
Chairmanship: Austria**989th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 20 October 2021 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Closed: 1.10 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador F. Raunig
Mr. R. Lassmann

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE: “CODE OF CONDUCT, WITH A PARTICULAR EMPHASIS ON THE INTEGRATION OF WOMEN IN ARMED FORCES”

– *Introductory remarks by the OSCE Secretary General*

– *Presentation by Mr. A. Lambert, Academic Director, Geneva Institute of Geopolitical Studies, Switzerland*

– *Presentation by Ms. R. Mathes, Head of Human Security Section, Current Operations Directorate, Federal Ministry of Defence, Austria*

– *Presentation by Colonel C. Bitterlich, Military Adviser, Permanent Delegation of Sweden to the OSCE*

– *Presentation by Major L. Johansson, Nordic Centre for Gender in Military Operations*

Chairperson, OSCE Secretary General (SEC.GAL/144/21), Mr. A. Lambert (FSC.DEL/394/21 OSCE+), Ms. R. Mathes, Sweden, Major L. Johansson, Slovenia-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, Liechtenstein and

Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/386/21), United Kingdom, Switzerland, Armenia (FSC.DEL/391/21), United States of America (FSC.DEL/377/21 OSCE+), Turkey, Malta (FSC.DEL/378/21 OSCE+), Ukraine (FSC.DEL/382/21), Canada, Russian Federation (Annex), Slovenia-European Union

Agenda item 2: DECISION ON THE DATES AND VENUE OF THE
THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL IMPLEMENTATION
ASSESSMENT MEETING

Chairperson

Decision: The FSC adopted Decision No. 5/21 (FSC.DEC/5/21) on the dates and venue of the thirty-second Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 3: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/383/21), Slovenia-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/387/21), United Kingdom, United States of America (FSC.DEL/385/21 OSCE+), Canada

Agenda item 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution, on 19 October 2021, of a completed questionnaire on assistance to Kyrgyzstan in accordance with the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (FSC.DEL/376/21 Restr.):* Kyrgyzstan
- (b) *Politico-military retreat to be held in Reichenau an der Rax, Austria, on 29 October 2021:* Chairperson
- (c) *Side-event entitled “Facilitating and advancing meaningful reporting on women, peace and security in the framework of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security”, held in Vienna and via video teleconference on 20 October 2021:* Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 20 October 2021, at 3 p.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



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

FSC.JOUR/995
20 October 2021
Annex

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

989th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 995, Agenda item 1

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

Mr. Chairperson,

We are grateful to the Austrian 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. With some of the points they have made we agree, and with some we most definitely do not.

Our country considers the Code of Conduct to be one of the essential elements of the common set of regulatory instruments and one that continues to play a unique part in the context of the OSCE participating States' commitments. In adopting this instrument, we all committed ourselves to applying, at the inter-State and intra-State level, agreed principles concerning the politico-military aspects of security.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Russian Federation has always believed and continues to believe that the knowledge, skills and experience of both men and women 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, as some countries insist, but to their competencies. For us, the concept of "equal opportunities" is therefore preferable to "equal participation".

I should like to inform you that the third Eurasian Women's Forum, which worked closely with international organizations such as the United Nations, the United Nations Industrial Development Organization, the World Health Organization, the World Bank, Women20, the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa) Women's Business Alliance and many others, concluded in St. Petersburg on 15 October. The role of the Eurasian Women's Forum as the most authoritative women's discussion platform was confirmed, with the participation of 482 representatives from more than 110 States. The Forum's central theme was the global mission of women in a new reality. Together, the participants searched for options for overcoming gender stereotypes and discussed ways of

enhancing the role of women in decision-making and in strengthening international peace and security.

I would remind you that our country has historically had a fairly high level of women's representation both in Russian government bodies and in other spheres of public life. This also applies to the fields of education (70 per cent), science (50 per cent) and medicine (70 per cent). In addition, there are more than 41,000 women serving in the armed forces of the Russian Federation. The competition for places in military academies is even tougher among women than men. Twenty-seven women compete for each place.

But we have our differences to the Western countries. As President Vladimir Putin said when he addressed the Forum: "Recently, women have been appointed to positions of responsibility in the West solely on the basis of their gender, with no regard for their professional skills or their knowledge of the situation in the sector entrusted to them. In our country, however, women occupy their posts with full authority, having proven their suitability for the job through all their previous professional experience."

Mr. Chairperson,

We are obliged to note that some of our partners are trying to interpret the Code in a broader way, and yet the wording of the document, which was formally approved by the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the OSCE participating States, does not mention the role of women in ensuring security, something that is being discussed ever more frequently at events such as today's meeting.

We are not against allowing those who wish to exchange information on any issues of interest to particular delegations from doing so, but within the framework of the established mandate.

First and foremost, this concerns the work of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). However, we can see that some here are not averse to expanding the Forum's politico-military mandate to include tasks already entrusted to the United Nations, including those related to resolution 1325. We understand that this issue is of interest to a wide range of States. Nevertheless, we believe it is evident that it is by no means issues of equality between women and men that are shaping the contemporary 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.

The Code of Conduct event recently organized by the Swedish Chairmanship was useful for all of us. We are grateful to them for this. Evidently, the Swedish Chairmanship should also organize a separate course for commanders and Ukrainian fighters, along with their Western instructors, to teach them how to avoid killing women and children in Donbas, something that has been going on for eight years now.

As for the contribution of women to the implementation of the provisions of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the Russian Federation is of the opinion that the existing exchange of information between OSCE participating States, including voluntary responses to the Code of Conduct Questionnaire, sufficiently meets the objectives set.

In closing, I should like to draw attention to the fact that the situation of women in the armed forces of the Russian Federation is covered more comprehensively in our national responses to the Code of Conduct Questionnaire.

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.DEC/5/21
20 October 2021

Original: ENGLISH

989th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 995, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 5/21
DATES AND VENUE OF THE THIRTY-SECOND ANNUAL
IMPLEMENTATION ASSESSMENT MEETING**

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC),

Decides that the thirty-second Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) will be held on 1 and 2 March 2022 in Vienna.