

Chairmanship: Luxembourg

740th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 11 December 2013

Opened: 10.30 a.m.

Closed: 11.30 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador H. Wurth

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

Agenda item 1: GENERAL STATEMENTS

(a) *Military exercise entitled “Steadfast Jazz”, held from 2 to 9 November 2013:* Poland, Russian Federation (Annex 1)

(b) *Publication of a second National Action Plan for the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security:* Iceland (Annex 2)

(c) *Joint statement on women, peace and security:* United Kingdom (also on behalf of Germany, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Cyprus, Croatia, Finland, France, Greece, Ireland, Sweden and Turkey) (Annex 3), the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Switzerland, Russian Federation, United States of America

Agenda item 2: PRELIMINARY REPORT ON THE 7th HEADS OF VERIFICATION CENTRES MEETING

Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre (Annex 4), Chairperson

Agenda item 3: DISCUSSION ON THE FSC CHAIRPERSON'S
PERCEPTION PAPER ON ISSUES RELEVANT TO THE
FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION
(FSC.DEL/200/13, DATED 6 DECEMBER 2013)

Lithuania-European Union (with the candidate countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Iceland, Montenegro and Serbia; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Albania; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova and San Marino, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/202/13), Switzerland, Ukraine, Turkey, United States of America, Russian Federation (Annex 5)

Agenda item 4: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Matters of protocol: Albania*
- (b) *Summary compilation of information exchanges regarding the questionnaire on small arms and light weapons: Representative of the Conflict Prevention Centre*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 18 December 2013, at 11 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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

FSC.JOUR/746
11 December 2013
Annex 1

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

740th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 746, Agenda item 1(a)

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

Mr. Chairperson,

We are grateful to the distinguished representative of Poland for reporting on the “Steadfast Jazz 2013” NATO Response Force exercise held from 2 to 9 November. The report will be carefully studied in Moscow and compared with other data available. We take note of the information on the number of participants in the event and the fact that the Russian Federation and the Republic of Belarus were regarded as neutral States according to the exercise’s scenario.

At the same time, we cannot ignore the statements by some representatives of the Polish Government and the Baltic countries to the effect that these exercises were evidence of the allies’ readiness to defend Eastern European countries from the “threat from the East”.

In fact, such statements reflect the real purpose of the exercises conducted on the territory of Poland, Latvia and Lithuania. Their scenarios involved practising rendering assistance to a NATO Member State, as stipulated in Article 5 of the Washington Treaty on collective defence.

We understand that military personnel need to conduct exercises and drills to maintain their combat readiness. This is normal practice.

At the same time, is it really appropriate today to talk seriously about any threat of attack on NATO countries in this region? Such scenarios are not only absurd, but also send the wrong signal to the public, generating a search for an enemy in the traditions of the Cold War. In this context, provocative appeals to reconsider the non-aligned status of Ukraine or create an opportunity for military confrontation in the Arctic are also puzzling.

In our view, such approaches are clearly at odds with the goal set at the NATO-Russia Council summit in Lisbon in 2010 of creating a common space of peace, security and stability. The attempts to drag NATO back to the past at any price are not conducive to finding a solution to the shared problems of responding to real, rather than invented, threats and challenges to the security of our countries.

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



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

FSC.JOUR/746
11 December 2013
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

740th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 746, Agenda item 1(b)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ICELAND

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

I am pleased to announce that, on 28 May this year, the Government of Iceland published its second National Action Plan (NAP) for the Implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security (UNSCR 1325).

Iceland's revised National Action Plan is intended to underline gender equality and women's empowerment in conflict-affected environments and peace processes, and places emphasis on gender issues in all policy formulations and projects of international organizations of which Iceland is a member.

During the review process, the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Iceland benefited from the active participation of civil society, taking into consideration lessons learned and experiences from other UN Member States. The result is a document which clearly states Iceland's main objectives in relation to the implementation of UNSCR 1325, and the ways to reach those objectives, as well as identifying measures for accountability and monitoring. The National Action Plan can be accessed through the website of the Ministry for Foreign Affairs at <http://www.mfa.is/media/fridargaeslan/UT-WomenPeaceSecurity-2013.pdf>.

The revised NAP fully takes into account the four UN pillars of UNSCR 1325 (participation, prevention, protection, relief and recovery), while also focusing on training and advocacy, and partnership and collaboration, including with Icelandic and international NGOs, international organizations and like-minded countries.

This NAP is valid for four years and will be subject to a mid-term assessment to determine whether the objectives, activities and indicators are still pertinent or whether adjustments are needed.

Mr. Chairperson,

I kindly ask you to attach this statement to the journal of the meeting.



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

FSC.JOUR/746
11 December 2013
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

740th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 746, Agenda item 1(c)

**STATEMENT BY THE UNITED KINGDOM
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF GERMANY, AUSTRIA, BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA, CANADA, CYPRUS, CROATIA, FINLAND, FRANCE,
GREECE, IRELAND, SWEDEN AND TURKEY)**

Mr. Chairperson,

I am speaking on behalf of the delegations of Germany, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Cyprus, Croatia, Finland, France, the United Kingdom, Greece, Ireland, Sweden and Turkey.

Yesterday was Human Rights Day and was also the final day of the 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence. This campaign is, unfortunately, as relevant today as when it started in 1991; violence against women continues to be a pressing problem across the OSCE region. Its impact reaches far beyond the victims – affecting families, communities and society at large – and is therefore an issue that the relevant bodies within the OSCE need to tackle.

Of specific interest to the Forum for Security Co-operation, as tasked in Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/11, is its mandate to examine ways to assist with the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions. We wish to emphasize the unanimous adoption in 2013 of two further UN Security Council resolutions on women, peace and security – namely 2106 and 2122 – both during the Security Council presidencies of OSCE participating States.

Recognizing that UNSCR1325 and related resolutions contain elements of direct relevance to the FSC – especially in conflict prevention, capacity-building and ensuring of women’s meaningful participation in peace and security efforts – we wish to restate our commitment to these important concepts and to enhance our work with partners in the FSC to achieve a positive shift in implementation.

We do recognize that conflict affects all parts of society, but reaffirm our belief, as stated in these Security Council resolutions, that women and girls experience exacerbated vulnerability in conflict and post-conflict situations. Moreover, we believe that empowered women and girls who are meaningfully engaged in conflict prevention, resolution and peace-building, make a tangible contribution to peace and security. It is for this reason that

our work within the FSC and the wider promotion of capacity-building to advance the women, peace and security agenda is central to the aims of this Organization and to progress towards a security community.

Noting the gathering international momentum behind the Prevention of Sexual Violence in Conflict Initiative, driven forward in 2013 by the United Kingdom and reflected especially in UNSCR 2106 (2013) and the UN General Assembly declaration on preventing sexual violence endorsed by 135 States, we expect that the OSCE at large and participating States individually will engage with relevant aspects of this work. We feel that our Organization can play an important part and that the FSC should take account of the Initiative when considering the women, peace and security agenda. This includes practical work by our field missions and we applaud the project being undertaken in Bosnia and Herzegovina, especially the training delivered to judges and prosecutors and the victim-support programme. Furthermore, we note the Summit on the initiative on preventing sexual violence taking place in London in June 2014 and hope that the OSCE and many participating States will be represented.

We are pleased that Ministerial Council Decision No. 8/13 encourages us to pay attention to these security aspects in our work on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, which is also expressly called for in UNSCRs 2117 (2013) and 2122 (2013). Looking ahead to 2014, we feel that there is much to be done in order to ensure that the potential peace and security contribution of women is fully harnessed for the common good. We encourage forthcoming FSC Chairmanships to include this topic in our work programme and call upon participating States to actively support these endeavours. More broadly, we reiterate our support for the development of an OSCE-wide action plan on women, peace and security.

Mr. Chairperson,

Although the 2013 period of 16 Days of Activism against Gender Violence is complete, the work does not stop here; indeed it is only beginning. UNSCR 2122 expresses deep concern about persistent implementation deficits in the women, peace and security agenda: We therefore urge participating States to join us in remedying those shortfalls, *inter alia* through our work here in the FSC.

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



740th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 746, Agenda item 2

**STATEMENT BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE
CONFLICT PREVENTION CENTRE**

Mr. Chairperson,

As requested by the FSC, I am pleased to provide preliminary remarks about yesterday's Heads of Verification Centres (HoV) Meeting.

The seventh meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres, held on 10 December 2013, in accordance with FSC Decision No. 5/13, brought together over 100 persons from around 41 delegations. In this one-day meeting, the Heads of Verification Centres discussed a wide range of issues pertaining to the technical aspects of the implementation of the Vienna Document.

The participants in the meeting looked into the issue of *force majeure* and its application with regard to the compliance provisions of the Vienna Document. Many delegations argued in favour of a narrow understanding of the term *force majeure*. Some delegations also called for a food-for-thought paper to be developed within the FSC and, in this regard, announced their willingness to undertake practical work on that matter. Another issue of discussion pertained to national holidays. Several delegations said that invoking national holidays could not preclude implementation activities under the Vienna Document, but that the requesting States would need to take them into account. Some participants called upon participating States to refrain from any activities on the day of a national holiday, and also during the time shortly before or after a national holiday. Thirdly, the issuance of visas was discussed. On this subject, many delegations said that national procedures and legislations should not impede the effective implementation of the Vienna Document. The fourth discussion topic pertained to the definition and functions of auxiliary personnel. Several participants called for more clarity regarding the term. The fifth issue discussed related to multinational co-operation. A presentation by a tripartite verification agency was made that showed how multinational pooling and sharing could be put into practice. Sixth and lastly, a perspective on technical implementation experiences was provided by two national presenters, both of which triggered a good discussion.

Mr. Chairperson,

As concerns the format of the HoV meeting, it is to be noted that, unlike in the previous year, this year's HoV meeting did not consist of parallel working groups, but of

consecutive plenary sessions. The participants strongly argued in favour of running parallel and informal working sessions in order to be able to cover more substantive issues in the short time available. It was acknowledged by the Heads of Verification Centres that good discussions had also been held this year. Several delegations suggested the need to undertake informal preparatory work in view of the next HoV meeting in 2014. In this context, I would urge the participating States to agree on a date for the next HoV meeting early in the year.

The final report for the AIAM will be shared in early February 2014, as mandated by FSC Decision No. 6/13. Last but not least, I would like to thank all the participating States for their active participation and all the presenters for their contribution to this year's successful HoV meeting: namely, Germany, the United States of America, the Netherlands, Kazakhstan, the NATO School on behalf of Canada and Slovakia.



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

FSC.JOUR/746
11 December 2013
Annex 5

ENGLISH
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740th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 746, Agenda item 3

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

Mr. Chairperson,

We should like to thank you for organizing today's discussion.

In the opinion of our delegation, the results of the work to prepare politico-military texts for the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Kyiv provide a great deal of food for thought.

On the one hand, it was once again confirmed that if all parties have the political will, the Forum is capable of agreeing on decisions that respond to the interests of all OSCE participating States. Proof of this can be seen in the documents adopted at the Ministerial Council meeting: the decision on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, and the declaration on the update of the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation. Today, we should like to wholeheartedly congratulate you, Mr. Chairperson, your team, and your Co-ordinator on Non-Proliferation Issues, Mr. Vasyl Pokotylo, on your success. Furthermore, we feel it is essential to thank all of those who contributed to reaching compromise.

We almost managed to adopt one other decision, namely, on issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation. In order to do this, the Russian Federation had to show quite some degree of flexibility. We appreciate the constructive approach of the overwhelming majority of the other delegations. We are grateful to our distinguished colleague, Mr. Patrick Grisius, for his efforts to find solutions that reflect the interests of all participating States. We believe that the draft decision produced on the strength of the meeting of the morning of 5 December (MC.DD/11/13/Rev.10) was a good basis for such a decision.

Unfortunately, however, it became clear that not everyone was prepared to play their part. We can only guess as to the reasons for this, but they are clearly far from the issues being discussed in this room. At the same time, our long experience of working in this format shows that radical wording and demonstratively raising the bar in terms of demands, combined with an "all or nothing" approach, are not exactly consistent with a genuine readiness to undertake serious work.

In any case, this key decision for the work of the FSC was not adopted. We do not view this as a tragedy and we are prepared to continue working together with our partners. With regard to the future of the Vienna Document, which has become something of a stumbling block, we believe that the broad set of political and military measures foreseen in the Vienna Document 2011 ensures openness and predictability in the military activities of OSCE participating States, builds confidence between them, and reduces the likelihood of the emergence of armed conflicts in Europe. At the same time, the mechanisms of the Vienna Document must take into account the reforms that have taken place in the armed forces of many OSCE participating States.

With this in mind, the Russian Federation is prepared to work on improving the confidence- and security-building measures regime, on the understanding that the scale and timetable of this work will:

- Correspond to efforts to bolster military stability and predictability in other areas that determine the state of politico-military affairs in the OSCE area;
- Be determined bearing in mind the need to avoid duplication with possible talks to create a fundamentally new conventional arms control regime in Europe;
- Consider economic factors, as well as the interests of the development of the armed forces of the Russian Federation.

We believe that today, the core future vector of this process has yet to be defined – a fact to which the discussions in Kyiv clearly attest. Therefore, at the current time, we can talk about “fine-tuning” individual provisions of the Vienna Document, mainly related to raising efficiency and reducing expenditure on verification activities and the exchange of military information. Relevant ideas from the Russian Federation are on the negotiating table.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, and I ask that this statement be attached to the journal of today’s meeting.