

Lisbon 1996: The OSCE Framework for Arms Control

OSCE Security Chat

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The historical context

- 1996: the implementation of reductions under the CFE Treaty
 - the CFE Treaty has facilitated “the epochal transformation of the military-political landscape of Europe avoiding any shocks”
Vladimir Putin, 19 January 2000

- 1995: the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina
 - Anticipating a series of sub-regional and regional arms control arrangements in South-Eastern Europe

- discussion of the harmonization of arms control commitments throughout the OSCE area

The changing context: mutual deterrence

- Russia and NATO back to mutual deterrence postures
- the agenda transformed from addressing intra-state conflict to managing the new “East-West’ security dilemma
- arms control on decline:
 - the CFE treaty dysfunctional
 - the Open Skies Treaty in the process of erosion
 - nuclear arms control challenged ...
- new challenges, including new disruptive technologies
- **is the 1996 OSCE Framework still relevant?**

“Strong commitment” to pursue Arms Control: part of the OSCE aquis

- arms control is **integral to the OSCE’s comprehensive security concept**

- **full implementation and further development of arms control** agreements is essential for
 - enhancing military and political stability within the OSCE area, and
 - the further development of the OSCE area as an indivisible common security space

The scope of arms control

□ arms control negotiations shall include both

■ **disarmament**

and

■ **confidence- and security-building**

Negotiating principles

- ❑ sufficiency
- ❑ transparency through information exchange
- ❑ sufficiently intrusive verification
- ❑ limitation of forces

Sufficiency

- each participating State will maintain only such military capabilities as are **commensurate** with legitimate individual or collective security needs,
- and will not attempt to impose military domination over any other participating State

Transparency

- a key element of an effective arms control regime is
- provision for complete, accurate and timely exchange of relevant information,
- including the size, structure, location and military doctrine of military forces as well as their activities.

Verification

- the measures adopted should be combined, as appropriate, with **verification that is commensurate with their substance and significance**
- this should include verification **sufficiently intrusive** to permit an assessment of information exchanged and of the implementation of agreed measures subject to verification

Limitation of forces

- limitations and, where necessary, reductions are an important element in the continuing search for security and stability
- other constraining provisions on armed forces and security-building measures continue to be significant elements in the quest for stability

Take-away

- ❑ the OSCE participating States are committed to arms control
- ❑ arms control is **not** about **either** limitations/reductions **or** confidence-building,
- ❑ arms control should be pursued in both directions
- ❑ it should be supported by transparency and sufficiently intrusive verification commensurate with the substance of arrangements
- ❑ the relevance of arms control increases in the context of mutual deterrence postures