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**Chairmanship: Ukraine****952nd PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 22 July 2020 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconferencing)

Opened: 11 a.m.  
Closed: 1.05 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador Y. Tsymbaliuk

Prior to taking up the agenda, the Chairperson reminded the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) of the modalities for that blended FSC meeting during the COVID-19 pandemic, conducted in accordance with CIO.GAL/73/20/Rev.1 OSCE+.

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

Agenda item 1: CLOSING STATEMENT BY MR. A. TARAN,  
MINISTER OF DEFENCE OF UKRAINE

Chairperson, Minister of Defence of Ukraine (FSC.DEL/167/20 OSCE+), Albania (FSC.DEL/164/20 OSCE+), Germany-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/165/20), Switzerland, United States of America (Annex 1), United Kingdom (Annex 2), Canada, Turkey (Annex 3), Russian Federation (Annex 4), Georgia (Annex 5), Azerbaijan, Armenia, Ukraine

Agenda item 2: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Announcing and Reminding Mechanism pursuant to FSC Decision No. 10/02:*  
Chairperson
- (b) *Briefing on a snap military exercise in the Southern and Western Military Districts of the Russian Federation, conducted from 17 to 21 July 2020:*  
Russian Federation (Annex 6)

- (c) *Notification given on 14 July 2020 of the resumption of verification activities under the Vienna Document 2011: Russian Federation (Annex 7)*
- (d) *Matters of protocol: Romania, Chairperson, Slovakia, Cyprus, Netherlands, Germany*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 9 September 2020, at 10 a.m., format to be determined



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

FSC.JOUR/958

22 July 2020

Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

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**952nd Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 958, Agenda item 1

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and thank you very much Defence Minister Taran for honouring this Forum [for Security Co-operation (FSC)] with your presence today. I note that this follows an earlier appearance by your Foreign Minister, showing Ukraine's commitment to its FSC Chairmanship.

Allow me to join others in warmly congratulating you, Mr. Chairperson, and your team for the very successful execution of Ukraine's tenure as FSC Chairmanship during an especially challenging time – challenging in regard to the COVID-19 pandemic, but all the more challenging given Ukraine's security posture as a front-line State confronting Russia's ongoing aggression. Assuming the Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation, while being a victim of aggressive actions is a difficult balancing act, which the Ukrainian Chairmanship has effectively discharged.

As with previous Chairmanships of this Forum, you have addressed both regional security challenges – acute challenges in the case of Ukraine – and the FSC's core work on politico-military affairs. We applaud the Chairmanship's early focus on the security implications of COVID-19 for arms control verification and military transparency amid the pandemic. The regional Security Dialogue on the Black Sea and Sea of Azov and the Security Dialogue on private military and security companies brought to the fore security challenges that are facing Ukraine, and by extension, all of us. At the same time, you advanced the FSC's "traditional" agenda as well, including on small arms and light weapons and mine action, non-proliferation, and especially long-overdue Vienna Document modernization.

We also congratulate you on the successful conduct of the Annual Security Review Conference with the Albanian Chairmanship and the annual Code of Conduct seminar. The two joint FSC and Permanent Council meetings – on the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 on women, peace and security and hybrid threats and modern warfare – further advanced co-operative security. Advancement of the women, peace and security agenda, in this 20th anniversary year and beyond, is integral to our common security. Countenancing hybrid threats, across all three OSCE dimensions, in their many manifestations, as I underlined last week, is the foremost security challenge facing the participating States around the table. We have noticed our Russian friends boycott the discussion from time to time, but we cannot ignore this source of conflict in Europe and

beyond. It is better to shine a light on it than to have this behaviour deteriorate peace in Europe.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, for promoting a frank and open dialogue on these manifold challenges to the European security environment, which Ukraine confronts directly, and which affect us all. I will not say goodbye as I very much look forward to our continued collaboration, along with the incoming FSC Chairmanship, Germany, as the United States joins the FSC Troika. I congratulate Germany on assuming the Chairmanship, and I also thank Turkey, as it departs the Troika. I will not say goodbye to you either, dear Engen, as I will continue to rely on your wise counsel on FSC matters and beyond as we prepare for the US FSC Chairmanship next year.

Mr. Chairperson, I would have liked to have concluded today on this congratulatory note, but unfortunately, I must address another issue of concern, which Defence Minister Taran also referenced. The United States notes Russia's 17 July Format 41 notification of a large-scale no-notice military exercise in Russia's Western and Southern Military Districts. Beyond the details communicated in the notification, we were struck by the claim that Vienna Document provisions on providing information about military activity in the zone of application "do not apply" to this exercise, according to Russia. If this would be the case, it is highly unsettling.

It is difficult for us to understand how such a large-scale exercise – involving 150,000 military personnel, 400 aircraft, 26,000 weapons/military/special equipment, and more than 100 ships – would not meet or exceed established Vienna Document thresholds for observation, given that the duration seems to exceed the 72-hour threshold for observation of a no-notice exercise, as provided under Vienna Document paragraph 58. Additionally, the lack of specificity regarding troop and equipment numbers, concentrations, and locations in Russia's 17 July notification causes us to question if, in fact, these thresholds were met or exceeded beyond the 72-hour period. Furthermore, it is hard to believe that an exercise on this scale could, in fact, be carried out without advance notice to the forces involved.

Russia's belated notification of this large-scale exercise does not provide meaningful transparency, nor does it increase the confidence of the participating States adjacent to the exercise region who have routinely expressed their concerns with Russia's activities near their borders, including Russia's ongoing aggression against Ukraine. Offering a small degree of transparency in a purported "spirit of goodwill" is inadequate when it does nothing to reassure participating States of the nature, intent, and specific locations of the exercises in question.

Recalling Russia's pandemic-related no-notice exercise earlier this spring, and similar no-notice activities over the last several years, we call on Russia to take a more proactive and constructive approach, beyond limited so-called voluntary transparency, to mitigating the crisis of confidence in Europe today. Russia's no-notice exercise once again highlights the necessity of modernizing the Vienna Document to lower thresholds for advance notification and observation of large military activities, to increase the number of inspections and evaluations, to increase team size, to add steps to facilitate information gathering in response to unusual military activities, and to provide greater transparency with respect to large-scale military activities conducted without prior notice to the forces involved. This is what confidence-building in the OSCE area is intended to do; abject refusal to discuss Vienna

Document modernization sends an aggressive message. As I highlighted in the FSC Security Dialogue two weeks ago, it is high time that we put words into action, and engage on the comprehensive joint proposal to modernize the Vienna Document that is on the table.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, I will end on that note. Congratulations again on your successful Chairmanship. Please attach this statement to the journal of the day.



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

FSC.JOUR/958

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Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

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**952nd Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 958, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

We warmly welcome His Excellency the Defence Minister of Ukraine to the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and wish to thank him for his highly valued time here today, providing a clear review of the Ukrainian FSC Chairmanship and views on current security challenges at this very fluid and difficult time.

We commend the Ukrainian Chairmanship for their strong leadership and professionalism during this trimester. Under difficult circumstances brought about by COVID-19 they have delivered an excellent Chairmanship. We also applaud them for not shying away from encouraging challenging debate in this Forum by addressing issues such as: the impact of COVID-19; security in the Black Sea and Sea of Azov region; and hybrid threats and modern warfare.

The United Kingdom believes the OSCE provides an essential platform to facilitate dialogue between participating States in areas of disagreement, such as over hybrid issues, using our forums to build trust and move towards de-confliction and, where necessary, de-escalation. Full participation in such dialogue is critical to this and, as such, select participation undermines the key principles of this Organization and risks its relevance and purpose. The opportunity for dialogue is at the core of what we do here in Vienna.

Mr. Chairperson,

At the beginning of this trimester, this Forum highlighted the significant challenges and risks that COVID-19 presented and that we must ensure countries do not use the current crisis to enhance their own geopolitical objectives.

Unfortunately, we have observed State and non-State actors within the OSCE area conducting malign activity during the current COVID-19 pandemic, seeking to exploit and undermine the global response to this unprecedented global health crisis. This endangers lives and we are clear that this type of activity is totally unacceptable. We provide support to OSCE participating States by calling out those responsible for such attacks, and will continue to do so.

Mr. Chairperson,

Unfortunately the COVID-19 crisis has also exacerbated areas of crisis and conflict in the OSCE area. The continued threats to, hindrance of and interference with the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine is totally unacceptable. We continue to strongly condemn restrictions on the Mission's ability to operate, imposed by Russia-backed armed formations under the pretext of COVID-19 measures. This has also impacted on the United Nations' and humanitarian agencies' ability to operate.

Russia's ongoing aggression, most notably in Ukraine, remains extremely concerning. Our position on support for Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders, including its territorial waters, is unwavering. We strongly condemn and do not recognize Russia's illegal annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the City of Sevastopol. And we continue to be concerned at the ongoing militarization of the Crimean peninsula by Russia. This impacts on security in the Black Sea and wider region. In this vein, we regret Russia's recent snap exercise in the South and Western Military Districts which contradicts the previous calls for a cessation of military exercises near the Russian border with Western States during the COVID-19 crisis. It does little to build confidence and trust in the region.

Mr. Chairperson,

We reiterate our support for a resolution of the conflict in full respect of Ukrainian sovereignty and territorial integrity remains strong. We value the work of the Trilateral Contact Group and the Normandy format and call for the Minsk agreements to be implemented in full.

Mr. Chairperson,

We have seen at times that this Chairmanship has been challenging, especially in the face of almost disruptive behaviour. Where some participating States have repeatedly called for more co-operative and positive engagement at the FSC, we also call on those States to ensure their words match their actions. Mr. Chairperson, we commend your Chairmanship for its measured approach, handling and leadership.

We look forward to the German Chairmanship in September, which looks to be a busy trimester as we continue to address ongoing challenges to OSCE security architecture and the ongoing global pandemic. We look forward to working with the German Chairmanship to continue momentum in key areas in the OSCE, including the modernization of the Vienna Document.

Thank you again Minister for your attendance here today and we congratulate you on an excellent Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation.

Thank you. This concludes our statement and we request that it be attached to the journal of the day.



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**952nd Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 958, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

I should like to thank H.E. Mr. Andriy Taran, Minister of Defence of Ukraine, for joining us at the final meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) in the second trimester of 2020 and for his closing statement.

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank you, Ambassador Tsymbaliuk, and your able team for having assumed the FSC Chairmanship during one of the most challenging periods in the Forum's history as a result of the conditions created by the COVID-19 pandemic. We congratulate you for having exercised the Chairmanship successfully.

Mr. Chairperson,

Despite the difficulties in continuing our work at the FSC because of the COVID-19 crisis, Ukraine resumed the conduct of plenary meetings, thereby enabling us to keep our dialogue alive. As I mentioned on a previous occasion, the ability to adopt a proactive approach and adapt our way of work is what defines our success at times of crisis. I should therefore like to commend the Ukrainian FSC Chairmanship for overcoming all the challenges and accomplishing the daunting task it faced.

I also wish to take a moment to emphasize the role played by the Conflict Prevention Centre and, in particular, by its FSC Support Section in ensuring the success of FSC Chairmanships. As a recent former Chairperson of the Forum, I was able to experience at first hand the important contribution that, as part of the "backstage team", they make to the Chairperson's work and to the success of the FSC as a whole.

Mr. Chairperson,

We commend the Ukrainian FSC Chairmanship for having drawn up a well-balanced agenda that included both long-standing and current issues. We welcomed the continuity on such topics as small arms and light weapons, stockpiles of conventional ammunition, mine action, the Vienna Document 2011 and the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Security Dialogues of 6 May on the impact of COVID-19 on the politico-military aspects of security in the OSCE area and of 27 May on regional security in the Black Sea and the Sea



of Azov region were both timely and relevant. Turkey appreciates the added value of bringing such pressing topics to our Forum.

Moreover, the joint meetings of the FSC and the Permanent Council allowed us to approach two important topics, namely United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and hybrid threats and modern warfare, from a wider angle. During our FSC Chairmanship, we too established the women, peace and security agenda as one of the Forum's priorities. Taking stock, on the 20th anniversary of the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, of our joint efforts in implementing that key resolution contributed to our sense of ownership in this field.

If we genuinely wish to strengthen the Forum, we need to be open to discussions and seek to understand diverging views better. Creating an atmosphere conducive to mutual understanding is vital in bringing added value to the FSC. We appreciate Ukraine's contribution in that regard.

Moreover, we support an approach based on looking at the FSC's work as a whole throughout the year, since such an approach can pave the way for the adoption of strategies to further the FSC agenda.

In this respect, we look forward to co-operating closely with the incoming German FSC Chairmanship, especially on the preparations for the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Tirana in December. I should like to wish Ambassador Gesa Bräutigam and her team every success, and I assure the German delegation of our full support.

Mr. Chairperson,

Turkey is now leaving the FSC Troika. We thank the delegations of Germany, Ukraine, the Czech Republic and Tajikistan for their interactions with us during the period that we coincided as members of the Troika. We wish the United States of America, as the new member of the Troika, every success.

We should also like to thank the Albanian OSCE Chairmanship for the excellent co-operation.

Finally, Mr. Chairperson, I wish to emphasize that it was a pleasure to work with you. We thank you once again for all your efforts.

I kindly ask that my statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



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FSC.JOUR/958

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Annex 4

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

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**952nd Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 958, Agenda item 1

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

Mr. Chairperson,

We strongly protest at the statement by the Minister of Defence of Ukraine, Mr. Andrii Taran, at the closing plenary meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), which is based on bogus anti-Russian narratives and a confrontational approach by the Ukrainian Government to the assessment of the security situation.

Combating COVID-19 together is a good opportunity for every State, including the country currently holding the FSC Chairmanship, to show its best qualities, put aside opportunistic considerations and abandon completely any attempts to increase politico-military tension in the OSCE area. It is important to foster a favourable atmosphere so as to be able to face together the real common threats posed by the spread of the coronavirus.

In the current difficult conditions in the OSCE and the Forum, confrontational rhetoric is holding sway over constructive approaches. In view of these factors, the Chairmanship in particular, which is called upon to make efforts to return the Organization to a culture of mutually respectful dialogue, has an increasing role to play. This calls for considerable diplomatic effort, a desire to seek compromises, a neutral and impartial approach to the most difficult tasks and also respect for the interests of all participating States without exception.

Has Ukraine succeeded in defining its tasks in such a way as to enhance the Forum's potential and to meet the expectations of the OSCE participating States? Has the current FSC Chairmanship demonstrated the necessary political will to find common ground and develop co-operation among all participants? Has the Chairmanship fulfilled its mandate to make the Forum progress towards fruitful interaction in the interests of confidence- and security-building?

Unfortunately, we are obliged to note that for the first time in almost 30 years of the FSC's history, the Ukrainian Chairmanship chose a diametrically opposite course and acted in a way that has led to a deterioration of the situation and a widening in the split between the participating States, contributing in this way to an aggravation of the crisis brewing in the

OSCE. As a result, the past three months have been a complete loss for security and co-operation, and the consequences of the Ukrainian Chairmanship will have an impact on the work of this decision-making body for some time to come.

During the current FSC session, an unprecedented situation has arisen in which, in violation of OSCE norms and rules, the Ukrainian Chairmanship used its high and responsible position to promote an opportunistic, national and non-unifying agenda. This raises valid concern about the future course of discussions on politico-military aspects of European security.

The plenary meetings of the FSC chaired by Ukraine began to resemble regular meetings within another OSCE decision-making body, where the discourse of a number of delegations has long effectively been slave to one goal – to outdo each other in accusatory rhetoric. This fundamentally contradicts the mandate of the Forum, which was defined by the decisions of the 1992 CSCE Helsinki Summit as the main platform for conducting negotiations and developing agreements on politico-military issues.

We deeply regret that the Ukrainian delegation was not able to bring constructive and unifying issues to the Forum discussions, preferring aggressive rhetoric and accusations. At every plenary meeting of the Forum, the Ukrainian Chairmanship invited speakers who specialized in presenting anti-Russian views and controversial, unsubstantiated arguments. The delegation of the Russian Federation repeatedly urged the Chairmanship to exercise greater care and responsibility in its choice of speakers, guided by the task of strengthening the role of the FSC as a platform for mutually respectful dialogue. All our appeals were ignored, however.

It is outrageous that the FSC Chairperson should decide to make changes to the journals of the FSC plenary meetings, in particular, to the wording of the item under discussion on the politico-military situation in Ukraine. A compromise agreement was reached in 2014 and was respected for six years by all the participating States that have chaired the Forum. The Ukrainian Chairmanship wilfully violated this agreement without obtaining the consent of all the OSCE participating States. Moreover, it demonstratively turned a blind eye to the official protest of the Russian delegation and ignored our call for it to refrain from making non-consensus changes. We see this as a blatant violation of the approach agreed upon by all the participating States to the work of our Organization and the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE, for which the responsibility lies entirely with Ukraine.

So far, we have not received a reaction from the Chairmanship to our demand in principle that a disclaimer be attached to all journals of FSC meetings containing anti-Russian wording of the issues under discussion.

We are obliged to recall an evident truth: it is unacceptable for the Forum to be used as an instrument for promoting the Chairmanship's political preference. The FSC is the platform for dialogue and co-operation for which the Conference on Security and Co-operation in Europe was convened almost half a century ago. It is most regrettable that in the past three months this valuable resource has been subject to regular and inadmissible abuses.

The Ukrainian Chairmanship has left a disappointing impression and has led to a clear deterioration in the atmosphere in the Forum. The Ukrainian Government ignored the opinion of the participating States on important issues in the FSC's work and used the high and responsible position of the Chairmanship country to promote an opportunistic, narrow national and non-unifying agenda. This is inadmissible.

Mr. Chairperson,

Speaking about the results of the summer session of the FSC, we should like to mention the capable organization and high quality of major events such as the ninth Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and the politico-military session of the Annual Security Review Conference. We are grateful to the FSC Co-ordinators, Ms. Despina Chasirtzoglou and Mr. Doris Şerban, for their great efforts in preparing them.

We should also like to take this opportunity to thank the Spanish Chairmanship of the Informal Working Group on the Structured Dialogue for leading the process. We believe that in the forthcoming autumn meetings we should focus on practical steps to de-escalate tensions, reduce military confrontation along the line of contact between Russia and NATO countries, restore military contacts, and also improve incident prevention mechanisms. We would point out that the discussion of "hybrid issues" in the Structured Dialogue does not produce any practical results. Our position of principle remains in force, and we shall not participate in these discussions.

Mr. Chairperson,

Regarding the politico-military situation in Ukraine, which was touched on in the statements by Mr. Taran and a number of delegations, we should like to recall our unchanged position on the internal Ukrainian conflict. The Minsk Package of Measures of 12 February 2015 needs to be fully implemented through direct dialogue between the Ukrainian Government and the authorities in Luhansk and Donetsk. Unfortunately, we have heard not a word about this document today from the high-ranking representative of Ukraine. We are convinced that the resolution of the key issue of granting Donbas special status on a permanent, constitutionally guaranteed basis, as also set forth in the Minsk agreements, will lead to positive developments in the settlement of the internal Ukrainian crisis. As a mediator, the Russian Federation, along with the OSCE, Germany and France, is prepared to assist in every possible way in this regard.

Mr. Chairperson,

In conclusion, we should like to confirm the Russian Federation's willingness to consider the pressing questions of strengthening military security in the OSCE area within the FSC framework. We are prepared to work together to develop mutually respectful security dialogue in order to transform our negotiating body back from a confrontational platform to a collaborative one.

We warmly welcome Germany as the next Chairmanship of the Forum and wish it great success in this highly responsible function. We look forward to close and fruitful co-operation with our distinguished German colleagues.

We are grateful to the distinguished delegation of Turkey, which is leaving the Troika, and welcome the distinguished delegation of the United States of America as the new member of the Troika.

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



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**952nd Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 958, Agenda item 1

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF GEORGIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

Georgia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the delegation of the European Union. I should like to make the following remarks in my national capacity.

Your Excellency, Mr. Taran,

First of all, I wish to thank you for your closing remarks bringing Ukraine's Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) to a formal conclusion. Allow me to congratulate you and your able team in Vienna for the work you have carried out during these times that have been so challenging for all of us.

The topics and speakers chosen by Ukraine for the Security Dialogues were highly relevant and reflected current trends and challenges relating to security and stability in the OSCE area and beyond.

We wish to commend the Ukrainian FSC Chairmanship for including the Security Dialogue on regional security, dealing specifically with the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov region. The increasing militarization of this region has far-reaching consequences, and we appreciated the opportunity to focus on this problem and exchange frank views on how it might be tackled.

We similarly appreciated the discussions that took place last week during the joint meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation and Permanent Council on hybrid threats and modern warfare, which are increasingly employed in the OSCE area. Countries such as Georgia face hybrid threats every day, and there is no sign of this trend abating. We believe with its comprehensive concept of security, the OSCE is the right platform for discussing these challenges.

We also welcomed the continuity of discussions at the FSC on various topical issues, including United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, small arms and light weapons, stockpiles of conventional ammunition and mine action.

My delegation was actively engaged in the Security Dialogue dedicated to the implementation and modernization of the Vienna Document. We welcome the fact that the vast majority of the participating States remain committed to the modernization process and have made sound proposals to that end, including those on the notification of military activities and, in particular, of snap exercises. We hope that these efforts aimed at increasing the effectiveness of confidence- and security-building measures by updating the Vienna Document will bear fruit soon. In the meantime, the Document must be implemented in full.

In this connection, I would like to echo H.E. Mr. Taran's remarks on the snap exercises recently conducted by the Russian Federation. According to the information distributed by the Russian side itself, these exercises involved 150,000 military personnel, more than 26,000 units of equipment, over 400 aircraft and over 100 ships and vessels of the Southern and Western Military Districts.

Let me reiterate what has already been stated by our delegation on numerous occasions: such military activities, and most particularly snap exercises, raise many questions and create serious concerns among the participating States. Snap exercises, especially if large scale and conducted in border areas, have the potential to destabilize the situation. Also, they could contribute to creating hostile perceptions, misunderstandings and miscalculations as we have witnessed them to be leveraged for covert military operations in the past.

The frequent conduct of snap exercises runs counter to the spirit of the Vienna Document, which stands for transparency, predictability and confidence.

Allow me to express our resolute protest over the fact that parts of the aforementioned snap exercises were conducted on the Russia-occupied territories of Georgia, with participation of the Russian military stationed in Georgia's regions of Abkhazia and Tskhinvali/South Ossetia – without the consent of the host nation, Georgia.

By conducting military exercises in the occupied territories of Georgia as well as through the ongoing militarization therein, the Russian Federation grossly violates the fundamental norms of international law, the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, as well as its obligations under the EU-mediated 12 August 2008 Ceasefire Agreement. Russia's actions are not only hindering the process of peaceful resolution of the Russia-Georgia conflict, but are also provoking destabilization.

We condemn the conduct of military exercises in the occupied territories of Georgia and call upon Russia to fulfil, in both letter and spirit, the commitments it has undertaken. Any actions that are liable to raise concerns as to the nature of its military activities and to increase tensions, should be avoided.

Mr. Chairperson,

Ukraine assumed the FSC Chairmanship at a time when, like my own country, Georgia, it too continued to be confronted by the Russian aggression. We strongly condemn the clear violations of Ukraine and Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity, and call upon Russia to reverse its illegal actions.

In closing, let me commend you once again, your Excellency, and your team for your successful chairing of the Forum. Our delegation looks forward to working with the forthcoming German FSC Chairmanship. We also thank the outgoing member of the FSC Troika, Turkey, and welcome the United States of America as a new member of the Troika.

Mr. Chairperson, please attach my statement to the journal of the day. Thank you.





**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe  
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FSC.JOUR/958

22 July 2020

Annex 6

ENGLISH

Original: RUSSIAN

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**952nd Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 958, Agenda item 2(b)

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

Mr. Chairperson,

In keeping with the principle of voluntary transparency, we should like to inform our esteemed colleagues in the Forum for Security Co-operation that, in accordance with the decision of the Supreme Commander-in-Chief of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, a snap inspection took place of troops and forces of the Southern Military District, part of the military command and control units and troops of the Western Military District, airborne troop formations, and formations and military units of the Navy's marine infantry.

The purpose of this event was to assess the ability of the armed forces to ensure military security in the south-western part of the Russian Federation, where serious threats of a terrorist nature persist.

Another objective of the inspection was to determine the preparedness of the troops and forces for participation in the forthcoming main training event of the year, the "Caucasus-2020" strategic command and staff exercise.

For the purpose of this snap inspection, part of the forces of the Southern Military District, military command and control units, troops and forces of the Western Military District, and detached formations and military units of airborne troops and marine infantry were put on limited alert from 6 a.m.

In total, 150,000 personnel consisting of various types and branches of troops, around 400 aircraft, over 26,000 units of weaponry and military equipment, and more than 100 ships and support vessels were involved in the inspection. Commitments under the Vienna Document 2011 were observed in that connection.

Monitoring took place from 17 to 21 July.

During this period, the command and control units planned and prepared various exercises and monitoring measures. The troops under inspection took part in more than 50 exercises of varying levels and scales. Thirty-five training grounds and terrain sectors and

17 sea ranges in the waters of the Black Sea and the Caspian Sea were used for these purposes.

At a later stage, the troops (forces) began to be deployed in the training grounds and sea ranges for participation in special support exercises and the “Caucasus-2020” strategic command and staff exercise.

During the snap inspection, they worked on localizing crisis situations posing a threat to military security in the south-western part of the Russian Federation triggered by the actions of rebel groups and terrorist acts involving hostage-taking and the seizure of aircraft and facilities at airfields and naval bases of the Black Sea Fleet and the Caspian Flotilla, as well as an exacerbation of the sanitary and epidemiological, radiological and chemical situation in the south-western part of the country.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

I 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/958  
22 July 2020  
Annex 7

ENGLISH  
Original: RUSSIAN

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**952nd Plenary Meeting**  
FSC Journal No. 958, Agenda item 2(c)

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

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to inform you that on 14 July 2020 the Russian Verification Centre distributed via the OSCE Communications Network a notification regarding the resumption from August of this year of inspection activities under the Vienna Document and the conditions for acceptance by Russia of inspection and evaluation teams from OSCE participating States (CBM/RU/20/0037/F41/O).

A similar notification (OS/RU/20/0087/F35/O) was distributed via the Communications Network at the same time concerning the resumption from August of this year of observation flights within the framework of the Treaty on Open Skies and the conditions for acceptance by Russia of foreign Open Skies missions from States Parties to the Treaty.

Russia plans to accept and conduct inspections and observation flights subject to compliance with a number of sanitary and epidemiological requirements, which are set out in detail in the aforementioned notifications. The provisions in these documents are designed to reduce the risks of the spread of the coronavirus while Russia is fulfilling its international arms control obligations.

The Russian Federation will report further on the specific time-frames for resuming the acceptance and conduct of inspections and observation flights. If there are any questions relating to the procedure for entering Russian territory in fulfilment of politico-military agreements, the national verification centre will be prepared to provide the necessary clarifications.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

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