

Chairmanship: Armenia**976th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 19 May 2021 (via video teleconference)

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 10.45 a.m.
Resumed: 11.05 a.m.
Suspended: 12.55 p.m.
Resumed: 3 p.m.
Suspended: 3.20 p.m.
Resumed: 4 p.m.
Closed: 5.30 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Papikyan
Ms. L. Grigoryan

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/31/21 OSCE+.

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE: UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1325: FULL, EQUAL AND MEANINGFUL PARTICIPATION OF WOMEN IN ARMED AND SECURITY FORCES

- *Presentation by Mr. M. Margaryan, Permanent Representative of Armenia to the United Nations, Chair of the UN Commission on the Status of Women for the sixty-fifth session*
- *Presentation by Brigadier General L. Swaan Wrede, Deputy Chief of the Swedish Army*
- *Presentation by Ms. A. Darisuren, OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues*

- *Presentation by Ms. D. O, Ambassador-at-Large and Secretary General for the Generation Equality Forum, France*
- *Presentation by Senior Lieutenant A. Savtalyan, Ministry of Defence of Armenia*

Chairperson, Mr. M. Margaryan (FSC.DEL/185/21), Brigadier General L. Swaan Wrede, OSCE Senior Adviser on Gender Issues (SEC.GAL/70/21 OSCE+), Ms. D. O (FSC.DEL/199/21 OSCE+), Senior Lieutenant A. Savtalyan (FSC.DEL/186/21), Albania, Portugal-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/195/21), Sweden (Annex 1), Switzerland (Annex 2), Denmark (Annex 3), United States of America (FSC.DEL/177/21 OSCE+), United Kingdom (FSC.DEL/188/21 OSCE+), Norway (FSC.DEL/178/21), Finland, Canada, Malta (FSC.DEL/191/21 OSCE+), Spain (Annex 4), Germany (Annex 5), Russian Federation (Annex 6), Turkey (FSC.DEL/193/21 OSCE+), Serbia (Annex 7), Afghanistan (Partner for Co-operation) (FSC.DEL/183/21), Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Latvia) (Annex 8), FSC Co-ordinator for Matters Related to UNSCR 1325 (Albania) (Annex 9)

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

- (a) *Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/190/21) (FSC.DEL/190/21/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/196/21), United States of America (FSC.DEL/179/21 OSCE+), United Kingdom (FSC.DEL/189/21 OSCE+), Canada, Russian Federation*
- (b) *Large-scale military exercise by Azerbaijan: Armenia (Annex 10) (FSC.DEL/187/21), United States of America (FSC.DEL/181/21 OSCE+), Azerbaijan, Portugal-European Union, Canada*

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Military exercises “Thunder Bolt 21”, to be conducted from 31 May to 17 June 2021, and “Arctic Challenge 2021”, to be conducted from 7 to 18 June 2021: Norway (FSC.DEL/180/21 OSCE+) (FSC.DEL/180/21/Add.1 OSCE+)*
- (b) *Regional seminar on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security for participating States and Mediterranean Partners for*

*Co-operation, to be held via video teleconference on 27 and 28 May 2021:
Albania (Annex 11)*

- (c) *Military exercise “Iron Wolf-I”, being conducted in Lithuania from 19 to
30 May 2021: Lithuania (Annex 12)*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 26 May 2021, at 10 a.m., via video teleconference



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

FSC.JOUR/982

19 May 2021

Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

976th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 982, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF SWEDEN**

Dear Mr. Chairperson,
Dear colleagues,

Sweden fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and would in a national capacity like to state the following.

First, I thank Armenia for bringing this topic to the FSC agenda and also our distinguished speakers for their excellent, useful contributions to this Security Dialogue.

Mr. Chairperson,

Sweden has a feminist government. In practice, this entails a commitment to building a society in which women and men, girls and boys can live their lives to their full potential. Gender equality is also part of the solution to society's many other challenges and a matter of course in a modern welfare State – for justice and economic development. Gender equality is therefore a fundamental objective and principle of Swedish policy and consequently also reflected in our foreign and security policy.

Here in the OSCE, Sweden has worked hard, and will continue to do so, on advancing the women, peace and security agenda and other important aspects of women's role with regard to conflict prevention and crisis management.

As we have just heard from today's speakers, increasing women's participation is important in so many aspects in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, in peace negotiations, mediation and in peace-building. This also includes military operations that must take the whole of society into account, involving both men and women.

For Sweden, as was described by Brigadier General Swaan Wrede, women in the armed forces bring diversity and different experiences, perspectives and skills and make immense contributions to our military efforts, nationally as well as internationally.

Since its adoption, the United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 has guided much of Sweden's action, for example when conducting military operations in the Balkans, in Afghanistan and in Mali. By adapting our military forces and conducting military planning

with the resolution as a basis for our work, we have been more effective and the output of our efforts have made a greater impact.

The ability to conduct operations in accordance with resolution 1325 starts with comprehensive national preparations. Paving the way for women's full and equal participation on all levels in our administration and agencies involved in conflict prevention and crisis management is essential.

Mr. Chairperson,

There are still obstacles that we have to overcome. When we discuss whether women's opportunities or participation is the best demonstration of the provisions related to women, peace and security, we must remember that equal opportunities are not a given even in the OSCE area.

For instance, historically, men have been setting the standards and requirements for armed forces and held the majority in selection boards. Sometimes those requirements were fully motivated, but sometimes they were certainly not. Last week's FSC on "New generation warfare" also made it very clear that the conflicts of tomorrow will not look like the conflicts of today. This must be taken into consideration for the future.

The Swedish armed forces have, as mentioned, taken various measures to increase the number of women in uniform. One of them is to set a percentage goal for the recruitment of women, which is 25 per cent of the new personnel in 2021–2023. I would like to underline that this is not done by lowering current standards.

By next week, all participating States should have received an invitation to a Code of Conduct retreat in Stockholm from 29 September to 1 October. The purpose of the retreat is to show how we work to create and foster an environment that safeguards women's role, rights, conditions, opportunities and participation in the Swedish armed forces. The foundation for this work is made by our commitments in the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

As previously mentioned, Sweden is currently also preparing a first dimension draft declaration for women, peace and security to bring to the Ministerial Council in Stockholm. We invite all participating States to work with us constructively in this process, with the purpose of developing a solid and agreeable draft decision. We will continue to reach out to participating States on this matter in the coming weeks.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I kindly 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/982

19 May 2021

Annex 2

ENGLISH

Original: GERMAN

976th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 982, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND**

Mr. Chairperson,
Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

It remains a priority for Switzerland to maintain dialogue on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325. We therefore thank the Armenian Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) for having dedicated a Security Dialogue to the issue of women, peace and security and the invited experts for their substantive contributions.

Mr. Chairperson,

We have already achieved a great deal in the field of women, peace and security, also within the framework of the OSCE. However, there are still gaps that we need to close. Women are still not equally involved in peace and security processes. In its fourth National Action Plan for the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, Switzerland has therefore set itself the goal of increasing the number of women involved in defence and security policy areas and in military peacebuilding. We want to achieve this by providing women with targeted information about the Swiss armed forces, compulsory military service and military peacebuilding missions.

In Switzerland, only men are obliged to do military service; women do so voluntarily. The proportion of women today in the armed forces therefore currently stands at around only 1 per cent. The Head of the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport, Federal Councillor Viola Amherd, has repeatedly emphasized that this figure is too low.

Different initiatives to promote women in the armed forces have already been launched, such as, for example, the “recruitment, career development and advice” project, the “security is women’s business too” campaign to recruit women, the presence of members of the armed forces at careers fairs and trade fairs and the development of a gender perspective by the Defence sector.

A growing number of people in Switzerland also consider all-male compulsory military service to be inconsistent with the goal of gender equality. In Switzerland, the discussions on the framework conditions for the introduction of general compulsory military service for women and men are currently the subject both of political discussions and of procedural feasibility considerations.

A new department is to be established for women in the Swiss armed forces. Among its tasks will be the co-ordination of the various activities for the advancement of women. It will also serve as a kind of focal point for all gender equality issues.

Various communications and information measures are being proposed to encourage more women to serve in the armed forces. The reconciliation of military service, education, career and family must also be improved. Alternative service models need to be developed. Part-time work must also be possible for professional military personnel and the question of childcare support clarified.

The equal participation of women and men in peacekeeping operations and in security policy is also a key concern for Switzerland within the framework of its National Action Plan on resolution 1325. Defence and security measures must be comprehensive. This strengthens inclusive peacebuilding and promotes equality in the field of security.

Mr. Chairperson,

The will to implement United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 must not remain mere lip service. The past has shown that equality of opportunity and packages of measures alone are not enough to increase the proportion of women. Women must also be convinced of their value to the security sector. The time has now come for sincere and proactive persuasion to this effect.

Excellencies, dear colleagues, thank you for your kind attention.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/982

19 May 2021

Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

976th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 982, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF DENMARK**

Mr. Chairperson,

Denmark fully subscribes to the statement delivered by the European Union but I would like to make the following statement in my national capacity.

For many years, Denmark has taken the lead in defending human rights, including the rights of women and girls. In 2005, determined to translate commitments into action, Denmark was the first country in the world to adopt a national action plan for the implementation of resolution 1325. This year Denmark has published the fourth Danish action plan for women, peace and security.

The overall goal of Denmark's new action plan is to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in peace efforts. Let me give you three examples of what we will do to work towards this end:

1. Ensure the systematic integration of gender perspectives in the planning, execution and evaluation of our foreign, security and development policy work;
2. Increase recruitment and retention of women at all levels, particularly in areas where women are under-represented;
3. Ensure that all those posted abroad – men and women – are trained to integrate and promote gender perspectives in a meaningful way.

These are only steps on the way and much still needs to be done. If we are to realize the visions set out in resolution 1325, we must all prioritize women, peace and security efforts at the highest level.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Please attach this statement to the journal of the meeting.



976th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 982, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Spain fully aligns itself with the statement by the European Union.

I should also like to convey my sincere thanks to you for including this item on the agenda of this meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), and to all the speakers for their valuable contributions. They have all pointed out the vital importance of continuing co-ordinated efforts to build on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions on women, peace and security.

Today once again, we are holding this meeting in extraordinary circumstances. The COVID-19 crisis, which continues to hit hard in various parts of the world, highlights the fragility of the progress made and reminds us of how far we still have to go in order to advance the women, peace and security agenda in a manner consistent with our commitments and objectives. For that reason, Spain has continued to develop a feminist foreign policy, within which the women, peace and security agenda is one of our priorities.

Against this background, I should like to focus on four issues:

1. The vital importance of protecting women: On 11 May the Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence (Istanbul Convention), of which Spain was one of the main sponsors, celebrated its tenth anniversary. The Convention characterizes violence against women as a violation of human rights and a form of discrimination. It also indicates that its provisions apply in times of peace and in situations of armed conflict. We must therefore remember the importance of the link between gender equality and security, and increase our efforts to mainstream gender issues in all three dimensions, including of course the first one.
2. The key significance for the effectiveness of the women, peace and security agenda of the participation and leadership of women: The development of the women, peace and security agenda has enabled us to observe a fundamental change: from the consideration of women as victims of armed conflicts and, in particular, of sexual violence in conflict to their consideration as essential actors in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in the

subsequent reconstruction efforts. The participation and leadership of women is essential for the effectiveness of the women, peace and security agenda, especially at a time when barriers to their effective participation in decision-making processes prevail.

3. Importance of continuing to develop the women, peace and security agenda: The continued development of the women, peace and security agenda is also essential to ensure its effectiveness. In that regard, I should like to refer briefly to two initiatives for the development of the women, peace and security agenda that are of particular importance to the Spanish delegation.

- (a) The Women, Peace and Security Focal Points Network was one of the commitments announced by Spain during the high-level open debate in 2015. Launched in 2016, it has over 80 members, including the OSCE. This operational network has demonstrated its effectiveness through the exchange of experiences and the stimulus it gives to the commitments of States and organizations to advance the objectives of the agenda.
- (b) Spain has sponsored two important resolutions in this area: (i) The resolution on women and girls and the response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) adopted by the United Nations General Assembly, which incorporates important elements on the necessary participation of women in all phases of conflict resolution, the role of women peacebuilders, and the fight against sexual violence. (ii) During its mandate in the Human Rights Council, Spain presented a resolution on promoting and protecting the human rights of women and girls on the occasion of the twentieth anniversary of Security Council resolution 1325.

4. The prominent role of women in the Spanish armed forces: Finally, I should like to recall that it has been more than 30 years since the armed forces in Spain were opened to women and that since the entry into force of Law No. 17/99, the Regulation of the Armed Forces Personnel Act, absolute equality between men and women has been upheld without any restrictions and with full access for women to all military units, ranks and postings.

As at 18 May 2021, women (including trainees) account for 12.9 per cent of the total number of active military personnel in the Spanish armed forces. The average number of women in our armed forces is higher than the average among our neighbouring countries, which is around 11.3 per cent. Likewise, 7.7 per cent of the total number of military personnel deployed in missions abroad are women.

These initiatives and commitments testify to the vital importance that Spain attaches to compliance with and development of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and subsequent resolutions, and to the efforts it has been making in that regard. The implementation of the women, peace and security agenda is more urgent today than ever.

Thank you.



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

FSC.JOUR/982

19 May 2021

Annex 5

ENGLISH

Original: GERMAN

976th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 982, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Mr. Chairperson,
Dear colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

Germany fully aligns itself with the statement by the European Union.

In view of the prominent role that United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 has for Germany, I should like to make a few additional comments in my national capacity.

The Federal Government's third Action Plan on the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (2021–2024) was adopted a few months ago in Germany. I reported on this and on other important steps in our national implementation in my statement on the occasion of the 80th joint meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and the Permanent Council on 10 March 2021.

Germany thanks the Armenian FSC Chairmanship for having made the women, peace and security agenda the theme of today's Security Dialogue.

Germany considers it important that we also approach the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 here at the OSCE in a more active and committed manner. It is a matter of mobilizing the hitherto unused potential of the OSCE in order to support the participating States in implementing United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and its subsequent resolutions with appropriate measures.

I should like to recall the joint statement on the importance and implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 within the OSCE, which was delivered by 52 participating States at the Ministerial Council in Tirana in December last year. The overwhelming support for this joint statement has shown how strong the desire for practical implementation measures is in the OSCE. The panellists in today's FSC meeting and numerous delegations have set out here today in clear terms how necessary it is that we continue to move forward along the right path that we have embarked upon.

I therefore appeal to all participating States that have not yet aligned themselves with the Tirana joint statement to support the implementation of the concrete measures provided for in the joint statements.

Among the many concrete proposals contained in the Tirana joint statement for our common way forward in the OSCE, I should like to highlight three points that Germany considers to be particularly important:

1. Setting up a plan of action for the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, in all aspects of the FSC's areas of work, including at all levels of decision-making and leadership;
2. Establishing a directory of national focal points on gender equality in order to facilitate the development, implementation, monitoring, evaluation and review of the plan of action; and
3. Compiling national practices in the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and its subsequent resolutions, with a focus on participating States' promotion of the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in their armed and security forces.

Germany is committed to carrying forward the impetus of the Tirana joint statement and to working in the OSCE and, specifically, here at the FSC to ensure that it takes the form of concrete steps. We are convinced that peace and stability are more sustainable once women and men are equal in all areas and levels of decision-making and leadership of the armed and security forces and once they are equally involved, regardless of their gender, in all aspects of peace processes. That is a goal worth fighting for.

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

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Permanent Council**

FSC.JOUR/982

19 May 2021

Annex 6

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

976th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 982, Agenda item 1

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

Mr. Chairperson,

We are grateful to the Armenian Chairmanship for organizing today's plenary meeting. We thank the distinguished keynote speakers for their interesting presentations, which attest to the progress made in enhancing the role of women in addressing security issues, conflict resolution and post-conflict reconstruction.

We agree that the knowledge, skills and experience of both women and men are of great importance for efforts aimed at strengthening peace and stability, including the implementation of politico-military agreements. It is clear to us that, in this extremely important matter, priority should be given not to artificially ensuring that the percentage of women and men in national institutions and international bodies is equal, but to their competencies. The concept of "equal opportunities" is therefore preferable to "equal participation".

Speaking of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, it should be emphasized that the framework for its application is quite clearly defined, namely improving conditions for women during times of armed conflict that threaten international peace and security and in post-conflict situations. In other words, the resolution can hardly be used as a universal reference point for promoting the participation of women in all spheres of public life.

We note that the prerogative to facilitate implementation of resolution 1325 remains with the United Nations. In that connection, measures taken under the auspices of that global organization should be aimed at supporting the efforts of States, since the primary responsibility for the protection of women during all stages of a crisis situation rests with them. As regards national action plans for the resolution's implementation, they are voluntary and may be used only as an additional tool to assess the relevant policies of States during armed conflicts or in the context of post-conflict settlement.

Mr. Chairperson,

We can see that our colleagues in these negotiations are not averse to expanding the politico-military mandate of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) to include tasks related to resolution 1325. We understand that the latter is of interest to a wide range of States. However, it is evident that it is by no means issues of equality between women and men that are shaping the politico-military situation in Europe. In that respect, we take the position that discussion of the resolution at the FSC may only be of a subsidiary nature.

As for the Forum's work on resolution 1325, we have repeatedly stated that it should be carried out within the framework of the FSC mandate. That means addressing the impact of excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA) on women and children; creating equal opportunities for women's participation in the design, planning and implementation of policies to combat illicit SALW, also through the OSCE assistance projects in the field of SALW and SCA; and considering women's contribution to the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

We are of the opinion that the existing exchange of information between OSCE participating States on the resolution's implementation, including voluntary responses to the Questionnaire on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, meets the objectives set.

In other words, we should focus on the implementation of existing commitments on this topic, rather than on drafting new documents or expanding the mandate of our negotiating body, which was originally conceived by its founders as the main pan-European structure responsible for politico-military stability in Europe.

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



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

FSC.JOUR/982

19 May 2021

Annex 7

Original: ENGLISH

976th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 982, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF SERBIA**

Mr. Chairperson,
Your Excellencies,
Dear colleagues,

First, I would like to thank the Chairmanship for adding this important topic to the Security Dialogue and the keynote speakers for their very interesting and informative presentations. Serbia has aligned itself with the European Union statement on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325.

On this occasion, we should like to take the opportunity to kindly remind the FSC Chairmanship of the need to ensure that the OSCE's status-neutral position towards Kosovo and Metohija is respected in all statements of speakers invited to meetings of the Forum.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



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

FSC.JOUR/982
19 May 2021
Annex 8

Original: ENGLISH

976th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 982, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE INFORMAL GROUP OF FRIENDS ON
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF
CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION (LATVIA)**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.
Dear colleagues,
Distinguished speakers,

In my capacity as Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, I should like to start by thanking the distinguished speakers for their very valuable and thought-provoking presentations on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) with a view to full, equal and meaningful participation of women in security and armed forces.

Resolution 1325 remains a landmark instrument that continues to provide us all with the opportunity to make real and lasting contributions to our collective security. United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security highlights the importance of a meaningful role for women. As you are aware, this commitment is not about ensuring parity alone, but rather ensuring equal inclusion of women and men in decision-making processes. It is about offering equal opportunities to men and women and about working collectively towards full gender equality. It is about opening spaces and dislodging obstacles to women's participation in the decision-making processes related to both conflict and peace.

We should do all we can to work together on supporting its implementation at the national, regional and international levels.

Mr. Chairperson,

In the light of today's Security Dialogue, let me also touch upon aspects related to small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA). Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/17 on SALW and SCA tasked the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) with continuing to exchange views and information and share best practices on "addressing the impact of excessive and destabilizing accumulation and

uncontrolled spread of SALW and SCA on women and children” and “creating equal opportunities for women’s participation in policymaking, planning and implementation processes to combat illicit SALW”. In the 2018 Ministerial Council Declaration on OSCE Efforts in the Field of Norms and Best Practices on SALW and SCA (MC.DOC/5/18), the foreign ministers of the OSCE participating States reiterated the urgency of those tasks. Most recently, in October 2020, the second Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA highlighted the need for gender mainstreaming in the OSCE’s work.

Let me stress that gender mainstreaming and provision of equal opportunity in SALW-related decision-making opens the door to practical, innovative and effective solutions to complex problems. In order to be effective in the long run, activities related to SALW control must be holistic and address not only legal and technical matters but also cultural, societal and functional issues, within a comprehensive and inclusive approach.

Incorporating gender aspects both into participating States’ SALW- and SCA-related policies and into OSCE norms, mechanisms and practical assistance in these fields would contribute significantly to our joint efforts to effectively combat illicit trafficking in SALW and SCA.

As we are now well into the process of updating the OSCE Best Practice Guides on SALW and SCA, and are also proposing to develop new ones, it is the right moment to ensure that gender aspects are reflected, where appropriate, in the texts of these and all other relevant OSCE documents.

The Survey of Suggestions from the second Biennial Meeting (SEC.GAL/179/20 dated 26 November 2020) proposed concrete measures for gender mainstreaming in SALW/SCA action. I would recommend that these measures be incorporated into the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW (2010), which needs to be updated. This would provide us with a goal-oriented approach that we can use as we strive to fulfil the taskings of Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/17.

Dear colleagues,

I hope that the lessons learned from and the discussions held during today’s meeting of the FSC will further motivate and guide us in our efforts on gender mainstreaming.

In closing, allow me to add my voice in support of all related initiatives, including networks seeking to promote the women, peace and security agenda within the OSCE.

Thank you for your attention.

I kindly 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/982

19 May 2021

Annex 9

Original: ENGLISH

976th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 982, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY
THE FSC CO-ORDINATOR FOR MATTERS RELATED TO
UNSCR 1325 (ALBANIA)**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.
Excellencies,
Ladies and gentlemen,
Dear colleagues,

It is a pleasure for me to address this plenary meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation in my capacity as FSC Co-ordinator for Matters Related to UNSCR 1325.

I would like to join others in commending our esteemed guest speakers for their valuable contributions, experience-sharing and insights.

Mr. Chairperson,

The joint statement on United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 delivered at the 2020 Tirana Ministerial Council meeting and endorsed by a total of 52 participating States reflects a strong determination on the part of the participating States to continue advancing the women, peace and security agenda in the FSC's areas of work. The joint statement reflected concrete proposals for additional efforts that warrant further discussion within the FSC.

There is a long overdue need to exchange ideas on how to further promote the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 as part of our core work in the Forum.

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to mention the voluntary information-sharing on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 in the framework of the replies to the annual Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. Even though voluntary, this is an integral part of the annual information exchange and carrying it out should be greatly encouraged as a way to share useful experience amongst participating States. The upcoming Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security on 16 June will also serve as a good opportunity to take

stock of the voluntary information exchanged and to discuss opportunities to further strengthen interest in the voluntary exchange of information on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325.

In addition, allow me to recall the ongoing success of the OSCE Scholarship for Peace and Security training programme – a joint initiative of the OSCE and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). This year sees its fourth edition and the online part of the training will start on 24 May 2021. The training programme is based on resolution 1325 and enables young professionals, in particular women from the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, to acquire more knowledge and increase their participation in conflict prevention and resolution, arms control, and confidence- and security-building measures. This programme gives young women a good chance to build up solid networks and increase their range of career opportunities. It continues to contribute to giving women equal opportunities to participate fully in policymaking, planning and implementation processes.

Mr. Chairperson,

As a member of the Women in the First Dimension Network, I would like to highlight the ongoing nature of the two initiatives that are currently under way, namely, the Mentoring Programme for female and male colleagues working in the politico-military dimension and the List of female experts on politico-military topics.

Regarding the Mentoring Programme, as you were duly informed earlier this year, a pilot phase has been successfully launched. The programme has brought together female and male colleagues from the first dimension, while facilitating an exchange not only between senior and junior colleagues, women and men but also military and political colleagues. The first fully fledged Mentoring Programme is planned for the autumn of this year.

As for the second initiative, that of the list of women experts on first dimension topics, we currently have a varied list with the names of more than 85 female experts. This year we have undertaken outreach to the participating States to stimulate their willingness to appoint female experts who will then be duly included in the current list. Our aim is to have at least one female representative for each participating State. If you have any such proposals or are interested in consulting the list itself, you are welcome to contact the Women in the First Dimension Network.

Mr. Chairperson,

To conclude, I should like to make the point that United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 must serve as a unifying agenda among the OSCE participating States and not deepen divisions. Even though it is a global agenda, we should concentrate on its full implementation in the OSCE area and, furthermore, take concrete steps in the FSC's areas of work.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

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



976th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 982, Agenda item 2(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Madam Chairperson,

From 16 to 20 May 2021, the armed forces of Azerbaijan are conducting a large-scale military exercise which according to official information provided by the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan involves up to 15,000 military personnel, up to 300 tanks and other armoured vehicles, up to 400 missiles and artillery systems of various calibres, multiple-launch rocket systems, mortars, anti-tank weapons, up to 50 units of military aviation, as well as unmanned aerial vehicles for various purposes.

Paragraph 40.1.1, Chapter V of the Vienna Document 2011 on prior notification of certain military activities, provides that a military activity will be subject to notification whenever it involves at any time during the activity:

- at least 9,000 troops, including support troops, or
- at least 250 battle tanks, or
- at least 500 armoured combat vehicles, or
- at least 250 self-propelled and towed artillery pieces, mortars and multiple rocket launchers (100 mm and above).

We once again draw attention to the fact that the military leadership of Azerbaijan is continuing to violate the provisions of the Vienna Document 2011, failing to inform participating States of its military drills within the timeframe provided by the Vienna Document and through established channels of communication. By combining various thresholds established by the Vienna Document, Azerbaijan is attempting to justify its non-compliance with Vienna Document provisions.

We also recall that this is the fifth unnotified military exercise conducted by Azerbaijan since the end of the war of aggression it unleashed against Artsakh last year. It is important to note that this exercise is clearly offensive in nature, being aimed at checking the command and control of troops and bringing them to a state of combat readiness and regrouping on the basis of the combat experience gained during the Second Karabakh War.

Moreover, the Ministry of Defence of Azerbaijan announced the holding of this large-scale military exercise on 12 May, the day when the Azerbaijani armed forces, in a provocative and irresponsible move, encroached upon the sovereign territory of Armenia in Syunik and Gegharkunik provinces.

In the light of the recent use of force by Azerbaijan against Artsakh, constant threats and territorial claims made by the President of Azerbaijan against Armenia, the incursions of the Azerbaijani military into the sovereign territory of Armenia, as well as Azerbaijan's ongoing military build-up along the Armenian borders, we consider an unnotified military exercise such as this one to be a real threat to Armenia and Artsakh, as well as to regional peace and stability.

We appreciate the calls of our international partners for the immediate withdrawal of Azerbaijani troops from the territory of Armenia and for Azerbaijan to cease its irresponsible and provocative actions.

We call on the Swedish OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office and other participating States to respond appropriately to the persistent violations by Azerbaijan of its commitments under the Vienna Document.

We also urge Azerbaijan to provide detailed information on the parameters of its current large-scale military exercise in order to ensure military transparency and stability and to avoid further escalation and the creation of new areas of tension.

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



976th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 982, Agenda item 3(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ALBANIA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

This is to inform the OSCE participating States that on 27 and 28 May 2021, Albania, in close collaboration with the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), will be hosting a regional online seminar on the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security for participating States and Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. The invitations were distributed at the end of April and a reminder regarding registration for the event was sent out earlier this week.

The first day of the regional seminar will feature:

- A high-level opening address; and
- An introductory session on the Code of Conduct; a survey of its history and development; a look at the Code of Conduct from an academic perspective; and a contribution on the CPC's role with regard to the Code.

The first day of the regional seminar will also feature a seminar session on democratic oversight and the role of parliaments.

On the second day, 28 May 2021, the following topics will be covered in separate seminar sessions:

- Aspects of the women, peace and security agenda within armed and security forces;
- National practices in implementing the Code of Conduct, including views from Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation;
- The role of youth, with a focus on regional security challenges (a topic still in line with the priorities of the 2020 Albanian OSCE Chairmanship).

Moreover, there is also going to be a working session on the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct and responses to it.

Finally, these two seminar days will be wound up with a closing session.

I kindly remind participating States and our Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation that the registration deadline is 3 p.m., CET, on 20 May 2021.

We look forward to your participation in and contributions to the regional seminar.

Thank you for your attention. Should you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Mr. Chairperson, I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting.



976th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 982, Agenda item 3(c)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF LITHUANIA**

Madam Chairperson, thank you for giving me the floor.

I would like to provide information about the exercise “Iron Wolf-I”, which started in Lithuania today.

The exercise is organized by the “Iron Wolf” Mechanized Infantry Brigade of the Lithuanian armed forces together with the German-led enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group stationed in Lithuania, and with other units of Allied forces. The numbers of troops involved and of equipment and weapon systems used are lower than the thresholds set in the Vienna Document. In total, 3,169 troops are to participate in the exercise, and 21 battle tanks, 133 armoured combat vehicles, 11 artillery pieces and 6 helicopters will be used.

The exercise will take place from 19 to 30 May, with the main phase running from 23 to 29 May.

The general aim of the exercise is to train the enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group and the Duke Vaidotas Battalion of the Mechanized Infantry Brigade “Iron Wolf” to operate together, and to enhance interoperability with other Allied forces.

The objectives of the exercise are to:

- Promote collective competence and confidence;
- Demonstrate enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group readiness;
- Train and certify the conduct of force-on-force operations by the enhanced Forward Presence Battle Group and the Vaidotas Battalion of the “Iron Wolf” Brigade;
- Promote interoperability with the units of the National Defence Volunteer Forces;
- Train abilities for fighting in conditions of chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear warfare;

- Exercise Brigade units located at the Rukla garrison with regard to alert levels and deployment procedures;
- Exercise combined logistics operations;
- Test Brigade artillery fire system; and
- Improve interoperability of troops participating.

The exercise is taking place in the central part of Lithuania, in the Gaižiūnai training area and also in the civilian areas surrounding the military training area.

Lithuania notified the exercise “Iron Wolf-I” as the principal military activity being held in Lithuania this year (CBM/LT/20/0020/F30/O; CBM/LT/21/0001/F25/O). As a voluntary measure aimed at increasing transparency and in accordance with paragraphs 30.7 and 30.8 of the Vienna Document, Lithuania invited military observers from its non-NATO neighbours – namely, Belarus, Finland, Russia and Sweden – to the exercise observation programme (CBM/LT/21/0003/F22/O). I am pleased to inform you that we received positive responses from all four countries invited.

Finally, I would like to draw attention to the fact that today Lithuania transmitted the formats through the OSCE Communications Network informing the participating States about Lithuania’s decision to resume verification activities as of today, 19 May (CBM/LT/21/0005/F41/O; OS/LT/21/0003/F32/O). Participating States are kindly requested to observe COVID-19-related precautionary measures and to conduct confidence- and security-building measures in a safe and efficient manner.

Colleagues, thank you for your attention.

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