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**STATEMENT BY
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FEDERATION TO THE VIENNA NEGOTIATIONS ON MILITARY SECURITY
AND ARMS CONTROL, AT THE 1114th PLENARY MEETING OF THE
OSCE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION**

17 September 2025

Agenda item: Opening session under the Finnish Chairmanship

Mr. Chairperson,

Our congratulations to you on the start of Finland's term chairing the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). We welcome the Secretary General of the Organization, His Excellency Mr. Feridun H. Sinirlioglu, to this room. We take note of the presentation of the programme for the current session delivered by Finnish Minister of Defence Antti Häkkinen. We trust that, in this landmark year for the OSCE as it celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act (1975), at the heart of which lay politico-military agreements, Finland will undertake the requisite efforts to strengthen the institutional and political foundations of the FSC by fulfilling its duties without anger or partiality (*sine ira et studio*). Today the Chairmanship team is faced with a unique opportunity to revive the spirit of Helsinki that in its day became a symbol of dialogue and the building of trust between East and West, which had been locked in bitter confrontation.

Over the past few years, substantial damage has been done to the politico-military strand of the Organization's activities. As is well known, the participating States unanimously adopted, in various years, a series of fundamental documents proclaiming the principle of the indivisibility of security, namely that no one may strengthen their security at the expense of the security of others, that no single country or organization is entitled to seek dominance in Europe. All this was enshrined, in particular, in decisions of the Heads of State or Government at the summits in Paris (1990), Istanbul (1999) and Astana (2010).

However, at the same time as it was adopting these and other fine-sounding declarations, the West was in practice behaving in quite the opposite manner: it was ramping up the eastward expansion of NATO to the detriment of Russia's interests and those of many other countries. At the FSC we were simply met with a refusal to engage in serious discussion with us on any measures that might mitigate, at least to some extent, the negative consequences for Russia arising from the Alliance's expansion, including measures for the reduction of military risks and the prevention of incidents. Ultimately, all the aforementioned OSCE consensus documents about the indivisibility of security remained mere ink on paper. The West signed up to them, but it did not keep its word in that it continued to seek to bring NATO military infrastructure into the

immediate vicinity of our borders and to create an anti-Russian military staging ground in Ukraine. This has led to a most serious security crisis in Europe and, as a result, radically undermined the FSC's work.

Over the past few years, our platform's credibility has been sagging markedly in view of the attempts by certain participating States to subordinate the Forum to their own interests and use it as an instrument of leverage. The FSC's once rich agenda has been compressed to a minimum, while professional dialogue among politico-military experts is increasingly giving way to the parroting of stock confrontational slogans. There is no longer anyone here who makes mention of the CSCE Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers (1993), the Framework for Arms Control (1996), the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (2000), the Principles Governing Non-Proliferation (2013) and other politico-military agreements of systemic importance to the Forum.

There is no future for the FSC if the NATO and EU countries continue to "stress-test" the consensus rule and to treat this platform like their property, using it for a wholesale propaganda campaign aimed at demonizing Russia and other "nonconformists" and to cover up for their protégés in Kyiv.

In that regard, we should like to draw attention to a co-operation format thematically linked to the FSC that is literally falling apart, namely the Structured Dialogue, the activities of which are by now far removed from the 2016 Hamburg Ministerial Council declaration and are currently not in line with the Organization's Rules of Procedure. In such circumstances, it does not seem possible for us to participate in that format, nor to recognize any results whatsoever arising from its functioning.

Given what has been said, we emphasize the special responsibility devolving, on the one hand, on the Chairmanship as a neutral moderator that, on behalf of the FSC, is responsible for co-ordinating actions and holding consultations on the Forum's current activities, and, on the other, on the members of the FSC Troika, responsible as they are for strengthening the foundations of this autonomous OSCE decision-making body. In particular, we draw attention to the fact that the speakers invited by the Chairmanship must meet the FSC's high standards, adhere to a culture of dialogue and not exacerbate the already deep differences within the ranks of the participating States. We call upon the OSCE Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Centre to assist the Chairmanships more actively in carrying out their functions on the basis of the principles of impartiality, openness and accountability.

What is required now are efforts to create favourable conditions for fulfilling the FSC's mandate, including the prevention of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons and ammunition, the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs). In that regard, we hope that our Finnish colleagues will inform the participating States in a timely manner about the outcomes of the consultations on convening the Meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres in December, and likewise announce in good time that they have started gathering views on holding the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting on the Vienna Document 2011 on CSBMs.

In closing, permit us to express our gratitude to Spain, which is leaving the Troika, and also to Estonia, which completed its Chairmanship term in August. We trust that the Finnish delegation and France as the incoming Troika member will work constructively in strict compliance with the Rules of Procedure and contribute, in a unifying spirit, to the implementation of the goals and objectives set forth in the Forum's politico-military mandate. In the present challenging circumstances it is especially important to show diplomatic wisdom and resist the temptation to pander to the attempts made at this platform by several States and their associations to fan the flames of confrontation.

Mr. Chairperson,

We wish you every success and assure you of our support in working towards a strengthening of the FSC's institutional and political foundations.

Thank you for your attention.