

712th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 718, Agenda item 4

**DECISION No. 2/13
VIENNA DOCUMENT PLUS
UPDATING THE TITLE OF THE UNITED NATIONS INSTRUMENT
FOR STANDARDIZED INTERNATIONAL REPORTING
OF MILITARY EXPENDITURES**

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC),

Guided by FSC Decision No. 1/10, establishing a procedure for incorporating relevant FSC decisions into the Vienna Document, and by paragraphs 151 and 152 of the Vienna Document 2011 on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures,

Recalling Resolution A/RES/66/20 adopted by the General Assembly of the United Nations,

Taking the text of the Vienna Document 2011 as the basis for amendments and additions,

Decides to update Chapter II of the Vienna Document 2011 by replacing references to “United Nations ‘Instrument for Standardized International Reporting of Military Expenditures’ adopted on 12 December 1980” with “United Nations Report on Military Expenditures endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 2 December 2011”.

The pertinent paragraphs would read:

“(15.3) Information on previous expenditures

Participating States will report their defence expenditures of the preceding fiscal year (i.e., the most recent fiscal year for which figures are available) on the basis of the categories as set out in the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 2 December 2011.

1 Includes a correction to the alignments of the interpretative statement attached to the decision.

They will provide, in addition, any appropriate clarification, if necessary, as to possible discrepancies between expenditures and previously reported budgets, and information on the relation of the military budget to the gross national product (GNP) as a percentage.

- (15.2.5) – The procurement of major equipment and major military construction programmes on the basis of the categories as set out in the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures mentioned in paragraph 15.3, either ongoing or starting in the forthcoming years, if planned, and the implications of such projects, accompanied by explanations, where appropriate;
- (15.4.1.1) – Budget figures on the basis of the categories as set out in the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures mentioned in paragraph 15.3;
- (15.4.2.1) – The best estimates itemizing defence expenditures on the basis of the categories as set out in the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures mentioned in paragraph 15.3;”.

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the Netherlands (also on behalf of Germany, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Finland, France, United Kingdom, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the Czech Republic):

“Madam Chairperson,

The Netherlands, also on behalf of Germany, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Finland, France, United Kingdom, Greece, Hungary, Ireland, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Montenegro, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Switzerland and the Czech Republic, would like to make the following interpretative statement on the FSC decision on updating the title of the United Nations Instrument for Standardized International Reporting of Military Expenditures.

We welcome the decision to update Chapter II of the Vienna Document 2011 by using the correct references to the ‘United Nations Report on Military Expenditures endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 2 December 2011’,

Noting with regret that no consensus could be reached on using the standardized reporting form, which builds upon the conviction that transparency in military matters for a regional security organization as the OSCE is an essential element for building a climate of trust and confidence between States and that a better flow of objective information on military matters can help to relieve international tension and is therefore an important contribution to conflict prevention,

We declare to use the standardized reporting form² as set out in the United Nations Report on Military Expenditures, endorsed by the General Assembly of the United Nations on 2 December 2011, with immediate effect if possible, but no later than 1 January 2014.

We call upon all other participating States to subscribe to this approach.

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.”

1 Includes a correction to the alignments.

2 Or any other bespoke format developed for the purpose of similar reporting on military expenditures if this provides comparable or more transparency than the UN standardized reporting form. A UN “nil” report should only be used when participating States have no military expenditures.