



Chairmanship: Cyprus

1069th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 7 February 2024 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10 a.m.

Closed: 10.35 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Ignatiou

The draft agenda (FSC.GAL/8/24) was not agreed upon by the FSC.

Chairperson (Annex), Russian Federation (FSC.DEL/45/24), Croatia, Belgium-European Union, Malta, Austria, Canada, Ukraine, Switzerland (FSC.DEL/46/24 OSCE+), Poland, United States of America (FSC.DEL/48/24), United Kingdom, Norway

Point of order: United States of America

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

None

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 14 February 2024, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



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

FSC.JOUR/1075
7 February 2024
Annex

Original: ENGLISH

1069th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 1075, Point 2

STATEMENT BY THE CHAIRPERSON

Before I suspend the meeting, allow me to make some brief remarks communicating the Chairperson's perspective on the current situation.

Not for the first time, I feel the need to reassure everybody of the strong commitment of Cyprus as an OSCE participating State and at this juncture as Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) to preserving the effective functioning of the OSCE in full respect of the Charter of the United Nations and of all OSCE principles and commitments. During the preparation of our Chairmanship, it was in this spirit that we engaged constructively with as many participating States as possible, including the delegation of the Russian Federation, in order to communicate our priorities.

This was done in full openness and transparency and with utmost respect towards all participating States; in the process, we took the mandate of the FSC into account and adhered to the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE. I repeat: with utmost respect towards all.

For a small participating State like Cyprus, to assume the Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation is a great responsibility and at the same time also a great challenge. We are endeavouring to fulfil this task with the utmost professionalism.

It was in this spirit and in due observance of the OSCE Rules of Procedure, Section IV.2 (C), paragraph 4, that the Cypriot Chairmanship engaged from early autumn onwards in the preparation of its Security Dialogues, including the selection of guest speakers to address them. It is also our understanding that all past Chairmanships have selected the speakers for the meetings under their tenure, exercising their own discretion in line with the mandate and the relevant rules of procedure, without interference.

The Security Dialogue we planned for today on the subject of "Human Security in Armed Conflicts: Protection against gender-based violence" focuses on an issue of utmost importance in our deliberations.

Considering the gravity of the security situation in the OSCE area and the need for adherence to the principles of international humanitarian law, our aim was to generate further input for our discussions, with a focus on the significance of human security in times of

armed conflict, and to promote the application of the principles of international humanitarian law to protecting civilians against gender-based violence.

Unfortunately this Security Dialogue is now blocked because the Chairmanship did not accept a speaker proposed by the Russian Federation. This is regrettable. It constitutes yet another unfortunate abuse of the consensus principle.

We politely rejected the Russian proposal, as we strive to maintain the Chairmanship's ownership of decisions concerning speakers, in line with, among other things, the above-mentioned provisions of the Rules of Procedure and previous practice.

We communicated this decision to the Russian Federation through a letter, expressing our utmost respect for the proposed speaker while at the same time mentioning that the Chairmanship had chosen the speakers in accordance with its prerogative and its priorities.

The Chairmanship of Cyprus, on behalf of the FSC Troika and with its valuable support, would now like to invite you to a side event on "Human Security in Armed Conflicts: Protection against gender-based violence".

The side event will take place shortly in this room. An invitation will be circulated immediately.