum for security co-operation, our discussions, our challenges but also our progress. Unfortunately that is not possible today.

Ambassador,

When we met for the opening session, we recognized that you assumed the FSC Chairmanship at a critical time for Euro-Atlantic security. As we watched Russia amass the large concentration of military force along Ukraine's borders and in illegally annexed Crimea we feared the worst and the worst came true. Russia's unprovoked, premeditated and barbaric attack on Ukraine and its peaceful civilians has horrified the world.

Ukraine has taken up the fight to defend their homeland and shown the world the meaning of bravery and courage. An out-manoeuvred and out-classed Russian military has taken its frustrations out on civilians, unleashing horrendous amounts of violence. In recent days, we have watched in horror as reports have emerged of men, women and children killed and mutilated. This is a great moral stain upon the Russian military, and one which will never be forgotten.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian Government's attempt to redraw the map of Europe in blood, and conquer an independent and democratic State by force of arms is an attack on the security and freedom of Europe. It is also an attack on the Euro-Atlantic security architecture that was designed to increase security and stability in the region and, through trust, help prevent such appalling acts.

For their part, our Russian colleagues have "weaponized" the OSCE confidence- and security-building mechanisms which underpin this Organization and have lied to this Forum, and indeed continue to lie to this Forum. They have shattered the trust and the belief that all of us in this room seek a secure and stable region in respect of one another – that we work in good faith for a mutual goal.

Trust is a hard thing to rebuild. It is clear that normal business cannot resume whilst President Putin wages his horrific and barbaric war of choice on our Ukrainian friends. Our primary focus must remain to work together – for however long it takes – to ensure that the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and the independence of Ukraine is restored. The United Kingdom stands with and will continue to support the Ukrainian people in their fight for their homeland.

Against all of this, we must do our utmost to ensure the integrity of this Forum, such that it is able to fulfil its mandate. In this regard, we trust it will continue to be stewarded in a professional and proper manner.

May I conclude by thanking you Ambassador and your team for your forbearance as Chairmanship of the FSC in these unprecedented times. We also thank our Austrian colleagues who leave the Troika and welcome our Belgium ones.

*Slava Ukraini!*

Thank you. And I ask 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/1013  
6 April 2022  
Annex 7

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

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**1007th Plenary Meeting**  
FSC Journal No. 1013, Agenda item 1

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

Mr. Chairperson,

Allow me to congratulate you on the conclusion of your Chairmanship of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). We are grateful to Major General Huseyn Mahmudov, Head of the International Military Co-operation Department of the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan, for summing up the winter session.

It would be no exaggeration to say that the Azerbaijani Chairmanship came at a turning point in the FSC's history. On the one hand, in the current round of negotiations, the participating States celebrated the millennium plenary meeting of this autonomous OSCE decision-making body and outlined ways to improve its work in the future. On the other hand, the Forum has witnessed an unprecedented tightening of transatlantic bloc discipline: at times it is impossible to shake off the feeling that we are present at a "synchronization of watches" of the NATO and European Union member countries rather than at FSC meetings. Some participating States seem to forget what the point and essence of dialogue is in this pan-European platform, which is designed to serve as a channel for "all-weather" professional communication on military security issues in Europe.

However, under rather difficult circumstances, our Azerbaijani colleagues have succeeded in providing a balanced Chairmanship, proposing extremely important topics for consideration such as mine action, countering international terrorism, compliance with international humanitarian law, post-conflict rehabilitation and the role of neutral States in European security. We are convinced of the importance and necessity of keeping the Security Dialogue item on the FSC agenda.

We regret that, during this past round of negotiations, we were unable to discuss the issue of conventional arms control. Some participating States are persistently promoting a one-sided vision that the entire OSCE politico-military toolkit has suddenly lost its functionality. This is a convenient position, since it gives a free hand to unrestrained arms transfers to Ukraine, which goes against the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers and the Principles for Export Controls of Man-Portable Air Defence Systems. We understand that such a destructive policy was also chosen by the "Western wing" of the OSCE in order to legitimize

the use of the Vienna Document 2011 on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures as an information warfare tool to divert the international community's attention from the military preparations of one participating State by exerting pressure on other participating States. Our message is as clear as can be: this is unacceptable.

It is deeply disappointing that the FSC Chairperson should decide to make changes to the journals of the FSC plenary meetings, in particular, to the wording of the item under discussion on the politico-military situation in Ukraine. A compromise agreement on the wording was reached in 2014 and has been respected by the overwhelming majority of countries that have chaired the Forum. We note with regret that our Azerbaijani colleagues ignored our call to refrain from making non-consensus changes to the FSC journals. We regard this decision by the Azerbaijani Chairmanship as an unfortunate departure from the unifying principles of the Organization. Moving forward, we will seek a return in the meetings' journals to the original wording, which reflects the interests of all participating States in a balanced and neutral manner.

Mr. Chairperson,

We would point out that, even at the closing session of this round of negotiations, certain colleagues could not refrain from making anti-Russian insinuations. In response to the steps by the Russian Federation to neutralize threats to its fundamental national security interests emanating from Ukrainian territory, the "collective West" has mounted a large-scale smear campaign against our country. The most despicable methods of information warfare are being used, including manipulation of the facts and the outright staging of provocations, which automatically receive unquestioning support from the Western participating States that cannot be bothered to separate the wheat from the chaff, contrary to the basic notions of professionalism. A case in point is the situation in the town of Bucha in the Kyiv region. One cannot help but be reminded of a phrase uttered in 2014 by one of our Western colleagues in the corridors at the FSC: (I quote) "Strange people, you Russians. You come with these arguments, trying to prove something. Don't you understand that no one needs the truth?" (end of quote). It is our firm conviction that the truth is vital, and we will pursue it in every possible way.

The Kyiv regime wrongly believes that international law gives it carte blanche to commit widespread violent acts, including outright terror against civilians. On 5 April, in the city of Rubizhne in the Luhansk People's Republic, before retreating, the Ukrainian military blew up a chemical tank at the Zarya plant, where over 40,000 tonnes of sulphuric acid, hydrochloric acid, nitric acid and ammonia remain. Should an explosion involving these substances occur, all life within a radius of 30 km could be destroyed. We have reliable information that the Ukrainian Government is planning other chemical provocations with the support of its overseas handlers. Blowing up railway tankers containing up to 800 tonnes of chlorine in the settlement of Kochetok in the Kharkiv region is one of the scenarios being considered. In the event of depressurization of the tanks, allegedly as a result of the use of Russian artillery or aircraft, the lethal impact zone could be up to 5.4 km<sup>2</sup>, and the intolerable concentration zone up to 8 km<sup>2</sup> with the area being contaminated for up to eight days. It is not surprising that the United States of America has already handed over to the Ukrainian Government protective equipment against chemical weapons attacks. At the same time, to cover up their shady dealings, in the best traditions of a smear campaign they deliberately and

groundlessly accused Russia of plans for staging a provocation. This is not the first time they have resorted to such tricks.

An important result of the special operation by the armed forces of the Russian Federation was the termination of the activities of five biological laboratories in Kyiv where military work was carried out with anthrax, tularaemia, brucellosis, cholera, leptospirosis and African swine fever pathogens. The laboratories' involvement in US Department of Defense contracts has been confirmed. In accordance with the order of the Ministry of Health of Ukraine dated 24 February this year, the remaining strains were destroyed as a matter of urgency. Part of the collection was taken to the United States via Odessa. In addition, documents obtained by Russian military personnel also show that Germany is implementing its own military biological programme in Ukraine, the purpose of which is to study the potential of deadly diseases such as Crimean-Congo haemorrhagic fever in an Eastern European context. All these activities pose an enormous threat to international security and require detailed scrutiny. But it is already clear that we are talking about the actual violation by the United States and Ukraine of obligations under Article IV of the Biological and Toxin Weapons Convention.

We have recently also heard provocative statements in the West about Russia's plans to use nuclear weapons in Ukraine. They have not the slightest rational basis. The Russian delegation has repeatedly reminded the OSCE participating States that the role of nuclear weapons in ensuring our country's national security is defined in the Military Doctrine of the Russian Federation and set out in detail in the "Basic Principles of the Russian Federation's State Policy on Nuclear Deterrence". The aforementioned documents clearly state the conditions under which our country reserves the right to use nuclear weapons. This is possible only in response to the use of nuclear and other types of weapons of mass destruction against Russia or its allies or in the event of aggression against Russia using conventional weapons, when the very existence of the State is threatened. In other words, Russia's policy in the nuclear military sphere is of a strictly defensive nature, and the doctrinal criteria for the possible use of nuclear weapons by Russia can in no way be applied to the situation in Ukraine. We are firmly guided by the principle that there can be no winners in a nuclear war and such a war must never be unleashed.

We categorically reject the attempts by the United States and its allies and accomplices to blame Russia for the possible risks of the use of weapons of mass destruction in Ukraine. It would not be amiss to recall that the mastermind behind all this disinformation is the country that used nuclear weapons against the Japanese cities of Hiroshima and Nagasaki in 1945, essentially testing them on civilians. What is more, the use of these weapons at that time had nothing to do with military reasons – the Soviet offensive in the Far East had by then made continuation of the war by Japan pointless. Moving on chronologically, the United States used chemical weapons against the people of North Vietnam in the 1960s and depleted uranium weapons against Yugoslavia in 1999. In addition, hundreds of thousands of Iraqis have died as a result of a variety of unknown weapons that the United States has not previously used in any other war.

In that connection, we call on the United States to tone down its sweeping accusations, provide all the information on the military biological activity at the laboratories on Ukrainian territory and prevent a provocation involving the use of chemical weapons at the hands of Ukrainian nationalists.

Mr. Chairperson,

Let me conclude by reiterating our appreciation to you and all the members of the Azerbaijani Chairmanship team for your professional approach during these difficult discussions. Despite the different approaches of the OSCE countries to assessing the evolving situation in Europe, you have generally succeeded in reaffirming the role of the FSC as an important platform for dialogue on “hard” security issues.

We welcome Belarus as the next Chairmanship of the Forum and wish it every success in this highly responsible role.

We are grateful to the delegation of Austria, which is leaving the Troika, and welcome the delegation of Belgium as the new member of the Troika.

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



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**1007th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 1013, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Dear colleagues,

As we conclude today the shameful Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) during the first trimester of this year, it is appropriate to look back at its performance over the past three months.

But before doing so, let me emphasize that the mere fact of the FSC Chairmanship being held by Azerbaijan – an OSCE participating State that for decades has been systematically violating the principles of the Helsinki Final Act and the OSCE politico-military commitments, and considering the use or threat of force as a means of resolving conflicts and a basis of inter-State relations, has significantly undermined the credibility of this Organization. We regret that the outgoing Chairmanship and its irresponsible actions did not receive an adequate response from the OSCE participating States, which, we believe, reflects the current state of affairs regarding our collective commitment to peace and security in the OSCE area.

The outgoing Chairmanship “distinguished” itself by blatant propagandistic narratives, distortion and manipulation of the FSC mandate, and overt abuse of the function of the Chairmanship. Azerbaijan exploited its position as the FSC Chairmanship to seek legitimacy from the OSCE for its aggression and the results of its use of force against Artsakh, and to impose its own perceptions of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict on the OSCE participating States. The initiation of “assessment visit” as part of Azerbaijan’s request for assistance in the field of demining is a case in point, which also indicates that integrity, responsibility and dignity are qualities that are unfamiliar to the Azerbaijani delegation.

The outgoing Chairmanship has also contributed greatly to the further erosion of the OSCE’s concept of comprehensive, equal and indivisible security by demonstrating its complete disregard for OSCE commitments and principles instead of ensuring their implementation.

Azerbaijan continued to occupy areas in the Syunik and Gegharkunik provinces of the Republic of Armenia, in violation of the Charter of the United Nations and the Helsinki Final Act.

It continued to constantly escalate the situation along the border with Armenia and on the line of contact with Artsakh, most recently resorting to the use of force against Artsakh and moving into the area of responsibility of the Russian peacekeeping forces on 25 March, in blatant violation of the trilateral ceasefire statement of 9 November 2020.

It continued to terrorize the civilian populations of Artsakh and Armenia, constantly shelling their homes and other civilian infrastructure, and demanding that people leave their homes under the threat of force.

At the last FSC meeting, the delegation of Azerbaijan went even further, claiming that the Azerbaijani armed forces could move their positions as much as they liked, and that they would continue to do so as long as they considered it necessary. What is alarming is that the Azerbaijani delegation has openly threatened to use force against Artsakh amid total silence from the OSCE and its participating States, in particular from those who vehemently oppose violence and the use of force. This speaks volumes about the priorities of the OSCE and its participating States, and the lack of sincerity in their statements about respect for international law and the protection of human rights.

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/1013

6 April 2022

Annex 9

ENGLISH

Original: GERMAN

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**1007th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 1013, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Esteemed colleagues,

Germany fully aligns itself with the statement by the European Union. In view of the Russian delegate's remarks, allow me to add a few words in a national capacity as well.

Firstly, I should like to briefly address the direct accusations against Germany.

The allegations that German institutes are conducting research on biological weapons in Ukraine are completely absurd. German institutes are working in Ukraine with long-standing implementing partners of the German Biosecurity Programme, which has been active in 25 States since 2013.

The work of this Programme is aimed at improving the countries' ability to prevent and respond to dangerous biological situations, also in the event of a biological terrorist attack. The Programme is part of Germany's commitment to the G7 Global Partnership Against the Spread of Weapons and Materials of Mass Destruction, which Germany is chairing this year. It serves to promote international co-operation to strengthen the Biological Weapons Convention and enjoys an excellent reputation worldwide and has also been successful in the context of the response to the pandemic since 2020.

I will spare you further technical details at this point and would rather address the distorted definition of the term "truth" that Russia is presenting once again here.

The reports and images that have reached us in recent days from Ukraine – from Bucha, Irpin and other cities – are almost unbearable. Innocent women and children raped, whole families tortured and executed. We can only try to imagine the immeasurable suffering that Russia is inflicting on its neighbour – an independent, sovereign and peaceful State.

This violence unleashed against Ukrainian civilians, these atrocities are incomprehensible. They allow us a glimpse into the abyss of humanity, where the perpetrators – whether on the ground or behind desks – have lost any last shred of humanity

and empathy. The Russian delegation's attempts to deny these acts and blame them on the victim, Ukraine, are cynical and despicable.

This brutal campaign by the Russian armed forces is underpinned by a misanthropic ideology presented in Russian State propaganda that is completely disconnected from reality. It is an attempt to use the unspeakable and absurd narrative of "denazification" to justify heinous and atrocious acts. This narrative is not only outrageous and tramples on the memory of all victims of National Socialism, but is also a transparent web of lies that can hardly be surpassed in brutality and repulsiveness.

Let me assure you: we will do everything in our power to ensure that the war crimes committed by Russia in Ukraine are investigated and the perpetrators punished.

The web of lies presented again today by the Russian delegate does not hold water. The truth will always come to light.

Timothy Snyder, a historian, author and professor at Yale University specializing in Eastern European history and the Holocaust is no doubt known to many in this forum. He wrote the following text on 3 April. I will recite it in the original English.

The lying and the truth

Notes on Ukraine after Bucha

The lying  
that there is no Ukraine  
that there is no nation  
that there is no state  
The war to make the lies true  
The lying about the war  
The shelling of Kyiv  
The shelling of Kharkiv  
The shelling of Chernihiv  
The old beautiful cities  
The shelling everywhere  
The bombing everywhere  
The ghastly siege of Mariupol  
The attacks on refugees from Mariupol  
The bombing of children in Mariupol  
The lying about Mariupol  
The attacks on refugees from everywhere  
The reporters  
The truth of seeing  
The abducted  
The deported  
The millions in flight  
The schools Those bombed schools  
The hospitals Those bombed hospitals  
The archives burned

The lying about the schools and the hospitals  
The lying on Russian television  
The lying at Russian funerals  
The lying about death that enables  
The killing for a lie  
The future lying enabled by the burning of records about the past  
The truth under everything  
The rubble, the bodies  
The volunteers  
The truth of solidarity  
The mass murder at Irpin, the bodies under tanks  
The mass murder at Bucha, the hands behind backs  
The mass murder at Trostyanets, the desecration of corpses  
The cities, the towns, the villages, the countryside  
The murders everywhere  
The truth

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



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**1007th Plenary Meeting**  
FSC Journal No. 1013, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY  
THE DELEGATION OF LITHUANIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

Lithuania fully aligns itself with the statement and the right-of-reply statement delivered on behalf of the European Union.

I have asked for the floor to once again express our support for Ukraine, and to denounce the cynical assertions made by the Russian delegate.

It is obvious to every man and woman of good will that Russia is waging a war of aggression against Ukraine. This war is unprovoked, unjustified and illegal. It is a crime.

Ukraine is exercising its fundamental right to self-defence, as enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations. Ukraine is fighting a patriotic war – what is referred to in the Ukrainian language as a “народна війна”. “Народная война” or “отечественная война” in the Russian language.

President Putin is denying the people of Russia a free and democratic future. He is trying to do the same with the people of Ukraine. This war is a brutal attempt to deprive Ukraine of the right to choose its own path, its own future. However, the entire world knows today that Ukraine is strong, united and determined as never before. Ukrainians are a resilient and resolute people – they are fighting for their families and homes, for their free and independent country. A proud, courageous and freedom-loving people cannot be defeated.

The entire world has now seen the real face of President Putin and his regime. Putin’s efforts to erase Ukraine as a State and Ukrainians as a nation from the map have had exactly the opposite effect. The international community has united against this evil. Russia is now confronted with near-total isolation on the world stage, and in our Organization as well. Our solidarity with and support for Ukraine are unwavering. Lithuania will continue providing humanitarian assistance and security- and defence-related support to Ukraine.

In response to the statement made by the Belarusian ambassador, in which he appealed to us all to “stop and think” and return the Forum for Security Co-operation to its primary role, I should like to make a reciprocal appeal to Belarus and Russia. Russia must stop this war, pull all its forces out of Ukraine and recommit itself to respecting Ukraine’s

independence, sovereignty and territorial integrity, together with Ukraine's right to choose its security arrangements. Belarus must stop abetting and supporting Russia; it must desist from allowing the territory of Belarus to be used as a launch pad for the Russian aggression. Meaningful discussions and "business as usual" in implementing the Forum's mandate will become possible again once this war has been stopped.

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

Thank you.



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

FSC.JOUR/1013  
6 April 2022  
Annex 11

Original: ENGLISH

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**1007th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 1013, Agenda item 3(a)

**STATEMENT BY  
THE FSC CO-ORDINATOR FOR ASSISTANCE PROJECTS  
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES  
OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION (AUSTRIA)**

Mr. Chairperson,  
Dear colleagues,

Please allow me to make this statement in my capacity as the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) Co-ordinator for Assistance Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA).

Following a request for practical assistance under the OSCE Document on SCA raised by the Permanent Mission of Azerbaijan to the OSCE at the 966th plenary meeting of the FSC on 27 January 2021 and sent in written form to all delegations under reference number FSC.DEL/47/21 on 5 February 2021, participating States were invited to nominate experts to take part in a technical assessment visit to Azerbaijan from 28 March to 1 April 2022 (FSC.DEL/99/22, 18 February 2022). The request was for practical assistance in enhancing the capacities of the national authorities of Azerbaijan – specifically the Azerbaijan National Agency for Mine Action (ANAMA) – with regard to explosive hazards risk reduction and response action.

In order to provide the participating States, in line with the OSCE Document on SCA, with transparency about Azerbaijan's needs and the assistance requested, allow me to share the following information with you:

Two participating States nominated experts. However, because of the COVID-19 pandemic, the team for the technical assessment visit in the end comprised one expert from one participating State, one external consultant and myself as the FSC Co-ordinator for Assistance Projects on SALW and SCA.

The assessment visit was aimed at gaining a better understanding of the problem and its context, gathering sufficient information to enable a problem analysis to be conducted, identifying the various options for addressing the problem, if applicable, and outlining the potential way forward, including a project plan. To accomplish these tasks, the methodology

used included desk research, on-site visits to the contaminated area and unstructured interviews with experts.

Throughout the whole visit, ANAMA acted transparently vis-à-vis the team of experts. A number of preliminary findings were recorded, and they may be summarized as follows. The affected area is heavily contaminated by explosives. Anti-tank and anti-personnel mines are the main threat; however, there is also widespread contamination by unexploded ordnance, improvised explosive devices and explosive remnants of war. Implementing explosive hazards risk reduction and response action is further complicated due to systematic destruction of built-up areas and the growth of underbrush and trees over the past thirty years. Based on the short- and medium-term requirements presented by ANAMA and subsequent on-site visits and interviews, the team is of the view that possible areas of OSCE assistance could include: support for operational capacities; the conduct of technical surveys; physical security and stockpile management of SCA; and enhancement of explosive ordnance disposal capacity together with demining capacity. Since Azerbaijan has already received some bilateral and international support in these areas, further information-gathering and co-ordination would be essential to avoid any duplication of efforts.

In accordance with the procedure for dealing with a request for assistance (OSCE Document on SCA, paragraph 35(ii)), a report will be prepared upon conclusion of the assessment process.

I kindly ask you to attach my statement to the journal of the day. Thank you for your attention.