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

Chairmanship: Turkey

938th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 22 January 2020

   Opened: 10.05 a.m.
   Suspended: 12.55 p.m.
   Resumed: 3 p.m.
   Closed: 4.25 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador R. E. Soysal

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

   Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE ON SALW AND SCA/MINE ACTION

   – Presentation by Major C. Ceylan, Turkish Mine Action Centre, Ministry of National Defence

   – Presentation by Ms. S. Sinanoğlu, United Nations Resident Coordinator in Bosnia and Herzegovina

   – Presentation by Mr. P. Rapillard, Head of External Relations, Policy and Communication, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining

   – Presentation by Ms. D. Cossa, Deputy Team Leader, Donetsk Monitoring Team, OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM)

   – Presentation by Mr. E. Crowther, Monitoring Officer, Donetsk Monitoring Team, SMM

   Chairperson, Major C. Ceylan, Ms. S. Sinanoğlu, Mr. P. Rapillard, Ms. D. Cossa, Mr. E. Crowther, Croatia, Croatia-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, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/16/20), Bosnia and Herzegovina (FSC.DEL/22/20 OSCE+), United States of America, United Kingdom, Canada, Azerbaijan, Armenia, Switzerland (FSC.DEL/18/20 OSCE+), Russian Federation, France, Ukraine (FSC.DEL/19/20 OSCE+), Serbia, Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Latvia) (Annex 1), Liechtenstein, Finland, FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Hungary)  

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS  
(a) Briefing on the military exercise “DEFENDER-Europe 20” and its linked exercises: United States of America (FSC.DEL/15/20 OSCE+), Germany, Georgia, Poland, Latvia, Lithuania, Estonia  
(b) Situation in and around Ukraine: Ukraine (FSC.DEL/14/20 OSCE+) (FSC.DEL/14/20/Add.1 OSCE+), Croatia-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/17/20/Corr.1), Russian Federation, United States of America, Canada, Croatia-European Union  

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS  
(a) Briefing on the 86th meeting of the OSCE Communications Group, held on 12 December 2019 (FSC.GAL/154/19): Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre  
(b) Call for applications for the 2020 OSCE Scholarship for Peace and Security, and publication of the fact sheet “OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation: Dialogue, transparency, confidence-building”: Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre (Annex 2), Germany, United Kingdom, FSC Co-ordinator for Matters Related to UNSCR 1325 (United Kingdom), Switzerland  
(c) Matters of protocol: Albania, Chairperson, Croatia  

4. Next meeting:  
Wednesday, 29 January 2020, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal
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,

Today’s Security Dialogue has increased our awareness of mine action, notably of its international regulation and of how mine action is applied in practice. Moreover, several challenges that may be encountered during mine action efforts were highlighted. In my capacity as Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA), I should like to thank the speakers for their valuable contributions on this important topic.

Mine action in the OSCE area has been discussed on numerous occasions within the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). For example, in 2019 the Swiss and Tajik FSC Chairmanships devoted Security Dialogues to, respectively, humanitarian demining and regional co-operation in mine action, while in 2018 the Slovenian FSC Chairmanship focused on the role of mine action in the conflict cycle.

Mr. Chairperson,

As noted in your concept note for today’s Security Dialogue (FSC.DEL/12/20), the OSCE is closely involved in mine action efforts at the global level. In particular, mine action is used by the OSCE as a confidence- and security-building measure in conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. This important aspect serves to define our role and responsibilities, and guides our work within the FSC.

Since 1997, the OSCE participating States have been exchanging information on their policies and practices regarding anti-personnel mines through a dedicated annual questionnaire (the most recent version of which was included as Annex 1 to FSC.DEC/7/04). Although we can rightly take pride in the high rate of response to the questionnaire, we should explore ways of increasing the practical utility of the information exchanged – for
example, by following up with the participating States that require assistance in mine clearance, stockpile destruction, mine awareness and/or victim assistance.

In their norm-setting efforts, the OSCE participating States have recognized the risks that mines and explosive devices pose for the safety and security of local populations. We have categorized mines as conventional ammunition in the OSCE Document on SCA. However, although a number of OSCE Best Practice Guides (BPGs) dealing with conventional ammunition mention landmines, they do not give detailed information. Significantly, the comparative study of the OSCE BPGs on SALW and SCA conducted in 2019 (document FSC.GAL/63/129, issued on 6 June 2019) concluded that modules 01.30 and 10.10 of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) provided “more detailed policy considerations and guidance” than the OSCE BPG on the Destruction of Conventional Ammunition, including “an overview of legal obligations to destroy landmines and cluster munitions” that States Parties to the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions must comply with.

When reviewing and updating the OSCE BPGs on SALW and SCA, we need to take existing international standards and guidelines into account to avoid any duplication of efforts. As this could well be the case with mine action, we have to look further into this.

In conclusion, I wish to mention what I consider to be the highlights so far in the review and update process:

– The United Kingdom has taken the lead in updating the BPG on National Procedures for Stockpile Management and Security;

– The United States of America has taken the lead in updating the above-mentioned BPG’s annex on man-portable air defence systems, and also the BPG on National Procedures for the Destruction of SALW;

– France and Germany have taken the lead in updating the BPG on Minimum Standards for National Procedures for the Deactivation of SALW; and

– Germany has taken the lead in updating the BPG on Ammunition Transportation.

I commend these countries for the initiative they have shown. A number of other participating States are engaging in and supporting the process, and I invite more to join in these efforts.

Thank you for your attention.

I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.
STATEMENT BY
THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE CONFLICT PREVENTION CENTRE

Mr. Chairperson,
Distinguished Ambassadors,
Dear colleagues,

First, I would like to inform you that the call for applications for the Third edition of the training programme on "Conflict Prevention and Resolution through Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in the OSCE Area" under the OSCE Scholarship for Peace and Security was launched on 21 January 2020. I kindly invite you to share this information with your capitals, and to encourage young professionals – particularly young women – in your States to apply.

The aim of the training programme is to provide general orientation and knowledge about conflict prevention and resolution through arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, and to help create equal opportunities for young professionals, particularly by strengthening young women’s participation in policy-making, planning and implementation processes.

The training programme is a joint endeavour of the OSCE and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. The first and second editions of the training programme, conducted in 2018 and 2019, were both highly successful. In total, 144 young professionals from 46 OSCE participating States and 9 OSCE Partners for Co-operation have graduated from the programme so far. We are now looking forward to the third edition, which has been made possible by kind donations from Andorra, Germany and Switzerland and will be conducted from March to June 2020, with the in-person training taking place in Vienna from 4 to 8 May 2020.

More detailed information, as well as the application form, can be found at the following link: https://www.osce.org/event/osce-scholarship-peace-security-2020.

Applications from all 57 OSCE participating States and all 11 Partners for Co-operation are welcome and should be submitted by 9 February 2020.
Second, I also wish to announce that a new fact sheet on the Forum for Security and Co-operation has recently been issued and is available on the OSCE’s website. Please do not hesitate to share it. A printed version will be made available soon.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.
OSCE SCHOLARSHIP FOR PEACE AND SECURITY

Training programme for young professionals on
“Conflict Prevention and Resolution through Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in the OSCE Area”

Background

The OSCE conducts, together with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), with the support of the OSCE Scholarship for Peace and Security, a training programme for young professionals on “Conflict Prevention and Resolution through Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation in the OSCE Area”.

The first two editions of the training programme, which were held in 2018 and 2019, were highly successful. In view of the continued need to promote the participation of young professionals in arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation activities, the OSCE and UNODA are holding a Third Edition from 30 March to 7 June 2020.

A total of 100 young professionals from 50 OSCE participating States and 71 Partners for Co-operation took part in the 2019 edition of the training programme, including 50 participants2 who attended the in-person training course in Vienna.

The OSCE Scholarship for Peace and Security received an OSCE Gender Champion Award in March 2019 in recognition of the training programme’s focus on gender equality as a key element in conflict prevention and comprehensive security. In particular, the programme was recognized as an outstanding initiative that helped to strengthen the participation of young women in the security sector.

Objectives

The training programme aims to provide general orientation and knowledge about conflict prevention and resolution through arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, and contribute to help create equal opportunities for young professionals, particularly by

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1 Namely, Afghanistan, Australia, Egypt, Israel, Japan, Republic of Korea, Morocco and Tunisia.
2 These participants were from Afghanistan, Albania, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Czech Republic, Egypt, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Mongolia, Morocco, North Macedonia, Poland, Portugal, the Republic of Moldova, Romania, the Russian Federation, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Tunisia, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.
strengthening young women’s participation in policy-making, planning and implementation processes.

While a general overview will be given of conflict prevention and resolution through arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, there will also be a specific focus on OSCE-relevant instruments. The programme will facilitate networking and provide the participants with a better understanding of career development opportunities in these areas.

The training will cover the conflict cycle, including conflict prevention and resolution; arms control; confidence- and security-building measures; non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; combating illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, conventional weapons and ammunition; disarmament and development; gender aspects; and peace- and development-related technologies.

The training programme supports the various UN Security Council resolutions on women, peace, and security, and on youth, peace and security; and Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality and Goal 17 on building partnerships.

Moreover, the programme contributes to the Agenda for Disarmament announced by United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres in May 2018 by raising young professionals’ awareness of disarmament issues and encouraging them to take responsible action.

**General information**

The training programme is conducted under the OSCE Scholarship for Peace and Security, with financial contributions provided by a number of OSCE participating States.

The programme, held in English, consists of two components: an eight-week online foundation course starting on 30 March 2020; and an in-person training course taking place in Vienna from 4 to 8 May 2020, which will include workshops, case studies, lectures and visits to Vienna-based organizations. Participation in the in-person training course is reserved for women. Applications for the training programme will open on 20 January 2020, and the deadline for submissions is 9 February 2020.

A total of 100 scholarships are available to nationals of OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation who should be aged between 22 and 32 years. Of these, 15 are “full scholarships” covering the cost of registration for the online and in-person courses, and also the travel and accommodation costs related to attendance at the in-person course; 35 are “partial scholarships” covering the cost of registration for both courses; and 50 are “online course scholarships” covering only the cost of registration for the online course. The full and partial scholarships are reserved for women.

Prospective participants may come from different fields and professional affiliations (i.e., from both the governmental and non-governmental sectors). No previous knowledge of the topics covered by the programme is required.