Chairmanship: Czech Republic

925th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 25 September 2019
   - Opened: 10.05 a.m.
   - Suspended: 12.50 p.m.
   - Resumed: 3 p.m.
   - Closed: 4.25 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador I. Šrámek
   - Mr. D. Řezníček

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:
   - Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE: CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY/UNSCR 1540
     - Presentation by Mr. A. Lambert, Academic Director, Geneva Institute of Geopolitical Studies (GIGS)
     - Presentation by Ms. E. K. Sokova, Executive Director, Vienna Center for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

Chairperson, Mr. A. Lambert (FSC.NGO/4/19 OSCE+), Ms. E. K. Sokova (FSC.NGO/5/19 OSCE+), Finland-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/193/19), United States of America, Belarus (FSC.DEL/185/19 OSCE+), Switzerland (FSC.DEL/188/19 OSCE+), Russian Federation (FSC.DEL/190/19 OSCE+), Armenia (FSC.DEL/186/19 OSCE+), Italy, Azerbaijan, Georgia (FSC.DEL/192/19 OSCE+), Kazakhstan, Turkey, Ukraine (FSC.DEL/187/19 OSCE+), FSC Co-ordinator on Matters Relating to UNSCR 1325 (United Kingdom), FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct
Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/189/19 OSCE+), Finland-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 and San Marino, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/194/19), Russian Federation, United States of America, Canada, United Kingdom

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

(a) Briefing on the 85th meeting of the OSCE Communications Group, held in Vienna on 18 September 2019: Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre

(b) Meeting on reviewing and updating the OSCE Best Practice Guides on SALW and SCA, to be held in Vienna on 7 October 2019: Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Latvia)

(c) Military exercise “Center-2019”, conducted in the Russian Federation from 16 to 21 September 2019: Norway (FSC.DEL/191/19 Restr.), Russian Federation

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 2 October 2019, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal
STATEMENT BY
THE FSC CO-ORDINATOR FOR THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY ASPECTS OF SECURITY (ROMANIA)

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to make use of this opportunity to deliver a brief statement as FSC Co-ordinator for the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, which I wish to open by thanking you for the trust you have placed in me by nominating me to this post. Second, I am very pleased to note that the Code of Conduct was chosen as the theme of the present Security Dialogue.

From today’s first guest speaker we have heard about many new findings and proposals related to the Code of Conduct. This general assessment of the Code of Conduct – which included a brief history, an overview of the Code’s main elements and of its importance for the OSCE area, and reflections on the current implementation status and on what should be done to maintain its relevance in the future – was most opportune as we prepare to celebrate the Code’s 25th anniversary during the symposium to be held in Budapest from 16 to 18 October.

Mr. Chairperson,

Raising awareness of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security is vital to building trust among OSCE participating States, and as such it is an ongoing endeavour.

Awareness-raising would not be possible without the generous support and continued engagement of the participating States. In this connection, I should like to encourage all of us gathered here today to contribute as best as we can to the promotion of the Code of Conduct. I am referring not only to the provision of financial support, but also to disseminating knowledge about the Code and to participating actively in future seminars and other events by giving presentations, for example.

By way of conclusion, I wish to emphasize that meetings such as today’s constitute an excellent opportunity to share experiences and to discuss the way forward, as well as to
prepare for the 25th anniversary of the Code of Conduct’s adoption, to be commemorated in Budapest in three weeks’ time.

Thank you very much again for including this important topic in our agenda for today.
STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE FSC CHAIRMANSHIP
(ON BEHALF OF THE FSC CO-ORDINATOR ON NON-PROLIFERATION ISSUES (SPAIN))

This statement is read out on behalf of the FSC Co-ordinator on Non-proliferation Issues.

Thank you very much, Mr. Chairperson, for devoting the Security Dialogue at today’s meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) also to the theme of “United Nations Security Council resolution 1540”.

I would like to say a few words in my capacity as the FSC Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues to illustrate how the OSCE, as a regional organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter, has been actively supporting participating States by assisting them, in accordance with relevant FSC decisions, with the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540, over the last nine years.

The Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), together with the 1540 Committee and the United Nations Office on Disarmament Affairs, directly assists interested OSCE participating States in the development of their national implementation action plans for UN Security Council resolution 1540. These plans have proved to be a helpful national co-ordination tool, as well as a transparent and effective mechanism for obtaining donors’ support.

Additionally, in line with FSC Decision No. 19/11 (FSC.DEC/19/11) on Points of Contact on UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), the CPC established a directory of Points of Contact in the OSCE on the resolution. Currently, 52 participating States have officially appointed, and regularly update, their Points of Contact to the OSCE.

All the above work, and in particular the tasks being carried out by the CPC, was officially recognized by the Forum for Security Co-operation, as witnessed by the adoption, in July 2015, of FSC Decision No. 4/15 (FSC.DEC/4/15) on the OSCE’s role in support of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004).

Furthermore, the OSCE has also strengthened its co-operation with the European Union and other international partners in this domain. As has been mentioned in its statement,
the European Union has adopted two Council decisions in support of the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 in the OSCE area during the period 2017–2020.

However, the OSCE’s work on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery should go even further, particularly with regards to the 1994 OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation, which were updated in 2013 by FSC Decision No. 7/13.

Significantly, as informed in the last Security Dialogue on this matter, this year marks the 25th anniversary of this reference document, which established a political framework for the OSCE in the area of non-proliferation, as well as the 15th anniversary of UN Security Council resolution 1540, an opportunity to reflect on the extensive experience also with the perspective of the OSCE Ministerial Council in Bratislava.

As it was also informed in the last Security Dialogue on UN Security Council resolution 1540, the CPC, with assistance of a technical consultant, as well as that of the FSC Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues, has initiated the preparation of “Best Practice Guides for the Implementation of UNSCR 1540”, which are intended to serve as an OSCE compendium of suggested implementation practices, in line with the relevant food-for-thought paper released in 2007.

The OSCE’s support in development and implementation of national action plans, amendments to legislative and regulatory frameworks, technical assistance, awareness-raising and capacity-building activities, have resulted in an increased implementation rate of the resolution’s obligations within the OSCE region. The guides would subsequently represent the OSCE’s substantial contribution towards the 2021 Comprehensive Review of the Status of Implementation of Resolution 1540 that will be conducted by the UN Security Council Committee for the resolution 1540, coinciding with the expiration of its mandate.

Additional information for participating States to contribute to elaborate this future reference for implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 was issued in the letter distributed by the FSC Chairperson under the symbol FSC.DEL/89/19. I thank the European Union for supporting this initiative and encourage delegations to approach the FSC Chairperson, CPC or the FSC Co-ordinator in order to initiate the process of contributions towards the chapters of the best practice guides. The CPC will offer assistance in drafting these chapters, thanks to funding from the European Union. To this end, the technical consultant will be also available in Vienna on a regular basis to meet with the participating States interested.

A meeting of the Informal Group of Friends of Resolution 1540 will be convened soon to discuss, consolidate and finalize the chapters of the best practice guides, and also to update the information and to enable the contribution of the participating States to the tasks related to the aforementioned issues.

I thank you for your attention. I kindly ask to attach this statement to the journal of the day.