



Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

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VILNIUS

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2011

## **Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council**

**6 and 7 December 2011**

**Decisions of the Ministerial Council**

**Ministerial Declaration on Combating All Forms of  
Human Trafficking**

**Reports by the Chairmanship**

**Statements by delegations**

**Reports to the Ministerial Council**

**Vilnius 2011**

7 December 2011

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## **I. DECISIONS OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**





**DECISION No. 1/10**  
**APPOINTMENT OF THE OSCE REPRESENTATIVE ON**  
**FREEDOM OF THE MEDIA**

(MC.DEC/1/10 of 10 March 2010)

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 193 of 5 November 1997 on establishing an OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media,

Considering that, according to Ministerial Council Decision No. 1/07, the term of office of the current Representative on Freedom of the Media, Mr. Miklós Haraszti, will expire on 10 March 2010,

Expressing its gratitude to the outgoing Representative on Freedom of the Media, Mr. Miklós Haraszti,

Taking into account the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides to appoint Ms. Dunja Mijatović as Representative on Freedom of the Media for a period of three years with effect from 11 March 2010.

**DECISION No. 2/10**  
**EXTENSION OF THE MANDATE OF THE**  
**OSCE HIGH COMMISSIONER ON NATIONAL MINORITIES**  
(MC.DEC/2/10 of 22 July 2010)

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the decision of the CSCE Helsinki Summit 1992 to establish a High Commissioner on National Minorities,

Considering that the first term of office of the current mandate of Mr. Knut Vollebaek comes to an end on 19 August 2010,

Taking into consideration the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides to extend the mandate of Mr. Knut Vollebaek as the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities for a period of three years effective from 20 August 2010.

**DECISION No. 3/10**  
**TIME AND VENUE OF THE NEXT OSCE SUMMIT**  
**AND REVIEW CONFERENCE**

(MC.DEC/3/10 of 3 August 2010)

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Corfu Process of 2 December 2009 (MC.DOC/1/09) and the Ministerial Council Decision on the time and place of the next meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council of 2 December 2009 (MC.DEC/14/09),

Recalling the 1994 Budapest Summit decision that the review meeting before each Summit will be held in Vienna, and taking into account the practice of holding parts of the 1999 Review Conference in other venues,

Pursuant to the OSCE Rules of Procedure (MC.DOC/1/06), and recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 476 on the modalities for OSCE meetings on human dimension issues,

Taking into account Permanent Council Decision No. 932 on the dates of the 2010 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) and Permanent Council Decision No. 933 on the topics for the second part of the 2010 HDIM,

Noting that the Annual Security Review Conference, the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting and the Economic and Environmental Forum were already held in 2010,

Decides that:

1. The next OSCE Summit will take place in Astana on 1 and 2 December 2010;
2. The Eighteenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be held in 2011;
3. The Review Conference before the next OSCE Summit will take place in three parts, with distribution of working sessions between dimensions as indicated below:
  - (a) The first part will be held in Warsaw from 30 September to 8 October 2010;
  - (b) The second part will be held in Vienna from 18 to 26 October 2010, with focus (i) on the full range of OSCE commitments in the politico-military dimension, (ii) on the full range of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension, and (iii) on OSCE structures and activities; and will be arranged in parallel working sessions;
  - (c) The third part will be held in Astana from 26 to 28 November 2010;

The Warsaw and Astana parts of the Review Conference will focus on the full range of OSCE commitments in the human dimension, including the topics selected by PC.DEC/933, and will be arranged in consecutive working sessions. The modalities of the

annual HDIMs as set out in PC.DEC/476, will be, *mutatis mutandis*, reflected in the human dimension parts of the Review Conference. The 2010 HDIM shall be cancelled.

4. The Permanent Council shall adopt decisions:
  - On the agenda, organizational framework, timetable and other modalities of the 2010 OSCE Summit in Astana;
  - On the agenda, organizational framework, timetable and other modalities of the 2010 OSCE Review Conference;
  - On the budget for the 2010 Summit and Review Conference.

**DECISION No. 4/10**  
**OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE YEAR 2013**  
(MC.DEC/4/10 of 23 November 2010)

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that Ukraine will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2013.

**DECISION No. 5/10**  
**TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE**  
**OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(MC.DEC/5/10 of 29 November 2010)

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that the Eighteenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be convened in Vilnius on 6 and 7 December 2011.

**DECISION No. 1/11**  
**REAPPOINTMENT OF AMBASSADOR JANEZ LENARČIČ AS**  
**DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE FOR DEMOCRATIC INSTITUTIONS**  
**AND HUMAN RIGHTS**  
(MC.DEC/1/11 of 30 May 2011)

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the 1990 Charter of Paris and the decision of the Ministerial Council taken at its second meeting in Prague in 1992 concerning the development of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights (ODIHR),

Noting that the term of office of the current Director of the ODIHR, Ambassador Janez Lenarčič, will expire on 30 June 2011,

Taking into account the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides to reappoint Ambassador Janez Lenarčič as Director of the ODIHR exceptionally for a period of three years with effect from 1 July 2011. This exception should not be construed as a change of the rules regarding the appointment of the Director of the ODIHR.

**Attachment to MC.DEC/1/11**

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER**  
**PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE**  
**OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND**  
**CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Canada (also on behalf of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway and Switzerland):

“Mr. Chairperson,

I am honoured today to take the floor on behalf of Iceland, Liechtenstein, Norway, Switzerland and Canada on this very important issue and bring to your attention this interpretative statement.

Mr. Chairperson,

By exceptionally accepting in this case to make a reference to the 1990 Charter of Paris and the wording ‘reappointment’ instead of ‘extension’ as would have been the more appropriate word, we firmly underline that this does not mean consenting to any interpretation that would put in doubt the validity either of previous or future extensions of the terms of the heads of institutions.

I thank you, Mr. Chairperson.”

**DECISION No. 2/11**  
**APPOINTMENT OF THE OSCE SECRETARY GENERAL**  
(MC.DEC/2/11 of 30 June 2011)

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the decision of the Third Meeting of the CSCE Ministerial Council in Stockholm in 1992 to establish the post of Secretary General, Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/04 of 7 December 2004 on the role of the OSCE Secretary General, Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06 on further strengthening the effectiveness of OSCE executive structures and Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/08 of 22 October 2008 on the periods of service of the OSCE Secretary General,

Expressing its gratitude to the outgoing Secretary General, Ambassador Marc Perrin de Brichambaut, for his invaluable contributions to strengthening the OSCE and developing its activities, and for his unwavering dedication and integrity in the discharge of his duties,

Taking into account the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides:

To appoint Mr. Lamberto Zannier as Secretary General of the OSCE for a period of three years with effect from 1 July 2011.



**DECISION No. 3/11**  
**ELEMENTS OF THE CONFLICT CYCLE, RELATED TO**  
**ENHANCING THE OSCE'S CAPABILITIES IN EARLY WARNING,**  
**EARLY ACTION, DIALOGUE FACILITATION AND MEDIATION**  
**SUPPORT, AND POST-CONFLICT REHABILITATION**  
(MC.DEC/3/11 of 7 December 2011)

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming our full adherence to the Charter of the United Nations and to all OSCE norms, principles and commitments, starting from the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris, the 1992 Helsinki Document, the 1994 Budapest Document, the Charter for European Security adopted at the 1999 Istanbul Summit, the 2009 Athens Ministerial Declaration and Decision on the OSCE Corfu Process, the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration and all other OSCE documents to which we have agreed, and our responsibility to implement them fully and in good faith,

Recalling that the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and as a primary organization for the peaceful settlement of disputes within its region, is a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation,

Recognizing the primary responsibility of the United Nations Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security and its crucial role in contributing to security and stability in the OSCE area,

Reaffirming our commitment to the vision of a free, democratic, common and indivisible security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, rooted in agreed principles, shared commitments and common goals,

Reaffirming further the pledge made at the Astana Summit meeting to increase efforts to resolve existing conflicts in the OSCE area in a peaceful and negotiated manner, within agreed formats, fully respecting the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and international law, and to prevent new crises as well as to refrain from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations or with the ten Principles of the Helsinki Final Act,

Underlining the need for these agreed principles to be applied equally to all conflict and crisis situations in the OSCE area while recognizing that each crisis or conflict situation has its specific characteristics and therefore needs an approach tailored to the particular situation,

Recalling the commitment to uphold consensus as the basis for OSCE decision-making, and mindful of the need to preserve the OSCE's flexibility and ability to respond quickly to a changing political environment at the heart of the Organization's co-operative and inclusive approach to common and indivisible security,

Recognizing that threats to our security can stem from conflicts within States as well as from conflicts between States,

Taking into account the discussions aimed at improving the OSCE's capabilities within the framework of the Corfu Process, the preparation of the Astana Summit meeting as well as the V-to-V Dialogue,

Acknowledging the need for timely and preventive responses to crises and conflicts, which requires, *inter alia*, a comprehensive early warning capacity across all three OSCE dimensions; timely, objective and verifiable information, also regarding the humanitarian and security conditions on the ground including during a crisis, as well as the political will to take early and effective action; making full use of existing OSCE instruments, mechanisms and procedures for addressing the various phases of the conflict cycle and the ability to create new ones when necessary,

Bearing in mind that the OSCE's ability to deploy civilian, police or unarmed military expertise rapidly is essential to effective conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation,

Acknowledging the necessity to strengthen the OSCE post-conflict rehabilitation efforts and the importance of preventing relapses into crisis or conflict,

Acknowledging the vital role, in building a sustainable peace, of dialogue facilitation and mediation as well as preventive and quiet diplomacy as instruments for early action, crisis management, conflict resolution, post-conflict rehabilitation and confidence-building, while recognizing the contribution of OSCE mediators and special representatives in this regard,

Recognizing that a comprehensive, cross-dimensional response is required to address the multi-faceted causes of crises and conflicts and that this also demands co-operation and co-ordination between the participating States and among OSCE executive structures, including field operations within their respective mandates, and the Parliamentary Assembly as well as with international and regional organizations,

Emphasizing the importance of full implementation by participating States of the OSCE commitments in all three dimensions during all phases of the conflict cycle,

Reiterating that conflict prevention, conflict resolution, post-conflict rehabilitation and peace-building must involve efforts to address violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms, as well as intolerance and discrimination, and the absence of strong democratic institutions and the rule of law,

Recognizing that the rights of persons belonging to national minorities as well as the rights of persons at risk of displacement or already affected by it, need to be effectively protected in all phases of the conflict cycle,

Taking into account that impediments to economic welfare and social development as well as threats to environmental security, including environmental degradation, natural and man-made disasters and their possible impact on migratory pressures, could be potential contributors to conflict,

Reaffirming the significant role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, recalling UN Security Council resolution 1325, and recognizing the important role of civil society,

Reaffirming also our full adherence to the OSCE decisions, commitments and principles pertaining to politico-military aspects of security, including, *inter alia*, the 1993 Document on Stabilizing Measures for Localized Crisis Situations, the 1994 Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the Vienna Document, the Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers and acknowledging their importance to confidence- and security-building and conflict prevention and conflict resolution,

Within the framework of the existing mandates of the OSCE Chairmanship, the Secretary General and other executive structures, including as defined *inter alia* by the Porto Ministerial Decision No. 8/02 and other relevant OSCE Ministerial decisions, with the aim to enable timely and preventive responses to crises and conflicts as well as strengthen mediation support and post-conflict rehabilitation efforts while avoiding the overlapping of their mandates and duplication of functions and responsibilities,

1. Decides, in anticipation of further steps in addressing the conflict cycle, to strengthen OSCE capabilities in early warning, early action, dialogue facilitation, mediation support and post-conflict rehabilitation on an operational level as follows:
2. Tasks the Secretary General to ensure that the Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) assumes the role and functions as the focal point for the Organization-wide systematic collection, collation, analysis and assessment of relevant early warning signals from various sources, co-operating and co-ordinating closely with other OSCE executive structures and the Parliamentary Assembly;
3. Urges the OSCE executive structures, within their existing mandates to strengthen their exchange of information related to all phases of the conflict cycle and calls for enhanced co-ordination between them in this regard;
4. Tasks the Secretary General, in consultation with the Chairmanship to:
  - Provide early warning to the participating States by bringing to the attention of the Permanent Council any situation of emerging tensions or conflicts in the OSCE area, complementing the early warning functions already contained in the existing mandates of all relevant OSCE executive structures;
  - Suggest to the Permanent Council, after consulting the participating State(s) concerned, possible options for timely and effective response(s) to escalating tensions or conflicts in the OSCE area;
  - Consolidate, in co-ordination with other executive structures, the OSCE's early warning capacity in a more methodical, comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner within available resources;

- Prepare a proposal on how to make better use of the possible contributions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in developing a more effective response to emerging crisis and conflict situations;
  - Prepare a proposal on how to enhance OSCE fact-finding, including expert team capabilities during emerging crises and conflicts and present it for consideration by the Permanent Council;
5. Agrees that participating States will share information, as appropriate, with each other and the Chairmanship at the earliest opportunity with regard to emerging crises or conflicts that threaten security and stability anywhere in the OSCE area;
6. Urges the Chairmanship to use its mandate to the full extent and to convene the Permanent Council without delay, including in special, reinforced or joint FSC-PC meeting if necessary, to consider early warning signals and possible response options, and in this context encourages the Permanent Council to:
- Welcome, as appropriate, the participation of the OSCE executive structures directly involved as well as the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly during Permanent Council debates on emerging and ongoing crisis/conflict situations which relate to issues that fall within their mandates;
  - Seek closer interaction with the Forum for Security Co-operation that will make its own contribution to this work within its competences and mandate;
  - Pursue follow-up to discussions in the Permanent Council on emerging crises and conflict situations;
  - Seek input of other international and regional organizations involved as well as external advice, as appropriate;
7. Encourages the Chairmanship to draw on past experience and lessons learned to organize thematic meetings devoted to a specific conflict in the OSCE area;
8. Expects the OSCE Chairmanship and the executive structures to take full advantage of their respective mandates to address all phases of the conflict cycle and urges the Chairmanship and participating States to use, swiftly and to the greatest extent possible, all available tools and procedures as applicable to a particular crisis or conflict situation; in this light, tasks the relevant OSCE executive structures, upon request by the Chairmanship and/or decision making bodies, to provide advice on the use of existing instruments, mechanisms and procedures and to recommend those, as appropriate, to a given crisis or emerging conflict;
9. Tasks the Secretary General to designate a mediation-support focal point within the CPC;
10. Tasks the Secretary General, in close co-operation and consultation with the Chairmanship and executive structures, to prepare a proposal for consideration by the Permanent Council on how to maximize the continuity, consistency and effectiveness of OSCE engagement in conflict mediation and to strengthen the role of OSCE mediators.

Among others, this proposal will aim at developing a systematic mediation-support capacity within the CPC covering, *inter alia*: (1) training and capacity-building within the OSCE structures; (2) knowledge management and operational guidance; (3) outreach, networking, co-operation and co-ordination with relevant local/national actors, as well as with international, regional and subregional organizations; (4) operational support to Chairmanships, their special representatives, heads of field operations, and other relevant OSCE mediators;

11. Urges the Chairmanship, the participating States and the OSCE executive structures to ensure that post-conflict rehabilitation efforts are comprehensive, systematic and sustainable, including through the deployment, upon consent of host participating State, of expert teams as well as other forms of temporary presence on the ground tailored to the specific needs of a given post-conflict situation and based on the existing mandates and areas of expertise of relevant executive structures, in accordance with relevant decision-making procedures;

12. Calls on the participating States to develop rosters of national experts readily available for OSCE post-conflict rehabilitation efforts as well as for other phases of the conflict cycle and to provide those experts with the necessary specialized training for them to be rapidly deployable to a crisis or conflict environment;

13. Urges the participating States, with the assistance of the executive structures, to make optimal use of OSCE instruments launched by previous OSCE documents such as Rapid Expert Assistance and Co-operation Teams (REACT) and tasks the OSCE executive structures to collect and analyse lessons identified from the use of such instruments in order to develop best practices;

14. Urges participating States to implement UNSCR 1325 by ensuring increased representation of women at all levels in conflict resolution and peace processes, and tasks the Secretary General in consultation with the Chairmanship-in-Office to prepare a set of concrete recommendations in this regard, and present these for consideration by the Permanent Council;

15. Encourages participating States and, within the framework of their mandate, the OSCE executive structures to make greater use of confidence-building and confidence- and security-building measures (CBMs and CSBMs), including those involving civil society representatives, across the three dimensions of security, in all phases of the conflict cycle and as agreed by participating States directly concerned;

16. Tasks the OSCE executive structures, in accordance with their respective mandates and within the framework of relevant decisions of the OSCE decision-making bodies, to enhance their co-operation and co-ordination with other international and regional organizations, especially with their respective structures in the field, and with civil society organizations, to increase financial, technical and political efficiency and burden-sharing, reduce unnecessary duplication and promote the best use of available resources. OSCE executive structures should also develop lessons identified and best practices as regards co-operation and co-ordination with other international actors in the field;

17. Calls for increased efforts to resolve existing conflicts in the OSCE area in a peaceful and negotiated manner, within agreed formats, fully respecting the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act and international law. To that end, calls on the Chairmanship and

participating States to pursue steps to strengthen OSCE capabilities in further addressing the conflict cycle;

18. Tasks the Secretary General to provide a report by 16 July 2012 as a first step to inform participating States on progress made and possible options for the way forward in the areas dealt with in this decision, including possible options on how to cover, if necessary, related expenses.

**DECISION No. 4/11**  
**STRENGTHENING OSCE ENGAGEMENT WITH AFGHANISTAN**  
(MC.DEC/4/11 of 7 December 2011)

The Ministerial Council,

Sharing the common objective of promoting long-term security and stability in Afghanistan, a Partner for Co-operation of the OSCE since 2003,

Convinced that long-term security and stability in Afghanistan has a direct impact on security in the OSCE region,

Acknowledging the primary role of the UN in international efforts in promoting peace and stability in Afghanistan, as well as the valuable contribution of relevant regional and international organizations and institutions actively engaged in assisting Afghanistan, *inter alia*, NATO, EU, CSTO, CICA and SCO, and underscoring the importance of co-ordination of these efforts and avoiding duplication, including through making best use of existing mechanisms for co-ordination,

Welcoming the Istanbul Process on regional security and co-operation for a secure and stable Afghanistan that was launched at the Istanbul Conference for Afghanistan on 2 November 2011, as well as the results of the International Afghanistan Conference, held in Bonn on 5 December 2011,

Acknowledging the OSCE and its participating States' contributions as part of the UN-led efforts of the international community towards assisting Afghanistan in areas where the OSCE has its expertise and experience,

Stressing the particular responsibility of the Government of Afghanistan for long-term security and stability in the country, to be achieved through a process that is Afghan-led, Afghan-owned and Afghan-driven,

Supporting the on-going process of transition of responsibility, including for providing comprehensive security, to the Afghan authorities in the framework of the Kabul Process, and remaining convinced that progress to be made between now and 2014, when transition will be completed, will make a decisive impact on the future course of efforts underway in Afghanistan, and being confident that the OSCE can make a tangible contribution to this end, drawing upon its expertise and experience,

Acknowledging the central role that has been played by Madrid Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/07 on OSCE engagement with Afghanistan in fostering co-operation between the OSCE and Afghanistan since 2007,

Referring to the Athens Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/09 on further OSCE efforts to address transnational threats and challenges to security and stability, which calls for intensified implementation of Madrid Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/07,

Recalling the Astana Commemorative Declaration, which acknowledges that security in the OSCE region is inextricably linked with the security of neighbouring regions, and

underscores in particular the need to contribute effectively to collective international efforts to promote a stable, independent, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan,

Recognizing the threat posed by illicit production, trade, trafficking and consumption of drugs originating in Afghanistan to international peace and stability in the region and beyond, and emphasizing the importance of co-operation with Afghanistan to counter this threat and to enhance border management co-operation between Afghanistan and its neighbours in ensuring comprehensive measures for drug control,

Commending the efforts by OSCE participating States, Partners for Co-operation, the Secretariat and the field operations towards the implementation of Madrid Ministerial Council Decision No. 4/07 aimed at assisting Afghanistan in the fields of border security, police training, customs training, combating of drug trafficking, *inter alia* through the Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe and other training facilities in the OSCE participating States,

Acknowledging with appreciation the election support that has been provided to Afghanistan by four OSCE/ODIHR election support teams, in accordance with the relevant Permanent Council decisions and upon the request of the Afghan Government, and stressing the importance that we attach to the transparent, inclusive, free and fair elections in Afghanistan, in line with its national legislation and international standards,

Noting the relevance of the participation of Afghan officials and civil society representatives in OSCE events, and reaffirming the OSCE's readiness, within its mandate and available resources, to assist Afghanistan in its voluntary implementation of OSCE norms, principles and commitments,

Welcoming the use of the Partnership Fund, in accordance with Permanent Council Decision No. 812, to foster closer relations with Afghanistan and to support increased participation by Afghan representatives in OSCE activities across the three dimensions of security,

Recognizing the important role of education for stability and development in Afghanistan, and in particular the contribution by the OSCE Academy in Bishkek, which serves as a promoter of OSCE values,

Convinced of the importance of regional co-operation between Afghanistan and the OSCE participating States in Central Asia, and of the essential role of these participating States in helping to promote long-term security and stability in Afghanistan,

Welcoming bilateral and multilateral initiatives between Afghanistan and the regional countries that could contribute to the improved regional co-operation and enhanced trust and confidence,

Wishing to enhance the co-operation between the OSCE and Afghanistan,

1. Decides to further strengthen the OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan across the three dimensions and on the basis of the OSCE concept of comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security, pursuant to the request of the Government of Afghanistan;



2. Invites OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation to contribute, on a voluntary basis, to the efforts of the OSCE and international community, to promote the long-term security and stability of Afghanistan;
3. Tasks the Secretary General and executive structures, in accordance with their mandates and established procedures, with continuing ongoing projects and programmes of co-operation between the OSCE and Afghanistan and with developing a new package of activities across all three dimensions of security, in consultation with participating States and in co-ordination with the UN and other relevant international and regional organizations;
4. Tasks the Secretary General to act as a focal point among all OSCE executive structures, aiming at co-ordination and coherence of implementation of Afghan related projects and programmes in the OSCE area;
5. Calls upon the OSCE executive structures, within their mandates, to facilitate a broader participation of Afghan officials and civil society representatives in relevant OSCE events, including through the use of the Partnership Fund, as appropriate;
6. Recommends to Afghanistan to establish a fixed national focal point mechanism to facilitate co-operation between the OSCE and Afghanistan aimed at enabling better implementation of, and follow-up on, OSCE projects and activities;
7. Expresses the readiness to provide election support, at the request of the Afghan Government, as appropriate, especially in the light of the upcoming presidential and parliamentary elections in Afghanistan;
8. Tasks the Permanent Council with remaining seized of the matter and with researching and evaluating options for further engagement with Afghanistan, upon its request;
9. Invites participating States to continue consultations in the framework of the Contact Group with the Asian Partners for Co-operation with a view to develop ongoing and new OSCE activities, across the three dimensions;
10. Tasks the Secretary General to regularly report to the participating States on the implementation of this decision.

**DECISION No. 5/11**  
**PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION**

(MC.DEC/5/11 of 7 December 2011)

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling the Helsinki Final Act of 1975, which recognizes the close link between peace and security in Europe and in the world as a whole,

Recalling the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, adopted in 2003 at the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Maastricht, which states that the OSCE will intensify its co-operation with its Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, by early identification of areas of common interest and concern and possibilities for further co-ordinated action,

Fully convinced that the security of the OSCE area is inextricably linked with security in the regions of the Partners for Co-operation, and reaffirming our commitment to intensifying our dialogue and co-operation with the Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation and to strengthening our capacity to respond to the needs and priorities identified by the Partners and on the basis of OSCE norms, principles and commitments,

Recognizing the democratic transition processes, political, economic and social changes that have taken place in some Mediterranean Partners in 2011,

Commending the voluntary reform processes undertaken by some Mediterranean Partner countries,

Recognizing that each country is different and has the right to develop its own political model, with respect for the universal values of human rights and dignity,

Agreeing that the OSCE's experience in different areas can be of interest and potential benefit to the Partners, while taking into full account their prime responsibility for making national political choices as well as their specific political, social, cultural and religious heritage and in accordance with their needs, goals and national priorities,

Reaffirming the readiness of the OSCE, through its executive structures, within their respective mandates in accordance with established procedures and when requested, to assist the Partners for Co-operation, as appropriate, in their voluntary implementation of OSCE norms, principles and commitments,

Recognizing the important role played by civil society in Partners for Co-operation, in promoting democracy, the rule of law, and full respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms,

Welcoming the progress achieved in recent years through dialogue and co-operation with our Mediterranean and Asian Partners for Co-operation, including their enhanced participation in OSCE meetings and activities including the implementation of concrete mutual projects,

Recalling Permanent Council Decision No. 571 on further dialogue and co-operation with the Partners for Co-operation and exploring the scope for wider sharing of OSCE norms, principles and commitments with others, and Ministerial Council Decision No. 17/04 on the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation, as well as the Madrid Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Partners for Co-operation,

Recalling the Astana Commemorative Declaration of 2010, which underlined the importance of enhancing the level of interaction with the Partners for Co-operation,

Reiterating support for the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's co-operation with the Partners including through the holding of its annual Parliamentary Forum on the Mediterranean, and taking note of the work done by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in this respect,

1. Decides to enhance further the Partnership for Co-operation by broadening dialogue, intensifying political consultations, strengthening practical co-operation and further sharing best practices and experience gained in the development of comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security, in the three OSCE dimensions, according to the needs and priorities identified by the Partners;
2. Encourages the OSCE executive structures, in accordance with their mandates and established procedures, to engage in action oriented co-operation with the Partner countries in all three dimensions, taking also into account the annual conferences of Partners, by providing expert advice and exchange of information on best practices and experiences upon request of the Partners based on relevant OSCE decisions when required and invites the Partners to increase the level of their participation in the OSCE activities;
3. Decides, in the context of the Partnership, to increase the efforts to promote OSCE norms, principles and commitments through the contacts in co-ordination with other relevant regional and international organizations, particularly the United Nations notably through the sharing of best practices and experiences and through joint projects and activities in all three dimensions, as appropriate;
4. Calls upon the OSCE Chairmanship and the Contact Groups, together with the Secretary General, to strengthen and further develop regular high-level dialogue with the Partners for Co-operation, in order to enhance mutual understanding and ensure high-level political support and assistance for the Partners for Co-operation, taking into account their needs and priorities;
5. Calls upon the OSCE executive structures, within their mandates, to facilitate a broader participation of officials and civil society representatives of Partners for Co-operation in relevant OSCE events, as well as through the use of the Partnership Fund as appropriate;
6. Tasks the Secretary General, in consultation with the OSCE Chairmanship, with exploring possible options for action oriented and results based co-operation with Partners, in co-ordination with the United Nations and other relevant regional and international organizations and institutions, and with making proposals, as appropriate, for further action by the Permanent Council;

7. Requests the Permanent Council to remain seized of the matter and to consider options for future engagement with the Partners for Co-operation at their request;
8. Encourages the participating States and the Partners for Co-operation to share their experiences and contribute to the OSCE activities in all three dimensions, including through contributions to the Partnership Fund, as appropriate, in order to promote further engagement with the Partners for Co-operation;
9. Reconfirms its openness to considering future potential applications for partnership from interested countries, in line with Permanent Council Decision No. 430 of 19 July 2001.

**DECISION No. 6/11**  
**SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF**  
**CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION**  
(MC.DEC/6/11 of 7 December 2011)

The Ministerial Council,

Recognizing the importance of OSCE measures in combating illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons (SALW) in all its aspects and in contributing to the reduction and prevention of the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW,

Also recognizing the importance of OSCE measures aimed at addressing security risks posed by the presence of stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), explosive materials and detonating devices in surplus and/or awaiting destruction in some States in the OSCE area,

Taking note of the active role taken by the OSCE in international efforts based on the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,

Reaffirming its commitment to the full implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (FSC.DOC/1/00, 24 November 2000), the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (FSC.DOC/1/03/Rev.1, 23 March 2011), and related FSC decisions, including the OSCE Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (FSC.DEC/2/10, 26 May 2010),

Recognizing the continuing importance of improving the management, security and safety of stockpiles of small arms, light weapons and conventional ammunition,

Also reaffirming the voluntary nature of the assistance provided by OSCE participating States in the reduction of SALW, in the destruction of surplus stockpiles of conventional ammunition and in upgrading stockpile management and security practices of participating States that request assistance in this regard,

Noting the crucial importance of co-ordination and co-operation between different organizations and other relevant actors to the effective addressing of the aforementioned challenges, and with the intention of strengthening the OSCE's contribution to these efforts within existing resources and/or extrabudgetary contributions,

Recalling United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/48 entitled: "The arms trade treaty",

1. Welcomes and takes note, within the Forum for Security Co-operation:
  - FSC Decision No. 2/10 on the OSCE Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, adopted on 26 May 2010 pursuant to Decision No. 15/09 adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council;

- FSC Decision No. 17/10 on an information exchange with regard to OSCE Principles on the Control of Brokering in Small Arms and Light Weapons, adopted on 24 November 2010 pursuant to Decision No. 15/09 adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council and to the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW;
  - FSC Decision No. 3/11 on destruction of conventional ammunition as the preferred method of disposal, adopted on 23 March 2011;
  - FSC Decision No. 9/11 on the OSCE Meeting to Review the OSCE Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, to be organized for 22 and 23 May 2012, adopted on 28 September 2011;
  - The progress reports on the Continuing Implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and on the Continuing Implementation of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, as submitted to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council pursuant to Decision No. 15/09 adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council;
  - The Special FSC Meeting on SALW export and brokering controls held on 28 September 2011 and the Chairperson's report, including the survey of suggestions;
  - The ongoing development of an OSCE template of an end-user certificate for small arms and light weapons, taking into account FSC Decision No. 5/04 of 17 November 2004 that defines the standard elements of end-user certificates and verification procedures for SALW exports, and national practices of participating States;
  - The reporting template introduced by the CPC, for one-off information exchanges related to the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, sample formats of national end-user certificates and/or other pertinent documents, present regulations concerning brokering activities with regard to SALW and for the annual information exchange on the points of contact on SALW and SCA;
  - The progress in and results of OSCE SALW and SCA projects aimed at providing assistance in the full implementation of relevant OSCE commitments;
2. Tasks the Forum for Security Co-operation, in accordance with its mandate, in 2012, to:
- Accelerate efforts to further implement the OSCE Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons;
  - Annex all relevant FSC decisions to the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and reissue as a consolidated record;
  - Take an active role in the Review Conference to Consider the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and develop the synergy between the UN and the OSCE in this area;

- Ensure coherence and complementarity with the UN framework on SALW;
  - Follow discussions as encouraged in United Nations General Assembly resolution 64/48;
  - Review the OSCE commitments on controlling brokering activities in SALW in accordance with Ministerial Council Decisions Nos. 8/04, 11/08 and 15/09 and FSC Decision No. 17/10, also taking into account the Chairperson's report on the Special FSC Meeting on SALW held on 28 September 2011;
  - Further facilitate appropriate border and customs co-operation, and promote activities to enhance customs procedures for preventing trafficking of illicit SALW;
  - Submit, through its Chairperson, progress reports to the Nineteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2012, on these tasks and on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition;
3. Encourages the participating States to continue providing extrabudgetary contributions to support FSC assistance projects on SALW and SCA, either to a specific project or by providing resources and technical expertise to the OSCE's comprehensive programme on SALW and SCA;
4. Tasks the Secretary General to continue efforts to enhance co-ordination and co-operation with other international and regional organizations in order to develop synergies, increase effectiveness and promote a coherent approach to the implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

**DECISION No. 7/11**  
**ISSUES RELEVANT TO THE FORUM FOR SECURITY**  
**CO-OPERATION**

(MC.DEC/7/11/Corr.1 of 7 December 2011)

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling Decision V of the CSCE Helsinki Document 1992, which established the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), and reaffirming that the participating States will ensure that the efforts they make in the Forum to advance arms control, disarmament, confidence- and security-building, security co-operation and conflict prevention are coherent, interrelated and complementary,

Recalling Bucharest Ministerial Council Decision No. 3 of 2001 on fostering the role of the OSCE as a forum for political dialogue, which, *inter alia*, enjoined the FSC to be more closely connected with the overall OSCE work on current security issues,

Desirous of further building upon the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, adopted in 2003 by the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council,

Recalling the Astana Commemorative Declaration (2010), which acknowledges the Organization's significant role in establishing effective confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), reaffirms the commitment of the participating States to their full implementation and determination to ensure that they continue to make a substantial contribution to common and indivisible security, and states that conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building regimes remain major instruments for ensuring military stability, predictability and transparency, and should be revitalized, updated and modernized,

Welcoming intensified negotiations to update and modernize the Vienna Document and the decision to reissue the Vienna Document, adopted at the special FSC meeting in 2011,

Taking note of Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/11 adopted in Vilnius in 2011 on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition,

Also determined to continue promoting and enhancing the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, including through an annual implementation discussion,

Welcoming the initiative to update the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation of 1994 and the OSCE contribution to facilitating the implementation in the OSCE area of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in close co-ordination with the United Nations' 1540 Committee to complement its efforts.



1. Welcomes and takes note, within the Forum for Security Co-operation:
  - The Vienna Document 2011, which has been issued under the “Vienna Document Plus” procedure, as well as ongoing negotiations on further adaptation of the Vienna Document;
  - The FSC decisions adopted in 2011 on the Vienna Document, on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, and on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition;
  - The progress report on Efforts in the Field of Arms Control Agreements and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in Accordance with its Mandate as submitted to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council pursuant to Decision No. 16/09 adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council;
  - The progress report on Efforts to Further Improve the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security as submitted to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council pursuant to Decision No. 16/09 adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council;
  - The progress report on the Efforts to Support Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) in the OSCE region as submitted to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council pursuant to Decision No. 16/09, adopted at the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council;
  - The focused discussions in the Security Dialogue in 2011 on topical security issues. Noting that these discussions and exchange of views were on armed conflict of August 2008; the Dayton Peace Accords; the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the private military and security companies; the defence system reform in Serbia; the human rights and crisis management; the Montenegro demilitarization project; the OSCE melange project in Ukraine; the OSCE-UNDP capacity-building project in Belarus; the Central Asian programme for regional co-operation on mine action; perspectives for a new European security system; the general status of the Ottawa Convention; the modified UN reporting instrument on military expenditures; promoting co-operative security by NATO; NATO’s role in security and stability in the Mediterranean area; and the security agenda of the Republic of Azerbaijan within the OSCE context;
  - The special FSC meetings on the Vienna Document 1999, CSBMs and conventional arms control, and on SALW brokering and export controls;
  - The joint FSC-PC meeting on non-proliferation and the joint FSC-PC meetings with the participation of the United States Department of Homeland Security and the United Nations Office at Geneva;
  - The OSCE High-Level Seminar on Military Doctrine conducted in 2011, which examined changes in military doctrine deriving from evolving threats, changing forms of conflict and the emergence of new technologies;

- The OSCE Workshop to Identify the Proper Role of the OSCE in Facilitation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540, which provided a comprehensive platform for exchanging views on the policy issues, implementation practices and need for further dialogue, co-operation and assistance;
- 2. Tasks the Forum for Security Co-operation, in accordance with its mandate, in 2012, to:
  - Further promote the discussion in the Security Dialogue on current security issues;
  - Give further impetus to negotiations on updating and modernizing the Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures with the aim of increasing military stability, transparency and predictability for all participating States;
  - Intensify the discussion on the annual information exchange on the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and examine its application in the context of existing political and military situation, in particular through a focused review during the first annual discussion on its implementation;
  - Explore ways to update the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation of 1994;
  - Support the ongoing activities in assisting in the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 by, *inter alia*, maintaining the information sharing on national progress and lessons learned in this regard;
  - Examine ways that it can assist in the implementation in the OSCE region of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and related resolutions on the issue of gender and security;
  - Submit, through its Chairperson, progress reports to the Nineteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in 2012 on its work. These reports should include efforts to improve further the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, efforts in the field of arms control agreements and confidence- and security-building measures, efforts to support non-proliferation and implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 in the OSCE region, and efforts in other areas, as appropriate.

**Attachment to MC.DEC/7/11/Corr.1**

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER  
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE  
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND  
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of Germany (also on behalf of Albania, the United States of America, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, the United Kingdom, Greece, Hungary,

Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, the Czech Republic and Ukraine):

“On behalf of Albania, the United States of America, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, Croatia, Denmark, Spain, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, the United Kingdom, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, Norway, the Netherlands, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Sweden, Czech Republic, and Ukraine, Germany would like to make the following interpretative statement under Paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure. The statement is made with respect to the Ministerial Council Decision on issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation, adopted by this 18th Ministerial Council of the OSCE.

We would, first of all, like to express our grateful thanks to the Lithuanian Chairmanship-in-Office, and the Kazakh FSC Chairmanship for their tireless efforts to bring the work of this Ministerial Council to a successful conclusion. We fully support the consensus that led to the adoption of this Decision, and the taskings that Ministers have endorsed in it. However, it is our view that the Decision falls short of what is necessary in terms of direction to the Forum for Security Co-operation.

In MC.DEC/16/09 the Forum was tasked with strengthening the Vienna Document. This decision led to a plethora of proposals being put forward by participating States to amend the text of the Vienna Document. A few decisions were taken – and these have been incorporated into Vienna Document 2011 adopted by the Forum on 30 November 2011. The technical and procedural nature of those proposals incorporated into VD2011, in contrast to the strategic update of the Vienna Document on Confidence and Security-Building Measures that we believed was required, is clearly less ambitious than we expected. We had hoped that at this Ministerial Council we would be able to find an agreement in the Forum to take a more strategic and forward-leaning attitude to the continuing work on Vienna Document.

We find ourselves in a position where even the subject of the documents under discussion in the Forum cannot be mentioned in today’s Decision. We believe that the FSC should aim for concrete results in areas such as lowering the thresholds at which we are obliged to inform other participating States of our military exercises, increasing opportunities for verification activity, expanding the range of military activities on which we notify our partners, modernising and updating our exchange of military information, informing our partners of at least one below threshold military exercise every year, strengthening our risk reduction mechanisms as well as exploring ways in which we can enlarge the scope of CSBMs. We should do this with full regard to resource restraints and with the further aim of improving our overall level of implementation.

We had hoped for strategic direction that could lead to successful work on Vienna Document, to bring it into line with the realities of the political and military situation that pertains in Europe and across the OSCE space. These hopes remain unfulfilled.

We would like to register our concern at a time when arms control and CSBMs in Europe are under strain as never before, that we are unable to look up from our national agendas to engage on work that would benefit us all. We believe that with resolute commitment and focus this aim can be achieved soon and significant work completed to

modernise the Vienna Document, so that it can make its proper contribution to peace and security for all participating States.

I ask for this interpretative statement to be duly registered by the Secretariat.

Other participating States are invited to adhere to this interpretative statement.”

**DECISION No. 8/11**  
**PROPER ROLE OF THE OSCE IN FACILITATION OF**  
**UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540**  
(MC.DEC/8/11 of 7 December 2011)

The Ministerial Council,

Convinced of the threat that non-State actors such as terrorists and other criminal groups may acquire, develop, traffic in or use nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery and related materials,

Recalling OSCE commitments, in particular Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/06 supporting national implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), the Ministerial Statement on Supporting the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy of 30 November 2007 and the Ministerial Declaration on Non-Proliferation of 2 December 2009,

Reaffirming the commitment of the OSCE participating States towards fulfilment of the obligations of United Nations Security Council resolutions UNSCR 1540 (2004), UNSCR 1673 (2006), UNSCR 1810 (2008) and UNSCR 1887 (2009),

Duly noting UNSCR 1977 (2011), which established a new ten-year mandate for the UN Security Council Committee established pursuant to resolution 1540 (2004) and encouraged the UNSC 1540 Committee to actively partner with regional and intergovernmental organizations to promote universal implementation of resolution 1540, while it recognized the importance of voluntary contributions to effectively resource the Committee's activities,

Welcomes the FSC Chairperson's progress report on efforts to support implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) in the OSCE region, with special acknowledgement of the OSCE Workshop to Identify the Proper Role of the OSCE in Facilitation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) of 27 and 28 January 2011, the Joint FSC-PC meeting on non-proliferation of 13 July 2011, and the Regional Workshop on the Implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) that was held in Astana, Kazakhstan, from 27 to 29 September 2011, organized in close co-operation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs to promote capacity-building on national and regional levels to advance full implementation of UNSCR 1540;

Tasks the relevant decision-making bodies within their mandates to continue to identify, and strengthen, when and as appropriate, specific forms of the OSCE's contribution to assist participating States, upon their requests, in the further implementation of UNSCR 1540, in close co-ordination with the UNSC 1540 Committee to complement its efforts.

**DECISION No. 9/11**  
**STRENGTHENING CO-ORDINATION AND COHERENCE IN THE**  
**OSCE'S EFFORTS TO ADDRESS TRANSNATIONAL THREATS**  
(MC.DEC/9/11 of 7 December 2011)

The Ministerial Council,

Bearing in mind the evolving transnational threats and challenges to security, which may originate within or outside the OSCE region, and which the OSCE must address on the basis of its inherent strengths, namely its broad membership and its multidimensional concept of common, comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security,

Reiterating the determination expressed by Heads of State or Government of the OSCE participating States in the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration: Towards a Security Community to achieve greater unity of purpose and action in facing emerging transnational threats, such as terrorism, organized crime, illegal migration, proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, cyberthreats and the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, drugs and human beings,

Mindful of Brussels Ministerial Council Decision No. 18/06 on further strengthening the effectiveness of OSCE executive structures and further stressing the need for close co-ordination among the Secretariat's thematic units, the institutions and the field operations, while taking into account the experience that has been acquired by the OSCE executive structures, and respecting their mandates,

Welcoming the progress that has been made in the implementation of Athens Ministerial Council Decision No. 2/09 on further OSCE efforts to address transnational threats and challenges to security and stability and taking into account the report by the OSCE Secretary General of June 2010 on the implementation of that decision,

Noting the attention given to strengthening common efforts to counter existing and emerging transnational threats and challenges and to utilizing the OSCE's expertise more effectively in the Corfu Process, the 2010 OSCE Review Conference and during the Astana Summit,

Cognizant of the need to better identify emerging threats and evolving interlinkages between various strands of transnational threats, to implement necessary and timely adjustments in the Organization's approach, as well as to develop effective forms of interaction with other international actors on the basis of the Platform for Co-operative Security adopted at the Istanbul Summit meeting in 1999,

Aiming at further strengthening co-ordination and coherence within the OSCE to address transnational threats, while at the same time in addition consolidating OSCE mandates in this area, with the aim of better translating political commitments into effective and sustainable programmatic action,

Cognizant of the fact that threats originating or evolving in adjacent regions may have an impact on the security and stability of the OSCE region and that, for that reason, there is a need to intensify co-operation also with the OSCE Mediterranean and Asian Partners for

Co-operation by identifying areas of common interest and concern and possibilities for further co-ordinated action,

1. Welcomes the proposals by the Secretary General included in the 2012 Unified Budget Proposal for the creation of a department to address transnational threats, consistent with the OSCE's mandates and within available resources, with a view to ensuring better co-ordination, strengthened coherence and more efficient use of the OSCE's resources in addressing transnational threats;
2. Tasks the Secretary General, in consultation with the Participating States, with further intensifying efforts to promote more operational co-operation and co-ordination on issues related to transnational threats with Partners for Co-operation, other international and regional organizations and with the involvement of civil society, *inter alia* by convening joint expert meetings, sharing information and best practices and co-ordinating programmes and plans of action, when appropriate;
3. Further tasks the Secretary General acting as a focal point for Organization-wide programmatic activities that relate to countering transnational threats, to ensure co-ordination and coherence of action across all three OSCE dimensions, among all OSCE executive structures, while respecting their mandates;
4. Calls on the Secretary General to report regularly to the OSCE participating States, assessing the programmatic effectiveness and progress achieved in the activities that relate to countering transnational threats;
5. Invites the Secretary General, based on the experience to be gained in the implementation of this decision and bearing in mind the relevant OSCE decisions, to further explore possible options for strengthening co-ordination and coherence of action in the OSCE's work relating to transnational threats and to submit them to the Permanent Council, if needed and within available resources.

**DECISION No. 10/11**  
**PROMOTING EQUAL OPPORTUNITY FOR WOMEN IN THE**  
**ECONOMIC SPHERE**

(MC.DEC/10/11 of 7 December 2011)

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitment of the participating States to implement fully Decision No. 14/04 on the OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, adopted at the Twelfth Meeting of the Ministerial Council, in Sofia, in 2004,

Taking into consideration the Secretary General's 2011 Annual Evaluation Report on the Implementation of the 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, and its recommendations,

Recalling Athens Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/09 on women's participation in political and public life,

Reaffirming the commitments contained in the Document of the Moscow Meeting of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the CSCE, the Concluding Document of the Bonn Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe (1990) and the OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, adopted by the Eleventh Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Maastricht in 2003, with regard to promoting the equal rights of men and women to equal opportunities and participation in the economic sphere,

Recognizing that women's participation in the economic sphere contributes significantly towards economic recovery, sustainable growth and the creation of cohesive societies, and thus is essential to the security and stability of the OSCE region,

Noting with concern the continued inequities faced by women in the OSCE region in terms of labour market participation, including job segregation; disparities in access to social protection as well as quality, full-time employment; and the slow progress being made in efforts to overcome the pay gaps for equal work, resulting in women's reduced lifetime earnings and pensions and increased female poverty,

Concerned about the continued under-representation of women in economic leadership and decision-making processes in the public and private sectors,

Concerned also about the persistence of constraints on women's effective participation in the economic sphere, in particular with regard to access to and control over such economic and financial resources as loans and property and inheritance rights,

Recognizing the need for improved and systematic collection of sex-disaggregated data and conducting of studies on equal opportunities in the economic sphere as a basis for planning policy and action,

Recalling the need for economic and social policies aimed at addressing the root causes of the trafficking in human beings, especially to eliminate discrimination against



women in employment and to address economic factors that increase the vulnerability of women to trafficking,

Recognizing the need to continue monitoring the implementation of existing commitments on eliminating discrimination against women and promoting equal opportunities for women in the economic sphere, with the aim of identifying and exchanging good practices and developing effective approaches, including within the Organization and its executive structures,

Taking into account the Report of the UN Secretary-General on the World Survey on the Role of Women in Development, focusing on women's control over economic resources and access to financial resources, including microfinance (A/64/93), and considering paragraphs 4 and 19 of the Outcome Document of the Review meeting of the UN Doha Declaration and Monterrey Consensus on Financing Development (A/CONF.212/L.1/Rev.1), which call on States to eliminate gender-based discrimination and promote women's economic empowerment to overcome the global economic crisis,

Recognizing that women may face additional barriers, beyond those based on gender, to their participation in the economic sphere,

Calls on the participating States to:

1. Collect and analyse data to identify and address obstacles preventing women from fulfilling their potential in the economic sphere and, as appropriate and in accordance with national legislation, to support non-governmental and research bodies in producing targeted studies, including on good practices;
2. Assess the allocation of budgetary resources for promoting gender equality in the economic sphere and take concrete measures that lead to women's equal opportunity for economic participation and equal access to social protection, and that support quality as well as full-time and/or self-employment;
3. Facilitate the development of women's entrepreneurial and other work-related skills, and, incorporate gender aspects, with particular attention to women, in migration policies, in order, *inter alia*, to prevent human trafficking and re-trafficking;
4. Initiate or strengthen policy and legal measures, including positive action measures as appropriate, that would facilitate and protect equal opportunity for participation of women in the labour market, including through the expansion of childcare and nursing facilities;
5. Identify concrete actions aimed at promoting equal opportunities for women in the economic sphere and, where appropriate, establish effective national mechanisms for monitoring progress in this field, such as on closing pay gaps;
6. Promote the sharing of domestic work, and parental and caregiver responsibilities, by expanding paternity leave; promoting non-discriminatory employment policies and practices and equal access to education and training; taking measures to facilitate combining employment with family responsibilities; and seeking to ensure that any structural adjustment policies and programmes do not have an adversely discriminatory effect on women;

7. Support the development of the necessary environment for successful policy formulation and implementation through targeted information and awareness-raising activities regarding the benefits of measures taken to promote the equal opportunity for participation of women in the economic sphere and to combat the social exclusion of women and discrimination against them;
8. Introduce measures and engage in dialogue with the private sector to provide equal opportunities for women's professional advancement and to close pay gaps;
9. Develop and strengthen measures, as feasible, that lead to increased diversification in employment sectors that are traditionally male or female-dominated;
10. Encourages the Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

**DECISION No. 11/11**  
**STRENGTHENING TRANSPORT DIALOGUE IN THE OSCE**  
(MC.DEC/11/11 of 7 December 2011)

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming the commitments related to transportation in the OSCE area, in particular those contained in the Helsinki Final Act (1975), the Document of the Bonn Conference on Economic Co-operation in Europe (1990), the Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension adopted by the Ministerial Council in Maastricht (2003), Ministerial Council Decisions No. 11/06 on future transport dialogue in the OSCE and No. 9/08 on follow-up to the Sixteenth Economic and Environmental Forum on maritime and inland waterways co-operation, and other relevant OSCE documents,

Noting the attention given to the transport issues during the Corfu Process and the preparation of the Astana Summit, which reconfirmed the importance of the OSCE's Economic and Environmental Dimension for the Organization's comprehensive approach to security,

Recognizing the vital importance of secure transportation networks and of sustainable transport development to the enhancement of regional economic co-operation and to stability in the OSCE area,

Drawing upon the summary conclusions and recommendations of the 14th, 16th, 18th and 19th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forums and acknowledging the valuable contribution that they have provided to the OSCE's work in the transport field,

Recognizing the importance of the activities listed in the annex that were conducted in follow-up to the above-mentioned Economic and Environmental Forums,

Noting that landlocked developing countries face unique challenges related to their lack of access to the open sea, their dependence on transit services and difficulties related to market access and acknowledging that addressing the needs of landlocked developing countries is an immediate concern and requires a long-term process,

Welcoming the ongoing co-operation between the OSCE and the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe (UNECE), and recognizing the importance of further strengthening targeted co-operation with other relevant international organizations and institutions,

Noting that progress has been made in the implementation of the aforementioned Ministerial Council decisions, while recognizing that additional efforts are needed to address existing challenges adequately,

1. Encourages the participating States to further develop co-operation and dialogue amongst themselves and with relevant international organizations on transport-related matters, notably by making the best use of the existing internationally recognized legal instruments they are party to, and standards and best practices available, with the aim of facilitating efficient, secure and sustainable transportation;

2. Calls upon the participating States to enhance, where appropriate, regional and interregional co-operation and the exchange of experiences and best practices to create and maintain sustainable, secure, integrated and uninterrupted transportation links amongst themselves, including in the maritime field;
3. Encourages the participating States to expand and enhance co-operation between landlocked, transit and non-landlocked countries, for the benefit of regional economic development including within the spirit of the United Nations Almaty Programme of Action;
4. Encourages the participating States to:
  - Intensify efforts aimed at facilitating secure transportation and trade, while preventing illicit trafficking in accordance with the relevant provisions of international law and agreements to which the OSCE participating States are parties;
  - Further strengthen public-private partnerships in the transport field;
  - Share best practices, particularly in the field of border-crossing facilitation and sustainable transport;
  - Develop more effective national policies for cleaner and more energy-efficient transportation;
  - Promote the establishment of multimodal transport and logistics systems, including further development of Euro-Asian transport links and corridors;
  - Identify and tackle inland transport security challenges across the OSCE area and improve the co-ordination and effectiveness of national and international efforts in addressing these challenges;
5. Tasks the OSCE Secretary General, the Office of the Co-ordinator of Economic and Environmental Activities and field missions, within their mandates, with assisting participating States upon their request in implementing the provisions of this decision;
6. Encourages the Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

**Annex to MC.DEC/11/11**

OSCE activities in the follow-up to the 14th, 16th, 18th, and 19th Economic and Environmental Forums:

- The International Conference on the Prospects for the Development of Trans-Asian and Eurasian Transit Transportation through Central Asia till the year 2015 held in Dushanbe, Tajikistan, in October 2007;

- The International Expert Conference on The Safety of Navigation and Environmental Security in a Transboundary Context in the Black Sea Basin, in Odesa, Ukraine, in July 2008;
- The practical support provided by the OSCE Secretariat to the continuation of the Euro-Asian transport links – Phase I-II, Trans-European Motorways (TEM) and Trans-European Railways (TER) projects Master Plan as a contribution to the implementation in the OSCE region of the UN Almaty Programme of Action: Addressing the Special Needs of Landlocked Developing Countries;
- The various national and regional training and capacity-building activities organized across the OSCE region with a view to improving the implementation of relevant international legal instruments such as the UNECE International Convention on Harmonization of Frontier Controls of Goods, the World Customs Organization (WCO) SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade and the WCO International Convention on the Simplification and Harmonization of Customs Procedures;
- The regional training seminars on prevention and detection of illegal transboundary waste transportation and its disposal;
- The joint OSCE-UNECE Handbook on Best Practices at Border Crossings: A Trade and Transport Facilitation Perspective, in order to contribute to further awareness-raising and capacity-building in the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation.

**DECISION No. 12/11**  
**APPLICATION OF MONGOLIA TO BECOME A**  
**PARTICIPATING STATE**  
(MC.DEC/12/11 of 7 December 2011)

The Ministerial Council,

Welcoming the letter of the Minister of Foreign Affairs and Trade of Mongolia (CIO.GAL/213/11 dated 28 October 2011), in which Mongolia applied to become a participating State and expressed acceptance of all OSCE commitments and responsibilities in their entirety,

Noting the views expressed to date on this matter, including at this Ministerial Council in Vilnius,

Tasks the incoming Chairmanship to take forward this request at the earliest opportunity.

**DECISION No. 13/11**  
**TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE**  
**OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**  
(MC.DEC/13/11 of 7 December 2011)

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that the Nineteenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be held in the city of Dublin on 6 and 7 December 2012.

**Attachment to MC.DEC/13/11**

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER**  
**PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE**  
**OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND**  
**CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you Mr. Chairman.

In connection with the Ministerial Council decision adopted regarding the time and place of the next Ministerial Council, we note that we are very pleased to join consensus on this decision.

We hope to be able to confirm the attendance of our Secretary of State at an appropriate time in 2012.

We would ask that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision adopted, and included in the journal of the Ministerial Council.”

**DECISION ON THE  
OSCE CONSECUTIVE CHAIRMANSHIPS IN 2014 AND 2015,  
SUBJECT TO A SILENCE PROCEDURE EXPIRING ON  
FRIDAY, 10 FEBRUARY 2012, AT 12 NOON CET**

(MC.DEC/ of 7 December 2011)

The Ministerial Council,

Taking note of the joint statement of the Ministers of Foreign Affairs of Switzerland and Serbia (CIO.GAL/241/11) and the principles of co-operation (MC.DEL/62/11),

Decides that Switzerland will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2014;

Decides that Serbia will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2015.



## **II. MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON COMBATING ALL FORMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**



**MINISTERIAL DECLARATION  
ON COMBATING ALL FORMS OF HUMAN TRAFFICKING**  
(MC.DOC/1/11/Corr.1 of 7 December 2011)

**I.**

1. We, the members of the Ministerial Council of the OSCE, declare our strong and unwavering determination to combat human trafficking in all its forms.
2. We declare that human trafficking is a grave and heinous crime that violates human dignity and undermines human rights and fundamental freedoms and that feeds organized criminal networks.
3. We remain fully committed to the Universal Declaration of Human Rights: “No one shall be held in slavery or servitude; slavery and the slave trade shall be prohibited in all their forms.”
4. We reiterate the support of the participating States for the ratification and full implementation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its supplementing Protocol to Prevent, Suppress and Punish Trafficking in Persons, especially Women and Children, as the international framework to combat trafficking in persons. Furthermore, we stress the importance of the adoption of the United Nations Global Plan of Action (GA 64/293) to Combat Trafficking in Persons that fosters enhanced co-operation and co-ordination among all relevant stakeholders and promotes comprehensive, co-ordinated and consistent responses at the national, regional, and international levels to counter trafficking in human beings, and welcome OSCE efforts towards its implementation.
5. We recognize the progress achieved to date by OSCE participating States individually and collectively to address this heinous crime. We recall our full adherence to the OSCE’s commitment to combating human trafficking and our strong resolve to implement that commitment through a multidimensional approach, as set forth in various OSCE documents, including Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/08 adopted in Helsinki in 2008, Ministerial Council Decision No. 8/07 adopted in Madrid in 2007, Ministerial Council Decision No. 14/06 adopted in Brussels in 2006, and Permanent Council Decision No. 557/Rev.1 on the OSCE Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings adopted in 2003.
6. We express grave concern that despite sustained measures taken at the international, regional, and national levels, trafficking remains a serious problem, the number of victims of human trafficking which have been identified and assisted remains relatively low and few traffickers have been brought to justice. We are deeply concerned that human trafficking for the removal of organs, for the purpose of sexual exploitation, as well as for the purpose of labour exploitation, including domestic servitude, remains a serious problem.
7. We acknowledge with appreciation the important role of the Special Representative and Co-ordinator for Combating Trafficking in Human Beings in assisting participating States, upon their request, in the implementation of the OSCE anti-trafficking commitments. We value the Special Representative’s close co-operation, in a co-ordinating role, with OSCE executive structures, in full respect with their mandates, including with the OCEEA; the Gender Section; the ODIHR including the Anti-Trafficking Programme unit and the Contact

Point for Roma and Sinti Issues; and with the Chairmanship-in-Office's Special Representative on Gender Issues, as well as, where appropriate, with the OSCE field operations. In the spirit of the Astana Commemorative Declaration, we appreciate the co-operation with parliamentarians of the participating States on combating human trafficking. In particular, we commend recent efforts by the OSCE to highlight trafficking for labour exploitation, including domestic servitude, as well as child trafficking and trafficking in persons for the removal of organs.

8. We promote and support multidisciplinary co-operation, cross-sectoral training and multilateral partnerships. We commend the initiatives taken by the OSCE Special Representative under the auspices of the Alliance against Trafficking in Persons and take note of the 2010 Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference on Unprotected Work, Invisible Exploitation: Trafficking for the Purpose of Domestic Servitude; as well as the 2011 Alliance against Trafficking in Persons Conference on Preventing Trafficking in Human Beings for Labour Exploitation: Decent Work and Social Justice; and Joint OSCE/UNODC Expert Seminar on Leveraging Anti-Money Laundering Regimes to Combat Human Trafficking.

## II.

9. We recognize the need to enhance the criminal justice responses to human trafficking, including the prosecution of traffickers and their accomplices, while ensuring that victims are treated in a manner that respects their human rights and that they are provided with access to justice, to legal assistance, and to effective remedies and other services as applicable. We will explore investigative techniques such as financial investigations, improve information sharing relating to organized crime groups, and promote cross-border law-enforcement and judicial collaboration to identify effectively both traffickers and potential victims of human trafficking.

10. We recognize that adequate measures should be taken to ensure that, where appropriate, identified victims of human trafficking are not penalized for their involvement in unlawful activities to the extent that they have been compelled to do so. We urge participating States to implement comprehensive and appropriate measures on assistance to victims of trafficking in persons.

11. We will renew efforts to identify and assist victims of human trafficking taking into account especially vulnerable populations. As applicable, we will promote awareness-raising campaigns aimed at persons at risk of being trafficked and addressing the social, economic, cultural, political, and other factors that contribute to the vulnerability of being trafficked. We will increase and support prevention efforts by focusing on the demand that fosters all forms of trafficking and the goods and services that result from trafficking in persons.

12. We acknowledge the important role of civil society organizations in providing assistance and empowerment to victims of trafficking in persons.

13. We acknowledge that child protection systems need to be strengthened in order effectively to help prevent, identify, and respond to child trafficking in all its forms to provide appropriate assistance and protection in the best interest of the child to child victims of trafficking or those at risk of being trafficked, including through appropriate services and

measures for the physical and psychological well-being as well as for their education, rehabilitation and reintegration.

14. We acknowledge that, in order to prevent trafficking in human beings for the purpose of labour exploitation effectively, labour rights must be respected. We recommend the development and application of measures to improve labour practices and promote the effective enforcement of internationally recognized labour rights, by means such as labour inspections, monitoring of private employment agencies, and the development of other programs to support workers in exercising their labour rights.

15. We encourage participating States to work with the business sector to apply principles of due diligence and transparency in assessing and addressing risks of exploitation throughout supply chains and ensuring that workers have access to mechanisms for the redress and remedy of abusive practices. We encourage the dissemination and implementation of the newly adopted United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Similarly, we encourage governments to consider incorporating similar standards, including “zero-tolerance” policies, in government procurement of goods and services.

### **III.**

16. We underscore that the OSCE provides a highly valuable platform for dialogue and enhanced co-operation among participating States for a comprehensive response to human trafficking in all its forms. With this in mind, we reaffirm our determination to implement OSCE commitments, including the Action Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, to use relevant structures of the OSCE to the full, and to strengthen the OSCE’s partnership with other international and regional organizations, as well as with civil society.



### **III. REPORTS BY THE CHAIRMANSHIP**





# **MEANINGFUL STEPS: REPORT TO THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON PROGRESS MADE DURING LITHUANIA'S CHAIRMANSHIP OF THE OSCE IN 2011**

(MC.GAL/13/11/Rev.1 of 22 December 2011)

## **Foreword**

In 2011, the main goal of Lithuania's Chairmanship of the OSCE was to help participating States work towards the realization of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok. This is a major task, which of course cannot be achieved in a single year. That is why Lithuania decided to concentrate on five main priorities:

- Register tangible progress in addressing protracted conflicts;
- Significantly improve our record of implementation of media freedom commitments;
- Enhance the OSCE profile with regard to transnational threats, including those emanating from the territory of Afghanistan;
- Define the OSCE's role in our energy security dialogue; and
- Promote tolerance education throughout the OSCE area in order to combat hate crimes and discrimination.

We have made significant efforts in each of these areas, and I believe that in the course of the year we reached tangible objectives in most of them. I am proud of the work that the Chairmanship team, the OSCE executive structures and the 2011 Chairmanships of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) have done in getting the Transdniestrian settlement process back on track, updating the 1999 Vienna Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, creating the Vilnius guidelines on the protection of journalists, enhancing the OSCE's capacity to combat transnational threats, the successful conclusion of the mandate of the OSCE Office in Zagreb, and strengthening co-operation with the Partners for Co-operation.

Nonetheless, much work remains to be done. Like any Chairmanship, Lithuania also had to respond to unforeseen events, and to the changing priorities of the OSCE community. In 2011, these included:

- The aftermath of the December 2010 presidential elections in Belarus;
- A political crisis in Albania;
- Outbreaks of violence in northern Kosovo; and
- The dramatic events of the "Arab Spring".

We also had to deal with disappointments in the work of the OSCE itself, like the closure of the OSCE Office in Minsk, the inability of participating States to agree on the

OSCE's return to Georgia, lack of progress in resolving the crisis in Nagorno-Karabakh, and back-sliding on the implementation of human dimension commitments in some OSCE countries.

On the whole, however, I believe – as this report demonstrates – that under Lithuania's Chairmanship, the OSCE was able to take meaningful steps that can enable progress across all three dimensions. The common vision of a security community remains the right one. In the coming years, it is up to all participating States of the OSCE to make that vision a reality.



Audronius Ažubalis  
OSCE Chairperson-in-Office

## **Introduction: The time has now come to act**

In December 2010, Heads of State or Government agreed on the Astana Commemorative Declaration, which set forth a vision of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, rooted in agreed principles, shared commitments and common goals. The challenge for the OSCE in 2011, under Lithuania's Chairmanship, has been to take meaningful steps towards the realization of this vision.

The Lithuanian Chairmanship was tasked in Astana to organize a follow-up process within existing formats, taking into consideration ideas and proposals put forward by the participating States, including in the framework of the Corfu Process and in the preparation of the Astana Summit. Lithuania structured its efforts through a comprehensive work programme (CIO.GAL/4/11/Rev.1) that took into consideration ideas and proposals that had been put forward by the participating States, particularly in the draft Astana Framework for Action. It was inspired by the sentiment expressed in the Astana Declaration that “the time has now come to act, and we must define concrete and tangible goals in addressing these challenges.” As a complement to official discussions within the OSCE structures, the Chairmanship has organized a series of informal ambassadorial-level “V-to-V (Vancouver to Vladivostok via Vilnius and Vienna) Dialogues.”

Recognizing that the realization of the security community would be a long-term process, the Lithuanian Chairmanship focused its efforts on five main priorities:

- Register tangible progress in addressing protracted conflicts;
- Significantly improve our record of implementation of media freedom commitments;

- Enhance the OSCE profile with regard to transnational threats, including those emanating from the territory of Afghanistan;
- Define the OSCE’s role in our energy security dialogue; and
- Promote tolerance education throughout the OSCE area in order to combat hate crimes and discrimination.

Of course, like any Chairmanship, Lithuania also had to be responsive to unforeseen events, and to the changing priorities of the OSCE community. In 2011, the OSCE had to respond, *inter alia*, to:

- The aftermath of the December 2010 presidential elections in Belarus, and the subsequent closure of the OSCE Office in Minsk;
- A political crisis in Albania;
- Outbreaks of violence in northern Kosovo; and
- The dramatic events of the “Arab Spring” and its impact of OSCE-Mediterranean dialogue and security of the OSCE area.

The OSCE and its participating States were also affected by an on-going global financial crisis, which had political and social, as well as economic consequences. The crisis has put the Organization under particular pressure to deliver the best value for the contributions provided by the participating States; it has diminished the ability of some participating States to support the Organization’s activities by providing seconded personnel and extrabudgetary contributions; it has consumed the time and attention of political leaders across the OSCE area; and it has underscored the importance of effective co-ordination of the OSCE’s activities with those of other international and regional organizations, in the interest of avoiding unnecessary duplication of effort.

This report reviews the concrete and tangible goals that were set out this year, and attempts to measure the progress that was made in reaching them. It should be seen as a complement to the 2011 Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship Work Programme. It is not meant to be an exhaustive chronicle of everything that took place in the OSCE framework in 2011. Rather, it is designed to highlight meaningful steps that have been taken towards the security community, with a view to taking this work forward under future OSCE Chairmanships.

## **Addressing protracted conflicts**

The persistence of protracted conflicts remains one of the greatest threats to security and co-operation within the OSCE area. Therefore, one of the highest priorities for Lithuania’s Chairmanship of the OSCE has been to enhance the Organization’s capabilities to address all phases of the conflict cycle, and to promote settlement of protracted conflicts.

During several workshops, seminars, V-to-V Dialogues, and discussions in the Security Committee and other negotiating fora, OSCE participating States exchanged many ideas on how the OSCE might strengthen its capacity in this core function. This resulted in a

Ministerial Council decision on Elements of the conflict cycle, related to enhancing the OSCE'S capabilities in early warning, early action, dialogue facilitation and mediation support, and post-conflict rehabilitation. This should enhance the Organization's ability to prevent and respond to conflicts and crises in the OSCE area – which is one of its core functions.

In Astana, OSCE Heads of State or Government agreed that “increased efforts should be made to resolve existing conflicts in the OSCE area in a peaceful and negotiated manner, within agreed formats, fully respecting the norms and principles of international law enshrined in the United Nations Charter, as well as the Helsinki Final Act.”

To that end, Lithuania pushed for the resumption of formal 5+2 talks in order to achieve progress in the Transdniestrian settlement process. From 8 to 10 February, the Chairperson-in-Office, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Ažubalis, visited Moldova and met with officials and civil society activists from both banks of Nistru river. Together with his Special Representative for Protracted Conflicts, Ambassador Giedrius Čekuolis, he also remained in regular contact with the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the EU and the United States of America. Informal meetings in the 5+2 format were held in Vienna on 14 and 15 February and 4 and 5 April, and in Moscow on 21 June. Furthermore, three informal meetings were held under the auspices of the OSCE between Prime Minister Filat of Moldova and Transdniestrian leader Smirnov. On 9 September, in Bad Reichenhall, Germany, a set of regulations governing the operations of the Expert Working Groups on Confidence-Building Measures was adopted. On 22 September in Moscow, participants in the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdniestrian Settlement agreed to resume their formal negotiations in the 5+2 framework (for the first time in nearly six years). The first meeting took place in Vilnius on 30 November and 1 December. Unfortunately, despite the tangible progress achieved throughout 2011 in the negotiation process, a separate Ministerial Statement on the resumption of the official 5+2 negotiations on the Transdniestrian settlement could not be adopted. However, the Chairmanship encourages the parties, and the mediators, to seize the opportunity that has been created by the formal resumption of the settlement process.

Like the Transdniestria conflict, the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict has gone on for too long. Throughout the year, the Chairmanship, the Co-Chairs and members of the Minsk Group, and other participating States urged the parties to continue, in a greater spirit of compromise, to negotiate a peaceful settlement based upon the principles of the Helsinki Final Act, including non-use or threat of force, territorial integrity, and the equal rights and self-determination of peoples. This culminated in agreement on a Joint Statement by the Heads of Delegations of the Minsk Group Co-Chair Countries and the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan on the margins of the Vilnius Ministerial Council on 6 December. In it, the five Heads of Delegations agreed on the need to continue the negotiating process in the format of the OSCE Minsk Group and to improve the climate for making progress towards a peaceful settlement. The Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan said that their presidents are ready to meet again jointly in the near future under the auspices of the Co-Chair countries to continue their direct dialogue, building upon recent experience, on how to bring peace, stability and prosperity to their peoples. This year, many deplorable incidents occurred along the line of contact. These incidents resulted in the loss of life, and contributed to increased tension in the region. The Chairmanship, alongside the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group, called on the parties to take additional, immediate actions to reinforce the ceasefire agreement by

agreeing on a mechanism to conduct investigations of incidents along the line of contact, and by removing snipers.

Concerning the existing conflict in Georgia, the Geneva International Discussions, which are now in their third year, serve as a valuable contribution to security and stability in the region. Throughout the year, the Chairmanship promoted dialogue in this format, and called upon all participants to redouble their efforts to address international security arrangement issues, in particular the necessity for commitment from all sides on non-use of force, as well as the humanitarian needs of affected communities via the follow-up process of the recommendations of the 2008 ODIHR/HCNM report. The Chairperson-in-Office also presented a proposal, updated this year, calling for the restoration of an OSCE presence based on a status neutral agreement. Thanks to an unprecedented number of regular meetings, substantial progress was made on the effective use of the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms (agreed within the Geneva Framework) in solving security issues on the ground. Whereas the implementation of the OSCE-led water projects reached the final stage and talks on the follow-up have already started. Throughout the year, the Chairmanship stressed that progress in the negotiation process can only be made if there is full engagement and political will from all conflict sides.

## **Responding to unforeseen events in the OSCE area**

The year started with the news that the Belarusian authorities had not agreed to extend the mandate of the OSCE Office in Minsk. The OSCE nevertheless continued its work in Belarus, for example through the activities of the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media and ODIHR's monitoring of trials of people arrested following the 19 December Presidential elections (report published on 10 November 2011). On 6 April, fourteen OSCE participating States invoked the 1991 Moscow Mechanism which led to a report and recommendations on the human rights situation in Belarus. Throughout the year, the Chairperson-in-Office has tried to maintain a dialogue with his Belarusian counterparts, presenting a package of possible OSCE activities, while often speaking out against violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms.

The Chairmanship was concerned about repeated flare-ups of violence in northern Kosovo, particularly in the latter part of the year. The Chairperson-in-Office frequently appealed for calm and co-operation, reinforcing the message during his visit to South Eastern Europe from 4 to 8 July. He also emphasized the urgency of regional co-operation in finding a humane solution for the refugees and internally displaced persons who were driven from their homes during the upheavals in the Balkans during the 1990s.

From 27 to 29 January, Lithuanian Deputy Foreign Minister Evaldas Ignatavičius, on behalf of the Chairperson-in-Office, visited Albania in order to prevent escalation of the confrontation between pro-government and opposition forces in Tirana. The Chairmanship also accompanied the OSCE Secretary General when he visited Albania in March to further counsel calm in the pre-election period.

Throughout the year, the Chairmanship actively promoted implementation of the Community Security Initiative (CSI) in Kyrgyzstan which is designed to restore confidence between the communities and in the law enforcement agencies as well as dealing with security challenges in the country after the violent inter-ethnic conflicts in 2010. The

Chairmanship continued to monitor the situation in the country together with representatives of the EU and UN.

## **Politico-military dimension**

As stated in the Astana Commemorative Declaration, “conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building regimes remain major instruments for ensuring military stability, predictability and transparency, and should be revitalized, updated and modernized.” Heads of State or Government assigned particular priority to the updating of the Vienna Document 1999.

In 2011 the FSC Chairmanship was held by Iceland, Italy and Kazakhstan. The three chairmanships constantly worked in close co-operation with each other and with the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office to ensure continuity, balance and efficiency in the implementation of the Forum’s annual work programme and implementation of the Astana Summit and Athens ministerial taskings.

The focus of the FSC work in 2011 continued to be on the core politico-military issues, such as arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), small arms and light weapons (SALW), stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (CoC) and the implementation of UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1540 (2004). Subsequently, three decisions – on issues relevant to the FSC, on SALW and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, and on the proper role of the OSCE in facilitation of UNSCR 1540 – were adopted by the ministers in Vilnius. Separate progress reports on further implementation of the commitments on those issues were forwarded to the Ministerial Council by the FSC Chairperson.

As tasked by the Astana Summit, the 1999 Vienna Document (VD) on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures was updated and reissued in November as Vienna Document 2011. It incorporates nine so-called “VD Plus” decisions that have been adopted by the FSC over the past two years.

The 2011 OSCE High-Level Seminar on Military Doctrine examined changes in military doctrine deriving from evolving threats, changing forms of conflict and the emergence of new technologies.

Four joint FSC-PC meetings were held in 2011 to address cross-dimensional issues relevant to the work of both the PC and FSC.

Finally, comprehensive discussions took place under the Security Dialogue. Pertinent presentations were given by high-level guests and experts on subjects related to current security issues.

## **Economic and environmental dimension**

OSCE Heads of State or Government agreed in Astana that “mutually beneficial co-operation aimed at addressing the impact on our region’s security of economic and environmental challenges must be further developed.” To that end, Lithuania’s Chairmanship

tried to push forward the OSCE's work in the second dimension in a number of areas, particularly energy security, transport, confidence-building measures, regional co-operation and equal opportunity for women in the economic sphere. The main topic of the 19th OSCE Economic and Environmental Forum, held in Prague on 14 September, was the development of sustainable energy and transport.

As noted in Astana, "our energy security dialogue, including on agreed principles of our co-operation, must be enhanced." The issue of energy security therefore gained considerable attention in 2011, for example in discussions in the Economic and Environmental Committee, the Economic Forum, and during an OSCE conference on "Integrating Global Energy Markets – Providing Energy Security" that took place in Ashgabat, Turkmenistan on 3 and 4 November. At the Ministerial Council, consensus could not be reached on fostering energy dialogue in the OSCE Area. Renewed efforts will be required in the coming year to address this important issue of concern in the OSCE area.

Transport security was also a Chairmanship priority. The need for a co-ordinated policy to ensure that transport grows sustainably, benefiting the environment as well as the economy, was highlighted at a meeting in Druskininkai, Lithuania, on 4 and 5 April. Participating States also adopted an Ministerial Council decision on strengthening transport dialogue in the OSCE.

At the Vilnius Ministerial Council, a decision was taken on promoting equal opportunity for women in the economic sphere. It notes with concern the continued inequities faced by women in the OSCE region in terms of labour-market participation, as well as the continued under-representation of women in economic leadership and decision-making processes in the public and private sectors. Since, as the decision recognizes, the equal participation of women in the economic sphere contributes significantly to economic recovery, sustainable growth and the creation of cohesive societies, participating States are called upon to promote equal opportunity for women in the economic sphere. The decision was built on the outcomes of the Conference on Women's Entrepreneurship held in Vilnius on 3 and 4 March.

On 30 May, the Chairmanship held a workshop on "Economic and Environmental Activities as Confidence-Building Measures." The event provided an opportunity for participating States to share information on best practices, successful experiences and accumulated know-how regarding the contribution of economic and environmental activities to the restoration of trust and the enhancement of confidence.

In 2011, progress was made on strengthening the effectiveness of the economic dimension of the OSCE, building on past initiatives including the 2009 Chairmanship's Report on the Future Orientation of the Economic and Environmental Dimension of the OSCE. For example, participating States held the first-ever Economic and Environmental Dimension Implementation Meeting (EEDIM). The meeting gave new impetus to the review of the implementation of OSCE commitments in the economic and environmental dimension. The Chairmanship strongly encouraged the participating States to organize similar meetings on an annual basis. Furthermore the annual cycle of work in the economic and environmental dimension was synchronized with the Chairmanship's year. A Permanent Council decision was taken on 7 December (in Vilnius) on strengthening the effectiveness of the economic and environmental dimension of the OSCE, which envisages, *inter alia*, a review of the 2003 OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension.

In 2011, participating States also discussed challenges posed by natural and man-made disasters and what role the OSCE can play as part of a co-ordinated response by the international community.

## **Human dimension**

Freedom of the media was a high priority for the Lithuanian Chairmanship. After all, as OSCE Heads of State or Government said in Astana, “We value the important role played by civil society and free media in helping us to ensure full respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy, including free and fair elections, and the rule of law.”

In visits to a number of OSCE States, Foreign Minister Ažubalis stressed the need for full implementation of OSCE commitments related to freedom of the media, and he championed the cause of journalists who had been harassed or arrested. A Conference on Safety of Journalists in the OSCE Region was held in Vilnius on 7 and 8 June. On the eve of the Vilnius Ministerial, the Chairperson-in-Office and the OSCE Representative on Freedom of the Media launched a manual of good practices that promote safety of journalists, building on the recommendations of the Vilnius Conference. It offers concrete guidelines to protect journalists and to ensure that those who use force or violence against journalists are brought to justice. Unfortunately, no consensus was reached on an Ministerial Council decision on enhancing safety of journalists, despite the fact that many journalists in the OSCE area continue to face violence, harassment and even death due simply to their exercising their professional responsibilities. This subject should remain high on the OSCE’s agenda, and we are pleased that the incoming Irish Chairmanship has expressed its intention to continue work in this area.

Pluralism in digital media was also discussed intensely throughout the year. Rapid technological changes in the so-called new media are creating new challenges in relation to ensuring pluralistic media and pluralism within the media. This is particularly the case in relation to the Internet and the switchover from analogue to digital broadcasting. Efforts were made to ensure that existing OSCE commitments related to freedom of media would be applied in the context of new media. While no consensus was reached on an Ministerial Council decision on pluralism in digital media, it is clearly a highly relevant topic and one that deserves further attention by participating States.

In Astana, our Heads of State or Government agreed that “greater efforts must be made to promote freedom of religion or belief and to combat intolerance and discrimination.” In 2011, the Lithuanian Chairmanship assigned high priority to promoting tolerance and non-discrimination, particularly through education and awareness-raising. Personal Representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office on Combating Anti-Semitism, on Combating Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims, and on Combating Racism, Xenophobia and Discrimination against Christians and Members of Other Religions carried out visits throughout the OSCE area. A high-level Conference on Combating Anti-Semitism in Public Discourse was held in Prague on 23 and 24 March, a round-table on combating intolerance and discrimination against Christians took place on 12 September in Rome, and a high-level meeting on Confronting Intolerance and Discrimination against Muslims in Public Discourse was held in Vienna on 28 October. Regrettably, there was no consensus on an Ministerial



Council decision on countering manifestations of intolerance and discrimination in public discourse while respecting fundamental freedoms.

A set of key recommendations on national human rights institutions (NHRI) was compiled based on the findings of the Supplementary Human Dimension Meeting held in April 2011 and a conference on NHRIs in the OSCE area was held in Vilnius on 13 and 14 July. Participating States, which have not already done so, should establish effective, independent and pluralistic national human rights institutions.

In 2011, in response to interests expressed by a number of participating States, there was a lively discussion on freedom of movement. While it was not possible to reach consensus on an Ministerial Council decision, the debate helped to clarify the position of participating States, and to encourage steps to promote this fundamental freedom.

Throughout the year, during visits to participating States and consultations in Vilnius, the Chairperson-in-Office met with civil society activists and human rights defenders. In order to promote dialogue among representatives of civil society from OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, the Chairmanship organized an OSCE-Mediterranean Partner Countries' Civil Society Conference in Vilnius on 4 and 5 December. Furthermore, on the eve of the Ministerial, a parallel conference took place in Vilnius at which representatives of civil society met to review the human rights situation in the OSCE area. Representatives of civil society presented recommendations to the Chairperson-in-Office as input to the Ministerial Council.

During the course of the year, the Chairmanship explored possibilities for modernizing human dimension events. Reform of human dimension events was included in the work programme of the Human Dimension Committee. The Chairperson of that committee commissioned an independent think-tank to further study the issue in order to identify and recommend options on how to make the human dimension events more attractive, effective, and focused.

## **Addressing transnational threats**

In Astana, OSCE Heads of State or Government agreed that “in today’s complex and interconnected world, we must achieve greater unity of purpose and action in facing emerging transnational threats.” In 2011, several steps were taken to strengthen the capacity of the OSCE and its participating States to translate these words into actions.

The Astana Commemorative Declaration identified cyber threats as a growing menace to security. This issue was explored in depth in the OSCE this year, most notably during the OSCE Conference on a Comprehensive Approach to Cyber Security: Exploring the Future OSCE Role in Vienna on 9 and 10 May. The Conference made a number of concrete recommendations for OSCE follow-up activities and reiterated that the OSCE offers a unique platform to discuss threats to cybersecurity due to its comprehensive approach to security and broad membership. Subsequent discussions brought about broad support to the Chairmanship’s suggestion to establish an informal OSCE working group to elaborate a set of future CBMs for the cyberspace in 2012.

Addressing the border issues, the Chairperson-in-Office organized a seminar on “Applied Issues in International Land Boundary Delimitation/Demarcation Practices” from 31 May to 1 June 2011 in Vilnius, where significant interactions between representatives of neighbouring countries took place. This was the first dialogue triggered by the OSCE on this crucial topic. The OSCE’s 2011 Annual Security Review Conference under the overall theme “Toward a Security Community: What Has to Be Done” provided an excellent opportunity for the OSCE to “compare notes” with other security organizations on their perception of existing challenges to our common security, as well as on future trends. As underscored by the Conference’s special guest NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen, the need for a comprehensive approach to security threats in Europe as well as in North Africa and the Middle East remains indispensable, he also made concrete suggestions on practical co-operation between the OSCE and NATO.

Drugs pose a threat to health and security in the OSCE area. To address this issue, the Chairmanship organized an event on “Combating Drug Trafficking and Enhancing Border Security and Management in the OSCE Area” on 16 and 17 June in Vienna.

In 2011 participating States have been actively engaged in five concrete areas of work with the aim of consolidating OSCE mandates relating to police activities, countering terrorism, fighting illicit trafficking of drugs, enhancing cyber security and strengthening co-ordination and coherence of the OSCE actions in the sphere of fighting transnational threats.

As a result, a complementary package of mutually reinforcing decisions on transnational threats was brought before the Ministerial Council. Unfortunately, it was not possible to reach consensus on some elements of that package at the Ministerial. Nevertheless, a decision was adopted on strengthening co-ordination and coherence in the OSCE’s efforts to address transnational threats, which refers, *inter alia*, to the Secretary General’s proposal to create a new department in the Secretariat to address transnational threats. The Chairmanship believes that the Secretary General’s well-crafted proposal, which builds upon ideas debated by the participating States since 2009, constitutes a meaningful step toward strengthening OSCE efforts in addressing transnational threats. At the same time, the Chairmanship is convinced that the remaining four draft decisions – first of all on Police Strategic Framework and on Cybersecurity – can be adopted early next year.

## **Other cross-dimensional issues**

2011 marked the 60th anniversary of the 1951 Convention Relating to Status of Refugees and the 50th Anniversary of the 1961 Convention on Reduction of Statelessness. Since there are still a high number of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the OSCE area, a special thematic event on the issue was held in Vienna on 27 May. Furthermore a Central Asia Conference on Refugee Protection and International Migration was held in Almaty, Kazakhstan on 15 and 16 March. This year special attention was devoted to the issue of refugees, IDPs and statelessness in South Eastern Europe. On 26 and 27 October the OSCE High Commissioner on National Minorities, together with UNHCR, organized a conference in Zagreb on the Provision of Civil Documentation and Registration in South Eastern Europe. Furthermore, progress was noted in relation to the efforts of Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro and Serbia to achieving just, comprehensive and durable solutions for refugees and IDPs as agreed, *inter alia*, in the Joint Ministerial Declaration in

Belgrade on 7 November 2011. Other regions of the OSCE area are encouraged to learn from the experience of South Eastern Europe.

The OSCE has long played an active role in combating human trafficking. In order to recognize what has been achieved, and to further intensify the fight against this modern form of slavery, participating States adopted a Ministerial Declaration on Combating All Forms of Human Trafficking. It calls, *inter alia*, for greater protection of victims of human trafficking, the strengthening of child protection systems, and further prevention of labour exploitation.

## **Partners for Co-operation: The inextricable link with neighbouring regions**

At the Astana Summit, OSCE Heads of State or Government declared that: “We recognize that the security of the OSCE area is inextricably linked to that of adjacent areas, notably in the Mediterranean and in Asia. We must therefore enhance the level of our interaction with our Partners for Co-operation.”

In 2011, the attention of the OSCE community was very much focused on developments in the southern Mediterranean. Uprisings in the region created both new opportunities and challenges to the people of the affected countries as well as for the OSCE.

In response to the recent and still on-going changes in the southern Mediterranean, participating States held a number of discussions and expressed the OSCE’s readiness and willingness to support democratic transition processes in the region, drawing upon the Organization’s experience in assisting democratic transitions in its own participating States. The OSCE shared information on areas in which the Organization might offer support with the governments of Egypt and Tunisia. Several Mediterranean Partner for Co-operation have expressed interest in relevant OSCE experience and expertise. To explore further possible areas of co-operation, the Chairperson-in-Office visited Tunisia from 15 to 17 April, ODIHR Director Janez Lenarčič visited Morocco from 24 to 27 May 2011, while Lithuanian Deputy Foreign Minister Asta Skaisgirytė-Liauškienė and a team of ODIHR experts visited Egypt from 31 May to 3 June. The Secretary General visited Cairo in September for meetings with Egyptian officials and the Secretary General of the League of Arab States. Members of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly monitored the elections to the Constituent Assembly in Tunisia in October. The Chairperson-in-Office supported the efforts of the United Nations Secretary General to promote international co-operation in response to the uprisings in the Arab world. The OSCE-Mediterranean dialogue, under the Irish Chairmanship of the Mediterranean Contact Group, intensified, as manifested by the increased level of interest and range of topics at the OSCE Mediterranean Conference that took place in Budva, Montenegro on 10 and 11 October.

At the Vilnius Ministerial Council, a decision was taken on Partners for Co-operation. It called for a broadening of the existing dialogue and co-operation with Partners for Co-operation across the three dimensions of the OSCE’s work. It also reconfirmed the openness of participating States to consider future applications for partnership from interested countries.

Afghanistan was also high on the international agenda in 2011. The Chairperson-in-Office visited Afghanistan in May. OSCE representatives taking part in high-level meetings including the Regional Conference on Afghanistan in Istanbul on

2 November, and the International Afghanistan Conference in Bonn on 5 December, underscored the Organization's readiness to contribute to international efforts to promote co-operation between Afghanistan and its neighbours in the OSCE region.

At the Astana Summit, Heads of State or Government stressed the need "to contribute effectively, based on the capacity and national interest of each participating State, to collective international efforts to promote a stable, independent, prosperous and democratic Afghanistan." This call was reinforced in an Ministerial Council decision taken in Vilnius on strengthening OSCE engagement with Afghanistan. Among other things, the decision tasks the Secretary General with developing a new comprehensive package of activities with Afghanistan across all three dimensions.

On 28 October, Mongolia – an OSCE Partner for Co-operation – expressed its interest in becoming an OSCE participating State. This initiative was well-received, and discussed at a high-level informal lunch at the Vilnius Ministerial Council. In an Ministerial Council decision, Mongolia's application was welcomed and the incoming Chairmanship was tasked to follow-up the request with a view to adopting a decision on Mongolia becoming the OSCE's 57th participating State. Mongolia also hosted the annual conference of OSCE Asian Partners for Co-operation in Ulaanbaatar from 23 to 25 May.

## **Effectiveness and efficiency of the Organization**

In its work programme, the Chairmanship pledged to "make best use of the Organization's comparative advantages and strengths, especially as the current global financial situation demands us to do more with less". The Chairmanship has worked closely throughout the year with the current and former Secretaries General, the heads of institutions and the heads of missions to ensure maximum efficiency.

In 2011, the Chairmanship took steps to strengthen the legal framework of the OSCE. Several meetings of the Informal Working Group on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE were held, and a non-paper was issued on "Principles for a discussion on a Constituent Document for the OSCE".

Throughout the year, the Chairmanship helped explore further ways of involving the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly (PA) into all dimensions of the Organization's work, while the Secretary General has explored possibilities for strengthening co-operation between the PA and the OSCE executive structures. The Chairmanship, the Secretary General and other representatives of the executive structures were invited to, and took part in, meetings of the OSCE PA.

A major challenge for the Lithuanian Chairmanship was to seek consensus on the appointment of a new Secretary General for the OSCE after Kazakhstan announced the vacancy for the post on 14 December 2010. The Chairmanship conducted the process in the spirit of fairness and transparency, and in close consultation with all participating States. On 30 June, the Ministerial Council adopted a decision on the appointment of Ambassador Lamberto Zannier of Italy as Secretary General of the OSCE, effective 1 July. Ambassador Zannier succeeds Marc Perrin de Brichambaut of France, who had served as Secretary General since June 2005.

The Chairmanship also successfully steered the process of the re-appointment of the Director of the ODIHR, Janez Lenarčič of Slovenia.

## **Future chairmanships**

Throughout 2011, Lithuania worked closely with its Troika colleagues, Kazakhstan and Ireland, in order to ensure continuity in the leadership of the Organization. At the Vilnius Ministerial Council, a decision was taken that the next Ministerial Council will take place in the city of Dublin on 6 and 7 December 2012.

The Ministerial Council in Vilnius put on silence procedure a decision on the Chairmanships of Switzerland and Serbia in 2014 and 2015, respectively.

## **Conclusion: Progressing towards the security community**

In his opening address to the Permanent Council on 13 January 2011, the Chairperson-in-Office, Foreign Minister Ažubalis, said that “by the time we meet in Vilnius for the OSCE Ministerial on 6 and 7 December, I believe we shall:

- Register tangible progress in addressing protracted conflicts;
- Significantly improve our record of implementation of media freedom commitments;
- Enhance the OSCE profile with regard to transnational threats, including those emanating from the territory of Afghanistan;
- Define the OSCE’s role in our energy security dialogue; and
- Promote tolerance education throughout the OSCE area in order to combat hate crimes and discrimination.”

Most of these objectives have been met.

From a broader strategic perspective, the objective and responsibility of Lithuania’s Chairmanship of the OSCE in 2011 was to help participating States move closer to realizing their common vision of a free, democratic, common and indivisible Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, rooted in agreed principles, shared commitments and common goals. This is a major task, and it will take time. Nonetheless, as demonstrated by this report, we believe that progress has been made. We urge participating States, under future Chairmanships starting with Ireland in 2012, to build on these meaningful steps. In this effort, they can count on Lithuania’s full support.

# **REPORT TO THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON THE STRENGTHENING OF THE LEGAL FRAMEWORK OF THE OSCE IN 2011**

(MC.GAL/11/11/Corr.1 of 7 December 2011)

## **Introduction**

The legal framework of the OSCE has remained on the agenda of the CSCE/OSCE since the decision taken in 1993 at the Rome meeting of the Ministerial Council. Since then, discussions have taken place with a view to providing the CSCE/OSCE with a clear international legal status. In 2007, a breakthrough draft convention on international legal personality, legal capacity and privileges and immunities (draft convention) was finalized, albeit with three footnotes added at the request of two participating States that linked the adoption of the draft convention to the simultaneous adoption of a charter for the OSCE.

The text of the draft convention was attached to the final statement of the Spanish Chairman-in-Office at the Ministerial Council meeting in Madrid in November 2007.

Adoption of the draft convention has not been possible to date due to a lack of consensus. However, the text of the draft convention continues to enjoy broad support among participating States, with a common understanding that its negotiation should not be reopened.

Since the finalization of the text of the draft convention, discussions among participating States to resolve the issue of the lack of legal status of the OSCE (and at the same time the lack of a uniform set of privileges and immunities) have so far not resulted in any conclusion on the way forward. The discussions have focused on possible means of providing the OSCE with the legal status necessary to fulfil its mandates effectively and efficiently and gain universal recognition of its legal personality. In this context, three different positions have crystallized among participating States.

- A majority of the participating States consider that the adoption of the 2007 draft convention would be sufficient for addressing the problems and challenges the OSCE faces, in particular in its field operations, due to the lack of clarity in its legal status, and they have called for its early adoption; many of these participating States are, however, ready to begin a discussion on a constituent document or charter for the OSCE, as long as the political character of the OSCE principles and commitments is maintained and its present autonomy and flexibility are not restricted.
- A number of participating States consider that the OSCE, in addition to adopting the convention (the draft text of which they agree to), should also adopt a charter or constituent document. They argue that, in accordance with their internal legislative and constitutional procedures, privileges and immunities cannot be granted to an international organization without the adoption of a charter or constituent document. These participating States were also the authors or supporters of the text of a draft charter for the OSCE distributed in September 2007.
- One participating State is not persuaded of the need for a constituent document or charter and is not ready to enter into discussion of such a document at this time. It supports the adoption of the convention and has called for the immediate removal of

the three footnotes that make the adoption of the draft convention dependent on the simultaneous adoption of a charter or constituent document.

## **Meetings of the Informal Working Group**

On the basis of Decision No. 4/08, adopted by the meeting of the Ministerial Council in Helsinki, in 2010, the Kazakh Chairmanship established an Informal Working Group on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE (IWG), chaired by the Personal Representative of the Kazakh Chairmanship on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE, Ambassador Ida Van Veldhuizen. Four meetings of the IWG were held in Vienna in 2010. The meetings of the IWG in 2010 were convened in order to consider whether a consensus could be achieved among the participating States to begin technical work on a constituent document for the Organization. In the event, a number of States expressed concerns about the content of a constituent document, and some participating States indicated that they were yet to be convinced of the need for such a document.

In paragraph 12 of the Astana Commemorative Declaration of 3 December 2010 (SUM.DOC/1/10/Corr.1), the Heads of State or Government tasked the incoming Lithuanian Chairmanship with organizing “a follow-up process within existing formats, taking into consideration ideas and proposals put forward by the participating States, including in the framework of the Corfu Process and in the preparation of the Astana Summit”. It further pledged to do everything possible to assist the incoming Chairmanships-in-Office in developing a concrete action plan based on the work done, the progress of which was to be reported to the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Vilnius.

Following up on this tasking, the Lithuanian Chairmanship decided to organize a meeting of the Informal Working Group on Strengthening the Legal Framework of the OSCE on 13 May 2011 and re-circulated, as a basis for discussions, the non-paper on a draft constituent document that had been issued by the Kazakh Chairmanship in 2010. This non-paper sketched out elements for a constituent document that would codify already existing OSCE principles, structures and rules, provisions such as are often found in the constituent documents of many other international organizations. Moreover, the draft constituent document circulated was deliberately of a procedural nature, without any reference to issues of substance, thus preserving the political character of the Organization. Both the Co-Chairpersons of the IWG, Ambassador Helmut Tichy, Legal Adviser of the Austrian Ministry of European and International Affairs, and the Adviser on the OSCE Legal Framework, Ambassador Ida Van Veldhuizen, introduced the topic and gave an historical overview of the issue. The Senior Legal Adviser of the OSCE explained the practical, frequently negative, implications of the lack of an OSCE legal status on the day-to-day work of the Organization’s executive structures.

During the discussions, however, it was evident that not all the participating States were prepared to embark on a substantive discussion on a draft constituent document without first defining a basic understanding for such a discussion. As a result, the Lithuanian Chairmanship, together with the legal experts, developed a second non-paper, entitled “Principles for a discussion on a constituent document for the OSCE”, which was circulated in September (CIO.GAL/169/11), a copy of which is annexed to this report. This document was intended to pave the way for a possible decision by the Ministerial Council meeting in Vilnius to establish a technical working group to consider the feasibility of a constituent document for the OSCE in accordance with the commonly agreed principles. Specifically, the

non-paper outlined the basic understanding of the discussions, the objectives of a drafting exercise, the principles that should guide a drafting exercise, and the basic structural elements of a constituent document.

A second meeting of the Informal Working Group was convened in Vienna on 23 September 2011 in order to ascertain reactions to the new non-paper and to consider whether it could serve as a basis for moving forward with a discussion on the drafting of a constituent document. Statements were made by 17 participating States and the Parliamentary Assembly. In his introductory remarks, the Chairperson of the Permanent Council noted that there was a willingness on the part of the majority of the participating States to begin a discussion on a constituent document. The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly supported the idea that the draft convention should be adopted as soon as possible in order to resolve the practical difficulties that the OSCE was facing. Nevertheless, he did not see any harm in discussing a constituent document for the OSCE in the future.

Overall, the response to the draft principles contained in the document was very positive. Several participating States indicated their willingness to enter into a discussion of a constituent document on the basis of the Chairmanship's non-paper, while again reaffirming their view that adoption of the draft convention would suffice to give the OSCE a legal personality. A number of other participating States which welcomed the document considered that the composition of the proposed technical working group was too limited and should be expanded to include political as well as legal experts. The desirability of a Ministerial Council decision mandating the upcoming Chairmanship to initiate discussion of a constituent document was mentioned by several participating States. However, several other participating States expressed the view that there was no need for a new decision by the Ministerial Council in order for discussion of the issue to continue. One participating State, which welcomed the non-paper as a basis for discussion, noted that it had, with a number of other participating States, submitted its own draft for an OSCE charter in 2007 and that its acceptance of the non-paper as a basis for discussion represented a step towards compromise which it hoped would be reciprocated.

However, one participating State stated that it was not yet persuaded of the need for a constituent document. That participating State expressed the concern that discussion on a constituent document would be a protracted process and would not address the immediate practical issues the Organization was facing (in particular the lack of privileges and immunities, such as tax exemptions for OSCE field operations). It strongly advocated delinking the adoption of the draft convention on legal personality, legal capacity and privileges and immunities from the issue of devising a draft constituent document for the Organization. It also questioned the correctness of the three objectives set out in the non-paper, which argued that the OSCE already had a legal framework, that the lack of a charter had not prevented the OSCE from evolving over the years, and that the removal of obstacles for some States to the adoption of a convention was not an adequate reason to begin discussions of a constituent document.

Nevertheless, that participating State also indicated that it was not in a position to say that there should not be a charter or constituent document, but called upon other participating States to rather identify how the practical problems could be resolved in the immediate future, until the development of a constituent document was feasible.



## **Conclusion**

At this time, the dialogue between the participating States is continuing. The obstacles preventing the adoption of a convention and/or a constituent document are as much or more political than they are technical. After all these years, however, there is still no easy, straightforward solution. Nonetheless, the continuing interest of the participating States to contribute to the discussions, and the efforts of Chairmanships, as well as the continuous practical input from legal experts, demonstrate that endowing the OSCE with a separate legal status should remain a priority for the participating States. This even more the case, as otherwise the OSCE could face serious risks, not only in its operational efficiency and effectiveness, but also in the area of security for its personnel. To avoid these problems, it should be endowed with legal personality as soon as possible.

**Annex to MC.GAL/11/11/Corr.1**

## **PRINCIPLES FOR A DISCUSSION ON A CONSTITUENT DOCUMENT (CD) FOR THE OSCE**

### **Introduction**

The purpose of this paper is to set out the basic framework on the basis of which a CD could be elaborated by the participating States.

It would be useful for the OSCE to have a CD to position the organisation as an equal and reliable partner in the international community, capable of fully exercising its rights and assuming its responsibilities, and to provide legal personality for the OSCE.

### **Basic understanding on the discussions**

- The holding of any negotiation or deliberation on a CD is not to be used in other OSCE negotiations or deliberations nor in other fora, multilaterally or bilaterally; and
- Not be used to question or cast doubt on any OSCE commitments made;
- Nothing is agreed until everything is agreed;
- Discussions should be conducted by a technical working group consisting of legal experts. The results should be brought to the attention of the Informal Working Group and, if necessary, to the Permanent Council with a view to reaching consensus.

### **Objectives of a drafting exercise**

- To provide a legal framework for the OSCE without changing the political nature of its principles and commitments;

- To allow for a continuous development of the OSCE, its decision making process and its executive structures;
- To remove the obstacles for some participating States to adopt the Draft Convention on Legal Personality, Legal Capacity and Privileges and Immunities of the OSCE, allowing the removal of the footnotes to the Draft Convention while keeping its text untouched.

### **Principles guiding a drafting exercise**

- To maintain the political character of the OSCE principles and commitments;
- To reaffirm the commitment to the consensus principle in all its existing forms;
- To codify the existing practice of the running of the OSCE's day-to-day business;
- To preserve the functioning of the executive structures in accordance with their mandates;
- To strengthen the flexibility and adaptability of the OSCE to respond to any situation that may arise in the future.

### **Basic structural elements of a CD**

- Preamble
- General provisions [definitions; legal personality and capacity, seat]
- Principles/objectives [consensus, political nature of the OSCE]
- Participation [membership such as participating States, Partners for Co-operation, observers, third parties]
- Decision-making bodies/subsidiary bodies [Ministerial Council, Permanent Council, Forum for Security Co-operation etc.]
- Executive structures/bodies [Chairperson-in-Office, PR, and SR, Troika, Secretary General, institutions, FO, autonomous bodies, PA]
- Common provisions [official languages, privileges and immunities]
- Financial/budgetary issues [UB, XB, Financial Regulations]
- Final provisions [entry into force, amendments, etc.]

## REPORT TO THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON THE MODERNIZATION OF HUMAN DIMENSION EVENTS

(MC.GAL/12/11 of 7 December 2011)

### Background

In a statement following the adoption on 29 July 2011 by the Permanent Council of the decision on the agenda of the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting in 2011, the Chairperson of the Permanent Council, taking “note of the increased interest and will, as well as concrete proposals, of the participating States, as expressed in the course of preparations of the PC DEC on the HDIM 2011 agenda, to improve the organization and modalities of the Human Dimension meetings, so that these become more focused, more attractive and more effective”, reconfirmed that the Lithuanian Chairmanship “as follow up to the Astana Commemorative Declaration of 2010, which *inter alia* tasks the OSCE participating States to ‘further work towards strengthening the OSCE’s effectiveness and efficiency’”, intended “to start and facilitate a comprehensive and result-oriented discussion on the subject in appropriate OSCE formats, as stipulated in the PC.DEC/476 of 23 May 2002”<sup>1</sup>.

Proposals regarding reform “optimization” “increasing effectiveness” or “modernization” of the OSCE human dimension events have been raised on many occasions over the years by various participating States. The modalities for the implementation by OSCE participating States of human dimension commitments were originally set out in Chapter VI of the Helsinki Document of 1992. These modalities provided, *inter alia*, for a three-week implementation meeting and additional seminars on specific topics.

In the light of the subsequent experience, the ministers decided at the Bucharest Ministerial Council meeting in December 2001 to task the Permanent Council with reviewing the modalities of human dimension meetings with a view to enhancing their effectiveness. The outcome of this review was Permanent Council Decision No. 476 of 23 May 2002, which established the currently existing modalities for the human dimension meetings. The essential elements of this decision were the reduction of the length of the annual Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) from three to two weeks and the holding each year of three informal Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings, each lasting one and a half working days. This decision set out the arrangements for the participation by NGOs in human dimension meetings and the various procedural elements by means of which the dates, agenda and topics of the annual HDIM are agreed by the participating States in the Permanent Council. It also provided for the possibility for the Permanent Council, in the light of experience with the new arrangements, to make further adjustments with a view to strengthening the effectiveness and attraction of human dimension events.

A further development took place in 2006, when a Human Dimension Committee was one of three committees established by the Brussels meeting of the Ministerial Council as informal subsidiary bodies of the Permanent Council. This was one of the recommendations included in the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons of 2005. That report also recommended that, in the event of a Human Dimension Committee being established, the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting “could be reduced to five days”. This

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1 CIO.GAL/157/11

recommendation did not, however, achieve consensus among the participating States. (It should be noted that the report of the Panel of Eminent Persons is not a consensus document).

In the course of the last three years, issues relating to the human dimension events were raised by various groups of participating States in the context of the Corfu Process, which preceded the Astana Summit meeting. These included many proposals for improving the effectiveness of the human dimension events which were often contradictory and indicated a considerable divergence in the views of the participating States on such issues as improving the monitoring of commitments, participation in the human dimension events of NGOs, duration of the HDIM, the level of participation by participating States in human dimension events, topics for inclusion on the agendas of human dimension events, and lack of follow-up to recommendations of the HDIM and other human dimension events. Despite frequent discussion of these topics prior to the Astana Summit meeting, no consensus was reached on changes.

## **Current situation**

The Astana Summit meeting tasked the incoming OSCE Chairmanships with organizing a follow-up process within existing formats, taking into consideration ideas and proposals put forward by the participating States, including in the framework of the Corfu Process and in the preparation of the Astana Summit meeting. It was on the basis of this tasking that the Lithuanian Chairmanship decided, in consultation with the Chairperson of the Human Dimension Committee, to include the topic “reform of human dimension events” in the work programme of the Human Dimension Committee for 2011. In the light of the difficulties that arose over the adoption of the agenda for the 2011 HDIM, the Chairmanship reaffirmed that intention in its statement following adoption of the decision which is referred to at the beginning of this report. The first discussion of this topic was scheduled for the meeting of the Human Dimension Committee on 11 October 2011.

In preparation for the discussion on this topic in the Human Dimension Committee, the Chairperson of that Committee commissioned a report by an independent think tank with a view to contributing to a constructive debate on human dimension events. The report was to assess the current situation, its strengths and weaknesses, and collect the different views and positions, with a view to building common ground for a joint reflection within the Human Dimension Committee and beyond. It was also envisaged that the outcome of the study would identify and recommend options for making the human dimension events more attractive, effective, and focused. A Swiss think tank – Ximpulse – was selected to prepare the report, which was to be submitted in two phases. The first-phase paper, entitled “The OSCE Human Dimension Events: The Way Forward” provided a mapping of the status quo, a collection of various ideas on the future of human dimension events and an outline for an in-depth second-phase study. It was introduced by its authors at the meeting of the Human Dimension Committee on 11 October.

Even if the focus of the study was on the human dimension events (particularly Human Dimension Implementation Meetings, Supplementary Human Dimension Meetings and Human Dimension Seminars), Ximpulse stressed that the overall OSCE context could not be ignored because it influenced perception of the human dimension and of human dimension events. In order to provide a framework for the discussion on the reform of human dimension events, Ximpulse recommended looking at their overall goals and objectives in

order to decide what to preserve and build on and what to adapt. It suggested that the reflections should be conducted at three levels, looking at: (1) the goals and objectives of human dimension events in general; (2) the role and sequencing of the various types of human dimension events; and (3) the design of individual events.

The subsequent discussion in the Human Dimension Committee once again confirmed the wide variety of views of participating States on modernization of the human dimension events. In his concluding remarks, the Chairperson of the Committee took note of this divergence and said that, for progress to be made, positions would need to come closer.

The second phase of the study will further explore the issues with respect to the proposed levels of discussion and collect proposals and assess them in the light of commitments and objectives and their potential impact on the overall system of human dimension events. It will also develop options in consultation with various stakeholders and in line with the objectives, distinguishing between options requiring a revision of the existing modalities for their realization and those that can be realized within the existing framework. This second-phase paper will be available at the end of the first quarter of 2012. This study conducted by Ximpulse aims at supporting the discussions in a structured way and at allowing for an enlightening debate, but it will be up to the participating States to assess the different options and to agree on a set of reform measures that can satisfy the different expectations of different stakeholders.

The initial discussion in the Committee was followed up by a brainstorming session on the way forward to increase the effectiveness of the human dimension events at the informal “human dimension away day” on 24 October. Once again, a great number of suggestions were made which emphasized the different approaches to the topic adopted by participating States and groups of participating States. Nevertheless, the Chairperson concluded that, even though some of the aspects surrounding the human dimension events still remained rather contested, such as the issue of NGO participation, at the same time, there were goals and objectives of human dimension events, that were more consensual – for example, identification of gaps in implementation. He noted that many spoke about such indicators of success as visibility of human dimension events, level of attendance by participating States (and NGOs), and finding of concrete remedies to address implementation gaps.

## **Conclusion and recommendations**

In the light of the significant divergences of opinion among the participating regarding changes to the current arrangements for the human dimension events and what those changes, if any, might be, it is the view of the Chairmanship that it would be unrealistic to expect the emergence of consensus on any modifications to the current arrangements without an extensive and comprehensive discussion among the participating States. Such a discussion could commence with the presentation of the second-phase report by Ximpulse, which is expected to provide food for thought, analysis and tools which would support such a discussion. It is understood that the second-phase report will be available at the end of the first quarter of 2012. It is recommended that the Irish Chairmanship convene an informal exchange of views at the level of Permanent Representative to discuss ways to progress the review of human dimension events.

Pending the outcome of this discussion, the Chairmanship strongly recommends that arrangements for the human dimension events in 2012 should be made in accordance with the provisions of Permanent Council Decision No. 476, and urges all the participating States to work co-operatively towards this goal.

#### **IV. STATEMENTS BY DELEGATIONS**





**OPENING STATEMENT BY  
THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF LITHUANIA,  
OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE, AT THE EIGHTEENTH  
MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(MC.DEL/39/11 of 6 December 2011)

President Grybauskaitė,  
Ministers,  
Excellencies,  
Ladies and gentlemen,

Welcome to the heart of the OSCE area: half-way between Vancouver and Vladivostok. It is a pleasure to see all of you here in Vilnius.

To my Parliamentary Assembly colleagues, I say “welcome back” to Vilnius, recalling our important meeting here in 2009.

With us today are also some founding members of Helsinki Committees. We salute your courageous contributions to human rights and democracy.

Finally, I am particularly pleased to welcome representatives of non-governmental organizations from our participating States and Partners for Co-operation. Your suggestions, developed over the past two days, are an important contribution to our work.

Now, dear colleagues and friends, we have much to do.

This year, the Lithuanian Chairmanship has encouraged our community to act with common purpose, building on the results of the Astana Summit. We have taken meaningful and concrete steps, without compromising core OSCE principles and commitments. Where we have followed this approach we have met success. Over the next two days, we have the opportunity, by consolidating this work, to establish new base lines on which to build.

It is significant that we are meeting in Lithuania, a nation of the Nordic Baltic region. This region embodies key principles and qualities we envision for our greater security community. More than history and geography bind it together. Of cardinal importance is its common culture of strong social responsibility, respect for human rights and co-operation and good neighbourly relations. We share a forward looking, open approach to addressing common challenges – such as energy, the environment, transport, cyber technology and open digital communication. This region offers a vision worth emulating. Other regions of the OSCE area might wish to consider this experience in developing their own regional co-operation.

After all there are serious challenges within the OSCE area, beginning with the protracted conflicts, which have gone on for too long.

I am pleased to report that progress has been made in the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict. Last week, the 5+2 negotiations officially resumed in Vilnius, after a break of almost six years. I urge the parties to seize this opportunity.

We also need to press for conflict resolution and long-term stability in Georgia. In the Geneva International Discussions, the parties continue negotiations and have undertaken practical projects to benefit the affected populations. We should build upon these steps with the deployment of an OSCE Support Team.

As for the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, we must activate the incident investigation mechanism that was proposed at the Sochi Summit. This would help lower tensions.

In South Eastern Europe, there has been continued progress toward the firm establishment of transparent, democratic states committed to OSCE principles, and toward regional co-operation and stability. The OSCE Office in Zagreb is about to close. We welcome the success achieved by the Office in implementing its mandate, and by the host country Croatia in implementing reforms. This is an example of how co-operative effort results in benefits for the people and the country, the region and the OSCE as a whole.

We have also taken steps this year to strengthen our defences against transnational threats. I believe that we can find common ground here in Vilnius to enhance the OSCE's efforts in this area.

Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen,

Freedom of the media has been a high priority for Lithuania's Chairmanship. We have sought to provide greater physical safety for journalists. We have also sought to remove legal and bureaucratic barriers that hinder their ability to inform and protect democracy and freedom in our societies. This Ministerial Council should complete the work begun last June at the Vilnius Conference on Safety of Journalists.

Our efforts to defend human rights have led to positive results, in well-known and lesser-known cases. Often together with civil society, we have promoted and protected the rights of organizers, bloggers, journalists and champions of social and human rights.

This Chairmanship has strongly promoted tolerance education. We have sponsored three high-level meetings aimed at addressing anti-Christian, Anti-Semitic and anti-Islamic behaviours and practices. Resolving conflicts between groups or nations requires confronting the truth about the present and the past, acknowledging it, however painful, and promoting reconciliation in the interest of a mutually beneficial future.

This year, and most recently this past weekend, a number of important elections took place in the OSCE area. I commend the ODIHR and the Parliamentary Assembly for conducting unbiased and professional election monitoring. Of course, election observation is not an end in itself. Each participating State must ensure the right of its people to express their will through free and fair elections. To this end, I call on all of us to follow up in earnest on ODIHR's recommendations.

We have laid the groundwork for establishing a solid OSCE policy on energy security. Reliable access to energy resources is essential for our security and should be acknowledged as such.

Ministers, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

We all agree that security in the OSCE area is inextricably linked to that of its neighbours. We have seen that this year. This Ministerial Council should respond to the interest of the Mediterranean partners for enhanced co-operation. We should show our willingness to strengthen our co-operation with Afghanistan. Finally, we should welcome Mongolia's application to become a participating State.

Let us work together here in Vilnius. As we proceed, I would ask that we have the courage and determination to achieve a result that lives up to the core OSCE principles and commitments. By acting decisively we can keep the promises made last year at Astana.

**STATEMENT BY  
THE PRIME MINISTER OF THE REPUBLIC OF LITHUANIA AT THE  
CLOSING SESSION OF THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE  
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**  
(MC.DEL/66/11 of 7 December 2011)

Mr. Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Ministers, ladies and gentlemen,

Let me first of all thank you for coming to Vilnius for the closing event of the Lithuanian Chairmanship of the OSCE. Back in early 1990s, the OSCE proved to be a very important organization to Lithuania and other nations, who struggled for their right to return to Europe. It is remarkable how OSCE has retained its importance over the last 20 years.

When we started our Chairmanship this January, we said: in a format as diverse as the OSCE, progress will be achieved only by co-operation and hard work. Each step, no matter how small it might appear to be, is very important.

The positive way we have travelled together this year has covered the following achievements:

- We have enabled the resumption of negotiations in the 5+2 format on Transdniestria and continued discussions in the Geneva International Discussions;
- We have advanced the cause of media freedom, including measures for ensuring freedom of expression on the internet and encouraging action to protect the safety of journalists;
- We have improved border monitoring and regional co-operation;
- We have improved regional dialogue on transport and energy and cybersecurity;
- We have improved the dialogue among the OSCE and OSCE Partner Countries;
- We have actively sponsored programmes combating religious intolerance and discrimination, especially involving hate speech and hate crime in public discourse.

We believe that working hand-in-hand with the participating States, Lithuania has managed to advance the whole OSCE process and stimulate positive developments in the OSCE area.

Of course, there are issues that remain of great concern:

- First, people in many countries are still deprived of their basic civil rights. With this view in mind, we have organized a side event for civil society and NGO representatives, who have produced a list of valuable policy recommendations. I commend the work of civil society activists and human rights defenders and expect that we will continue to build on their recommendations.

- Second, the problem is that journalists still are not able to carry out their work without threats to their security. Indeed, as was reported at another side event of this conference, violence against journalists has been growing in the OSCE area in general, and in certain parts of the region in particular.
- Finally, there are still countries where elections are far from being fair and free. Those countries are very close to our borders. This fact obliges us to work more insistently to have situation improved.

Ladies and gentlemen,

A pragmatic, constructive and even-handed approach was our departure point during both our recent Chairmanship of the Community of Democracies and the current OSCE Chairmanship. We will also adhere to it during our EU presidency in 2013, when OSCE will be celebrating its 40th anniversary.

I have no doubt that the incoming Chairperson-in-Office, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ireland, will continue the same path, seeking to consolidate and advance the principles for which this distinguished organization has been standing already for four decades. Good luck.

Thank you.

**JOINT STATEMENT BY  
THE HEADS OF DELEGATIONS OF THE MINSK GROUP CO-CHAIR  
COUNTRIES AND THE FOREIGN MINISTERS OF ARMENIA AND  
AZERBAIJAN AT THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE  
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**  
(MC.DEL/18/11 of 7 December 2011)

On the occasion of the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Vilnius, the Heads of Delegations of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries (Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Sergei Lavrov, Secretary of State of the United States Hillary Rodham Clinton, and Minister for European Affairs of France Jean Leonetti) and the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Elmar Mammadyarov and Foreign Minister of Armenia Edward Nalbandian reaffirmed the importance of reaching a peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

Recalling the November 2008 Moscow Declaration, as well as their countries' statements at the OSCE Ministerial Council meetings in Helsinki (2008) and Athens (2009) and at the OSCE Summit in Astana (2010), the five Heads of Delegations agreed on the need to continue the negotiating process in the format of the OSCE Minsk Group and to improve the climate for making progress towards a peaceful settlement. As one of the steps in this direction, they agreed that further efforts should be made to work on the details of the mechanism to investigate ceasefire violations, which resulted from the joint statement of Presidents Aliyev, Sargsian, and Medvedev at the March 2011 Sochi summit.

Noting the May 2011 statement of their Presidents at Deauville, which urged Armenia and Azerbaijan to finalize the Basic Principles for the Peaceful Settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, the Heads of Delegations of the Minsk Group Co-Chair Countries expressed regret that the parties have been unable to take this decisive step. The three Heads of Delegations reiterated that there can be no military solution to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and that the United Nations Charter, the Principles of the Helsinki Final Act, and the elements outlined in the joint statements of their presidents at L'Aquila in July 2009 and Muskoka in June 2010 offer the way for all sides to move beyond the unacceptable status quo to reach a peaceful settlement. In light of the intensive negotiations conducted since the 2007 OSCE Ministerial Council in Madrid, including at the highest level, the three Heads of Delegations urged the parties to give further careful consideration to the proposals that the Co-Chair countries have provided to them.

The Ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia expressed their appreciation for the efforts of the Co-Chair countries, including the personal engagement of Presidents Medvedev, Obama, and Sarkozy, in assisting their countries to reach a framework for a comprehensive peace settlement. They informed the Heads of Delegations of the Co-Chair countries that their presidents are ready to meet again jointly in the near future under the auspices of the Co-Chair countries to continue their direct dialogue, building upon recent experience, on how to bring peace, stability, and prosperity to their peoples.

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

(Annex 1 to MC(18) Journal No. 2 of 7 December 2011)

In connection with adoption of the Ministerial Council decision on the proper role of the OSCE in facilitation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004), the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan would like to make a statement and state the following:

While supporting and implementing the provisions of UNSCR 1540 (2004), the Republic of Azerbaijan cannot fully apply this and other relevant resolutions, including UNSCR 1977 (2011), in its occupied internationally recognized territories.

We are gravely concerned by the threat of terrorism and the risk that non-State actors such as separatist regimes may acquire, develop, traffic in or use nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

Recalling the relevant UN Security Council resolutions on combating the proliferation of CBRNs, especially UNSCR 1977 (2011), we stress the importance of international co-operation in accordance with international law, which is required to counter the illicit trafficking by non-State actors in nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, their means of delivery and related materials.

I request to attach this statement to the journal of this Ministerial Council meeting.

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

(Annex 2 to MC(18) Journal No. 2 of 7 December 2011)

My delegation would like to put on record that the interpretative statement of the Azerbaijani delegation contained ungrounded allegations and unjustified claims.



## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

(Annex 3 to MC(18) Journal No. 2 of 7 December 2011)

In connection with the adoption of the Ministerial Council decision on strengthening transport dialogue in the OSCE, the Delegation of the Republic of Azerbaijan would like to state the following:

Proceeding from the provisions of this decision the Republic of Azerbaijan urgently calls on the Republic of Armenia to take all necessary measures to:

1. Withdraw its armed forces from the occupied territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan, thus creating conditions for restoration of all communications, including railroads and motorways on the territories of the Republic of Azerbaijan;
2. Submit the road passing through the Lachin region of the Republic of Azerbaijan into guaranteed and unimpeded use of the Republic of Azerbaijan in accordance with the principles of openness of all communications in the region;
3. Restore the Meghri part of the Baku-Meghri-Nakhchivan railroad with the view to restore the regional railroad network, thus contributing to regional transport co-operation.

We request that this statement be attached to the journal of this Ministerial Council meeting.

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

(Annex 4 to MC(18) Journal No. 2 of 7 December 2011)

My delegation reiterates its previous statement made in response of similar allegations put forward by the interpretative statement of Azerbaijan. It should be mentioned that issues which are part of the conflict resolution are being approached within the agreed formats.

## **STATEMENT BY THE EUROPEAN UNION**

(Annex 5 to MC(18) Journal No. 2 of 7 December 2011)

Twelve months on from Astana, the OSCE Ministerial Council here in Vilnius offered all participating States the ideal platform to translate the vision of our Heads of State or Government into concrete deliverables. We warmly thank Lithuania for seeking to do that in a principled and determined manner.

The European Union has taken an ambitious and constructive approach in the run-up to the Vilnius Ministerial Council in seeking to develop the OSCE across all three dimensions. We therefore welcome the progress on cross-dimensional issues notably on the conflict cycle, partners for co-operation including Afghanistan, as well as progress towards the future accession of Mongolia to the OSCE. It also proved possible to advance in the politico-military dimension, on transnational threats, as well as in the economic and environmental dimension. We reaffirm the EU's commitment to co-operate in the OSCE on all issues in order to promote comprehensive security.

The European Union expresses its deep concern however at the lack of progress in the human dimension. Human rights, democracy and the rule of law are at the core of the OSCE and its comprehensive concept of security. We particularly regret that not all participating States have been able to agree to strengthen the commitments related to freedom of expression, notably to protect journalists from violence, harassment, prosecution and imprisonment. We also deeply regret that some participating States were not able to recognise that fundamental freedoms also cover the use of new technologies in the digital age. The signal sent to the participating States from the NGOs in the parallel OSCE civil society conference was loud and clear. They underlined the importance of strengthening the implementation of the human dimension notably as regards freedom of expression including on the Internet.

The developments in the Southern Mediterranean have illustrated the universality of human rights and fundamental freedoms. Those same values are increasingly called into question in the OSCE region. The European Union therefore calls on all participating States to fully implement all OSCE principles and commitments. We remain convinced that we will not be able to advance toward comprehensive security and a genuine community of security without clear progress in the human dimension.

We strongly praise the role of the OSCE institutions in monitoring the implementation of our OSCE commitments and assisting the participating States in improving their record in this respect. We fully support the work of the ODIHR in observing elections throughout the OSCE area. In this context, we reiterate the European Union statement made in the plenary session yesterday commending the assessment presented by the OSCE/ODIHR on the elections to the State Duma of the Russian Federation and calling on Russia to duly implement the ODIHR's recommendations. We also recall the statements made yesterday and today by the High Representative Catherine Ashton.

The European Union regrets that regional statements on the protracted conflicts in Georgia and in the Republic of Moldova could not be adopted, the latter despite the resumption of the formal "5+2" negotiations on 30 November and 1 December in Vilnius. In that context, we would like to recall the EU position expressed on these matters in our Astana

closing statement. The EU welcomes the joint statement by the Heads of Delegation of the Minsk Group countries and the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan on the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.

The European Union confirms its expectation that significant and focused progress in all three dimensions, in particular in the human dimension, will be made in the forthcoming year under the Irish Chairmanship-in-Office leading to the Dublin Ministerial Council in December 2012 and calls on all participating States to join in this effort.

The candidate countries Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro<sup>1</sup> and Iceland<sup>2</sup>, the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area, as well as the Republic of Moldova, Georgia, Andorra and San Marino align themselves with this statement.

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

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1 Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

2 Iceland continues to be a member of the EFTA and the European Economic Area.

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

(Annex 6 to MC(18) Journal No. 2 of 7 December 2011)

The delegation of the Russian Federation is grateful to the Lithuanian Chairmanship for the efforts made throughout the year to ensure the successful holding of the ministerial meeting here in the hospitable city of Vilnius. Today we have indeed adopted individual decisions concerning the principal areas of the OSCE's work.

However, we have unfortunately failed to achieve the kind of results that could have been regarded as a real step forward towards resolving the task set at the OSCE Astana Summit in December 2010 of forming a security community. The Russian delegation expresses its concern in this regard.

One of the reasons for this situation is that during the preparations for and actual holding of the Vilnius Ministerial Council proposals aimed at increasing the effectiveness of the OSCE have been unjustifiably ignored. These proposals included the strengthening of the Organization's legal framework, improvements in the area of election observation, greater freedom of movement, the streamlining of the participation of non-governmental organizations in OSCE events, and the countering of contemporary forms of intolerance and extremism, including neo-Nazism.

The drawing up of a unifying agenda for the Organization has been impeded by the unsound practice of promoting within that agenda group interests, a practice that is becoming ever more prevalent and that runs counter to the original sense and purpose of the CSCE/OSCE and the spirit of the Helsinki Final Act. The founding documents stipulate that the Organization's agenda must reflect the interests of all the OSCE participating States. The practice according to which biased unilateral approaches are taken with regard to the priority interests of certain countries should not be encouraged.

The preparations for the Vilnius Ministerial Council and the way in which it has proceeded have made it absolutely clear that the current system for preparing OSCE decisions is not functioning properly. The approach involving a significant increase in the number of commitments and the adoption of decisions on minor issues that bring no real added value has completely outlived its usefulness. We need to give serious thought to the nature of the decisions we adopt, the form they take and whether in fact they need to be adopted at all.

We firmly believe that the Organization, its institutions and all of its instruments require serious reform. The need for a strengthening of the collective foundations underlying the OSCE's activities and for the development of its legal framework is becoming ever more evident. Without this, the OSCE will continue to lose its relevance as a multilateral platform for dialogue on co-operation and ensuring security.

The delegation of the Russian Federation calls on the participating States to pay priority attention in 2012 to solving the aforementioned problems threatening the political future of the OSCE.

We wish the incoming Irish Chairmanship every success in advancing the OSCE agenda drawn up in Astana.

Thank you for your attention.

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

(Annex 7 to MC(18) Journal No. 2 of 7 December 2011)

Mr. Chairperson, on behalf of the United States, I would like to express again our appreciation for the Lithuanian Chairmanship's dedicated leadership this year. The Chairperson's priorities, including progress on Europe's protracted conflicts, the safety of journalists and media freedom, energy security co-operation, greater military transparency, and enhanced engagement with our Mediterranean Partners and Afghanistan, enjoyed broad support among participating States.

We have recorded progress in some important areas: last week, after more than five years, official 5+2 talks on the Moldova conflict resumed. Today we have here adopted Ministerial decisions on the conflict cycle, enhanced engagement with Partners and Afghanistan, the empowerment of women in the economic sphere, combating human trafficking, as well as all three decisions considered in the FSC.

But that is not the full slate of results we had hoped to achieve at this meeting. The OSCE's concept of security is comprehensive. Thus, we expected that ministers would adopt a balanced package of decisions and declarations encompassing steps in all three dimensions that contribute to our shared goal of enhancing security in the OSCE space.

Sadly, that did not happen. Despite widespread support from governments and civil society, consensus could not be reached on decisions that would commit our governments to enhance the safety of journalists, reaffirm that fundamental freedoms apply in the digital age, and promote tolerance. These decisions reflect the core of this organization's mandate: that respect for human rights is essential to the progress and security of all of our countries.

In the case of the declaration on fundamental freedoms in the digital age, the United States was proud to have been one of 25 OSCE participating States calling for a simple declaration recognizing that human rights and fundamental freedoms do not change with new technologies and reaffirming that they will honour their obligation to respect the exercise of fundamental freedoms of expression, assembly and association. Unfortunately, this decision was never even discussed in the Preparatory Committee, and discussions on enhancing journalists' safety foundered, both due to objections by one participating State. And, at a time when we are witnessing growing intolerance, including anti-Semitism and attacks against ethnic minorities, such as Roma and other vulnerable groups, such as LGBT individuals, it is troubling that some participating States could not overcome their differences and confirm our common humanity by strengthening the OSCE's capacity to promote tolerance and combat hate crimes against their fellow human beings regardless of belief, background, race, legal status, or sexual orientation.

Our citizens require more of us. As Secretary Clinton noted in her intervention yesterday, human rights are not only a moral imperative, they are an essential component of international security and stability.

We also could not reach consensus, based again on the objections of one participating State, on regional statements addressing the conflicts in Georgia and Moldova, despite

determined efforts by the Chairmanship and tangible accomplishments to address and advance in the 5+2 negotiations.

In the first dimension, we have achieved only a technical updating of the OSCE's flagship Vienna Document and not the updating that would have made that document more relevant to today's modern, streamlined military forces. In addition, in today's exceptionally challenging economic circumstances, we would have welcomed more, and more ambitious, results in the second dimension.

The Lithuanian Chair drove us all towards a substantive package of decisions. Our Chairperson is not responsible for the limited results in the third dimension. No Chairperson-in-Office can compel co-operation or create political will. It is up to all of us to summon the determination to honour their commitments, strengthen OSCE institutions and spur the OSCE's work in all three dimensions.

As we look to 2012 and our onward work, we must keep our focus on issues of principle and concern to people living in this vast region and to our Partners beyond it: human dignity and democracy, justice and tolerance, prosperity and peace. These great issues of our time will not go away. That is the reality, online and off. And consensus or no consensus, we will continue to grapple with them, here within the OSCE and every day within each of our countries and across the international community.

We would like underscore the importance of dialogue with civil society, and welcome the recommendations of the civil society parallel conference, and the creation of the "Civic Solidarity" platform.

My government continues to believe in the great promise of Helsinki. To realize it, we remain committed to working with our fellow States and with civil society across this region. In that spirit, we look ahead to our deliberations under the Irish Chairmanship.



## STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF CANADA

(Annex 8 to MC(18) Journal No. 2 of 7 December 2011)

Mr. Chairperson,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of Foreign Affairs Minister John Baird.

We warmly congratulate Lithuania for doing its utmost this year as Chair of the OSCE and underline the superb leadership and stewardship of our OSCE Council this year. Your efforts have allowed us to adopt some solid outcomes on:

- Partners for Co-operation – in which we have committed to work with States in the Mediterranean and Asian regions to promote OSCE norms, principles and commitments;
- Trafficking in human beings;
- Capabilities in enhancing the OSCE capacity to respond to conflict and crisis; and on transnational threats;
- Strengthening OSCE engagement with Afghanistan; and
- Equal opportunities for women in the economy.

However, Canada very much regrets that consensus was prevented on important issues of human rights and fundamental freedoms:

- As Minister Baird stated in the plenary yesterday, Canada is keenly aware that anti-Semitism, discrimination and intolerance against Christians, Jews, Muslims and members of other religions still occur in the OSCE;
- And that people in the OSCE region can still be attacked and imprisoned simply because of their sexual orientation.

Canada is committed to supporting democratic reform and to responding to aspirations for freedom and empowerment, particularly for women and youth.

Canada continues to strongly support the aspirations of Mongolia to join the OSCE community. We came to Vilnius ready to adopt a decision on this and remain of the view that Mongolia should become a participating State as soon as possible.

Canada is confident that the incoming Irish Chairmanship will do its utmost to move ahead on these vital issues.

We also look ahead to the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship in 2013 and expect that Ukraine will uphold the principles and integrity of this Organization. Respect for human rights and democracy, including a legitimate and active opposition, are core tenets of the OSCE.

In conclusion, we thank the Lithuanian Chair and his talented team for their hard work and determination in preserving the comprehensive approach to security that is the hallmark of the OSCE.

Thank you. Merci.

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

(Annex 9 to MC(18) Journal No. 2 of 7 December 2011)

Mr. Chairperson,

I would like to join the previous speakers in warmly congratulating Lithuania for its tireless efforts in steering our Organization in a very skilful manner during 2011. If we succeeded in achieving the deliverables of the Vilnius Ministerial, an important part of the credit goes to the able leadership role of the Chairmanship.

We are also of the opinion that the decisions that have been adopted move our agenda forward in following up the results of the Astana Summit Meeting.

In this context, we are happy to see a progress in the politico-military dimension, on transnational threats, as well as in the economic and environmental dimension. We supported from the beginning a package of decisions with the ownership of the Chairmanship in the human dimension. We regret that this package is not among the deliverables of this Ministerial. Taking this opportunity, I would like to repeat what my Minister emphasized in his statement yesterday, that we should avoid applying selective and hierarchical approaches with a focus on certain issues as priorities while considering other very important concerns as secondary issues. We will continue to support efforts in treating all dimensions on an equal footing as enshrined in the founding OSCE documents. Within each dimension, we need to seek the necessary balance as well.

We are gratified with the fact that we could be able to agree on decisions on Partners for Co-operation and on our engagement with Afghanistan. We consider the decision in the conflict cycle to be one of the most important deliverables of Vilnius, since efforts to prevent and settle conflicts are in the heart of the activities of our Organization. Therefore, the political value of this decision has to be judged in that context.

We strongly support Mongolia's aspirations to join the OSCE. We would have preferred taking a decision on granting Mongolia the status of participating State at this time. Nevertheless, we are confident that the Irish Chairmanship will do its utmost to move this issue to fruition.

Mr. Chairperson,

We have to focus on the filled part of the half empty glass. While doing so, we should also be able to reflect on the reasons for failure of our efforts in adopting some of the important decisions. It requires us to have an honest soul-searching with a genuine self-criticism and draw lessons for the future on how we can better employ a consensus building working methodology to provide means for effective engagement and political ownership of all the participating States. I am sure that in Vienna the Permanent Council will have ample opportunity to follow up the deliberations and results of the Vilnius Ministerial.

In concluding, once again let me repeat our thanks and appreciation to the good job done by our Lithuanian friends and best of luck and success to the incoming Irish Chairmanship.

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

Thank you.

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE**

(Annex 10 to MC(18) Journal No. 2 of 7 December 2011)

Mr. Chairperson,

The delegation of Ukraine sincerely thanks the Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship for warm hospitality and tireless efforts during the year dedicated to achieving concrete and forward-looking results at this Ministerial Council meeting.

We welcome the adoption of a number of decisions, which aim to provide important impetus to our co-operation, including in the politico-military dimension, in addressing transnational threats and on some cross-dimensional issues.

We look forward to and encourage other participating States to work towards further progress in expanding the scope of CSBMs, enhancing military transparency, updating the OSCE framework for non-proliferation as well as finding negotiated solutions in area of conventional arms control.

The Ukrainian Chairmanship of the Economic and Environmental Committee thanks delegations for their constructive and positive approach, which allowed us to produce relevant deliverables for this Ministerial meeting.

Ukraine shares regret, that despite considerable efforts, we were unable to reach consensus on important draft decisions, related to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in particular on the safety of journalists.

As an incoming member of the OSCE Troika and future OSCE Chairmanship, Ukraine stands ready to actively support the efforts of the Irish Chairmanship to take forward the focused work in all three dimensions. We believe that this goal should be pursued through open and constructive dialogue and co-operation, which is based on mutual trust and respect as well as on the strengthened sense of ownership and purpose.

Let me assure of Ukraine's commitment to work closely with all participating States in this spirit.

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

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.



## **V. REPORTS TO THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**





**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE  
EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON THE  
CONTINUING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OSCE DOCUMENT ON  
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS**  
(MC.GAL/2/11 of 14 November 2011)

## **Executive summary**

This progress report provides comprehensive factual information on the status of implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) for the period from November 2009 to November 2011<sup>1</sup>.

The FSC adopted decisions on:

- OSCE Plan of Action on SALW (FSC.DEC/2/10);
- Information exchange with regard to OSCE Principles on the Control of Brokering in SALW (FSC.DEC/17/10);
- Meeting to review the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW (FSC.DEC/9/11).

The FSC adopted an OSCE Plan of Action on SALW in May 2010, in line with the task contained in Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/09. The Plan of Action comprised, *inter alia*, elements brought forward at the meeting to review the OSCE Document on SALW and its supplementary decisions in September 2009. The Plan sets out a comprehensive roadmap for the OSCE's future action in the area of SALW.

A reference guide on OSCE commitments on SALW was compiled and distributed in June 2011 (FSC.GAL/70/11).

An electronic end-user certificate for voluntary use by participating States was introduced during the Special FSC Meeting on SALW in September 2011.

The level of implementation of annual SALW information exchanges remained stable during 2010–2011. Following the report comparing the OSCE and UN templates for SALW information exchanges (FSC.GAL/50/10), the CPC has issued an updated template for reporting one-off information on SALW (FSC.GAL/38/11). The template facilitated the provision of updated information by at least 12 participating States.

A one-off information exchange was conducted in June 2011 on participating States' present regulations concerning brokering activities with regard to SALW, in accordance with FSC Decision No. 17/10, and the CPC summary report on the replies was distributed in September (FSC.GAL/95/11), followed by a special FSC meeting on export and brokering controls in respect of SALW.

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<sup>1</sup> The deadline for submitting input for this report was 7 November 2011.

The practical assistance given to OSCE participating States through the implementation of SALW projects is a key component in the improvement of security and stability in the OSCE region.

The report notes the successful completion of Phase I of the OSCE-UNDP project on capacity-building on SALW stockpile management and security in Belarus, as well as elaboration of project activities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Kyrgyz Republic.

Participating States pledged 190,500 euros for OSCE SALW projects during 2010–2011, which means a substantial reduction in comparison with previous years. The extrabudgetary contributions and the fund-raising remain a core issue.

Following an OSCE initiative, regular informal meetings have been arranged with other international organizations to enhance the co-ordination of efforts with regard to SALW projects.

## **1. Introduction**

At the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Athens, the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), through its Chairperson, was requested to submit to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Council a progress report on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) (MC.DEC/15/09).

The OSCE Document on SALW was adopted on 24 November 2000 (FSC.DOC/1/00). It sets forth norms, principles and measures to address the threat posed to the international community by the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW. This was acknowledged by the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century, which regards the OSCE Document on SALW as an important tool for combating threats caused by terrorism and organized crime, and underlines the importance of further strengthening its implementation. In accordance with Section VI, paragraph 2, of the Document, a review of the implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW is regularly undertaken during the Annual Implementation Assessment Meetings.

The OSCE Document on SALW also makes a substantial contribution to the implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in all its Aspects (UN Programme of Action on SALW).

## **2. Objectives**

This report is intended to provide an overview of the implementation of OSCE commitments on SALW; it also describes the progress on implementation of OSCE-related SALW assistance projects. It is primarily designed to serve as a basis for determining the status of implementation of the OSCE commitments on SALW and to highlight the most challenging issues to be addressed in the future. The report covers the period from November 2009 until November 2011.

### **3. OSCE Plan of Action on SALW**

Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/09 requested the Forum for Security Co-operation to develop an OSCE Plan of Action on SALW by May 2010, taking into account suggestions made at the OSCE Meeting to Review the OSCE Document on SALW and Its Supplementary Decisions (September 2009). In line with that request, the FSC negotiated the Plan of Action and adopted it in May 2010 (FSC Decision No. 2/10).

The Plan of Action on SALW sets out a comprehensive roadmap for the OSCE's future action on the issue. The document's two pillars focus on improvement of the implementation of existing measures and review of the implementation of principles, norms and measures in order to improve capacity and efficiency. Furthermore, it identifies concrete measures and sets deadlines for their implementation, with the final review of the implementation in May 2012, just ahead of the UN Review Conference on SALW.

The implementation of the Plan is continuously reviewed and assessed at the meetings of the FSC and its Working Group A, as well as in the context of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW.

Most recently, the Forum adopted a decision identifying the dates, agenda and modalities of the OSCE Meeting to Review the Plan of Action on SALW, to be held on 22 and 23 May 2012 (FSC Decision No. 9/11).

### **4. Special FSC Meeting on SALW**

On 28 September 2011, the Kazakhstan FSC Chairmanship organized a Special FSC Meeting on SALW. The meeting focussed on the implementation issues, with particular emphasis on brokering and export controls.

During the meeting, the CPC presented its overview of national replies with regard to the information exchange on controls of brokering activities on SALW prepared in line with FSC Decision No. 17/10 (FSC.GAL/95/11, dated 1 September 2011). In addition, a template for an end-user certificate was presented by an expert from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), who had been hired by the CPC for the project. The template is for voluntary use by participating States and could facilitate the implementation of FSC Decision No. 5/04 on standard elements for an end-user certificate.

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) presented the efforts of the UN directed towards curbing the proliferation of illicit SALW, with particular emphasis on the results of the work of the Group of Governmental Experts on the Illicit Brokering in SALW and the recent study conducted on the national systems for end-use certification. The UNODA also recalled the upcoming conference to negotiate the Arms Trade Treaty in July 2012, and updated the Forum about the ongoing co-operation and co-ordination efforts between the UNODA and the OSCE with regard to facilitating the full implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW and the OSCE Document on SALW.

The Small Arms Survey presented an analysis of the OSCE commitments on SALW export and brokering controls, identifying areas for further work.

## **5. Normative aspects**

The OSCE Document on SALW refers mainly to the norm-setting base and establishes an OSCE framework for the development and implementation of national legislation, rules and procedures. The review of these norms and the development of supplementary and/or complementary decisions by the FSC constitute a core issue of the FSC's regular work. The work in 2010 and 2011 centred on the following issue:

### **5.1 FSC Decision on an Information Exchange with regard to OSCE Principles on the Control of Brokering in SALW**

Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/09 requested the FSC to take steps to review the implementation of Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/08 with regard to the establishment or reinforcement of a legal framework for lawful brokering activities within the national jurisdiction of participating States by the end of 2010.

In order to implement the request, on 24 November 2010, the Forum adopted FSC Decision No. 17/10 on an information exchange with regard to OSCE principles on the control of brokering in SALW. In the decision, the participating States agreed to conduct a one-off information exchange on their present regulations concerning brokering activities with regard to SALW no later than 30 June 2011. Furthermore, the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) was tasked with producing a summary report on the replies by 1 September 2011 and posting it on the public website.

By 7 November 2011, 39 participating States had provided national replies in accordance with FSC Decision No. 17/10. The CPC circulated a summary report on implementation on 1 September 2011 (FSC.GAL/95/11).

## **6. Implementation of existing commitments**

### **6.1 Information exchanges on SALW**

The OSCE Document on SALW commits the participating States to a number of standards, which, if fully implemented, will assist States in their efforts to abide by many of the paragraphs on national implementation in the UN Programme of Action on SALW. Among others, the OSCE Document established a mechanism of transparency measures aimed at raising confidence and security as well as further promoting trust among OSCE participating States.

The OSCE participating States exchange annual and one-off information on various aspects related to transfer controls in respect of SALW and conventional arms more generally. These information exchanges are confidential between the OSCE participating States, and are regularly discussed at FSC meetings, special seminars and conferences. The general level of implementation in 2010–2011 was significantly lower, and less compliant in timing, than in previous years. The FSC Chairperson's Announcing and Reminding Mechanism was extensively employed.

OSCE information exchanges relevant to SALW transfer controls include:

- Information exchange on conventional arms transfers (FSC.DEC/13/97 and FSC.DEC/8/98);
- Questionnaire on conventional arms transfers (FSC.DEC/20/95);
- Information exchange on small arms exports to, and imports from, other participating States during the previous calendar year (FSC.DOC/1/00, Section III, (F)1).

In addition, the participating States have agreed to provide each other with updates, as follows, when necessary:

- Information exchange on national marking systems used in the manufacture and/or import of small arms and light weapons (FSC.DOC/1/00, Section II, (D)1);
- Information exchange on national procedures for the control of manufacture of small arms and light weapons (FSC.DOC/1/00, Section II, (D)1);
- Information exchange on national legislation and current practice in small arms export policy, procedures, documentation and brokering controls (FSC.DOC/1/00, Section III, (F)2).

#### 6.1.1 One-off information exchanges

Under the OSCE Document on SALW, the participating States agreed to share and submit updated information, when necessary, on national marking systems; national procedures for the control of manufacturing; national legislation and current practice in export policy, procedures and documentation, and control over brokering; small arms destruction techniques; and small arms stockpile security and management programmes.

FSC Decision No. 11/08 tasked the participating States with exchanging information on national practices related to preventing the spread of SALW through illicit air transport.

FSC Decision No. 12/08 requested the participating States to provide a sample format of their national end-user certificate and/or other pertinent documents.

Detailed information about the number of participating States that exchanged one-off information can be found in annex A.

In April 2010, the CPC produced a report comparing the OSCE model answer for one-off information exchanges on SALW and the UN guidelines for reporting on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW (FSC.GAL/50/10). The purpose of the report was to identify similarities/differences in the information requested under the OSCE Document on SALW and the UN Programme of Action on SALW. The report recommended, *inter alia*, jointly aligning or harmonizing exchanges of information submitted to the UN and the OSCE in order to improve their numbers and quality with possible input from other regional arrangements (e.g., Wassenaar Arrangement).

In line with the recommendation of the report, in March 2011, the CPC issued a revised template for reporting one-off information on SALW (FSC.GAL/38/11), with the suggested start of the reporting on 30 June 2011, in accordance with the deadline for reporting updated in the OSCE Document on SALW. The revised template contains standardized questions and is fully harmonized with the new UN reporting template. The revised reporting template is aimed at reducing the reporting burden on participating States, while making information more comparable and comprehensive. By 7 November 2011, 15 participating States had provided updated inputs to the one-off information exchange on SALW in the new format.

#### **6.1.2 Annual information exchanges**

In addition to exchanging information about existing norms and regulations, the OSCE Document requires the participating States to exchange data annually on exports to, and imports from, other OSCE participating States, as well as on small arms identified as surplus and/or seized and destroyed on their territories in the previous calendar year. An overview of this information exchange is displayed in annex B.

According to the data exchanged, during the period from 2001 to 2010, OSCE participating States destroyed 10,491,881 items of SALW. Details are contained in annex C.

#### **6.2 End-user certificate template**

In order to facilitate the implementation of FSC Decision No. 5/04 on standard elements of end-user certificates and verification procedures for SALW exports, the CPC, with the help of consultancy from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), developed an electronic template for an end-user certificate (SEC.GAL/153/11). The template was presented during the Special FSC Meeting on SALW held on 28 September 2011.

The template is based on the criteria outlined in FSC Decision No. 5/04 and is also in line with the International Small Arms Control Standard on end-user certification (2011). The electronic template aims at raising standards for end-user certificates among the OSCE participating States. The template contains mandatory and optional elements and can be voluntarily adopted for use in participating States either in full or only in part.

#### **6.3 SALW reference guide**

In an effort to facilitate the implementation of OSCE commitments on SALW, in June 2011, the CPC issued a reference guide (FSC.GAL/70/11). The guide included all the principles, norms and measures on SALW that the OSCE had adopted since 2000.

#### **6.4 Awareness-raising**

In 2010–2011, the Informal Group of Friends on SALW continued to assist the FSC Chairmanship on matters related to the implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW, as well as of FSC decisions related to SALW. In particular, the Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW assisted the FSC Chairperson in negotiating and implementing the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW. Several presentations on SALW were given as part of the FSC's Security Dialogue. Furthermore, the OSCE organized a number of training events

and workshops. An overview of these activities as well as other activities related to the promotion of OSCE SALW initiatives is attached as annex D.

## **7. Practical assistance on SALW**

### **7.1 Overview**

Implementation of the elements in the OSCE Document on SALW which deal with requests for assistance from participating States to tackle the issues of destruction, management and security of stockpiles of SALW remains an essential part of the efforts of the Forum for Security Co-operation in this field.

Since 2003, the OSCE has received 33 requests for assistance from 16 countries relating to enhancement of the management and security of stockpiles of SALW and of conventional ammunition, including mélange, or destruction of surpluses of them. The requests from participating States for assistance in tackling the issues of destruction, management and security of stockpiles of SALW remain an essential part of the FSC's efforts in this field. In particular, assistance projects in Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Kyrgyz Republic can be seen as examples of these activities in 2010–2011.

### **7.2 National co-ordination bodies**

In 2008, the FSC adopted Decision No. 4/08 establishing an OSCE Directory of Points of Contact (POC) on SALW and SCA as an additional tool for co-operation and co-ordination among the participating States on assistance projects relating to SALW and SCA. In line with the decision, the CPC has established and maintained an aggregate database of points of contact provided by OSCE participating States and other parties to the directory. During 2010–2011, the CPC provided updated information on projects on SALW and SCA via the Directory of Points of Contact. However, communications between States and/or to the CPC via the points of contact remain at a low level.

### **7.3 Memorandum of Understanding with the UNDP**

In line with the UN Programme of Action on SALW, which encouraged regional organizations to co-operate, and to develop and strengthen partnerships for sharing resources to combat illicit SALW, the OSCE developed a general framework for technical co-operation with the UN Development Programme (UNDP). A Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2006 provides a non-exclusive framework for technical co-operation for the implementation of SALW and conventional-ammunition projects. In 2007, two large joint projects were launched in the framework of the Memorandum, in Belarus and Montenegro. Two more joint projects with a SALW component, in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in the Kyrgyz Republic, are in the planning phase.

In April 2010, the Memorandum was extended for two years, until June 2012. By November 2011, the OSCE had transferred to the UNDP a total of 2,491,344 euros for the implementation of joint projects.

## **7.4 Assistance projects**

### **7.4.1 Republic of Belarus**

Based on the Memorandum of Understanding between the OSCE Secretariat and the UNDP, the OSCE and the UNDP continued the implementation of the joint project on capacity-building for SALW in Belarus, addressing issues of the physical security and stockpile management of 13 State-held SALW storage sites. The first phase of the programme, designed to enhance the capacity of the Ministry of Defence of Belarus to safely guard SALW at five storage sites, was successfully completed in the summer of 2010. The donors' visit was held in 2010 to mark the finalization of Phase 1. Also the number of sites addressed within the project was reduced to thirteen in favour of concentrating SALW at larger storage sites. Currently, the UNDP, which is serving as the implementing agency for this project, together with the Ministry of Defence, is implementing the second phase of the project, focussing on two large storage sites, in Gomel and Kolosovo, and two smaller sites, in Baroŭka and Zaslonava.

The status update and work plan for 2012–2013 were presented to the FSC by the UNDP and the Ministry of Defence in the context of the Security Dialogue in October 2011.

### **7.4.2 Bosnia and Herzegovina**

In March 2011, Bosnia and Herzegovina requested assistance from the OSCE in enhancing the security and stockpile management of Ministry of Defence storage sites containing their conventional ammunition (five sites) and small arms and light weapons (two sites). In order to evaluate the safety and security of the existing SALW and conventional ammunition, as well as to determine the parameters of a potential assistance project, the OSCE conducted an assessment visit from 20 to 24 June 2011. The assessment confirmed the need for assistance in enhancing security and stockpile management of SALW and SCA storage sites.

Furthermore, the assessment recommended the refurbishment of the SALW storage sites at Teufik Buza and Rabic to enhance the current levels of safety and security, so as to bring them into compliance with the OSCE Handbook of Best Practices on SALW, and the refurbishment of the conventional ammunition storage sites at Kula 1 and Krupa to bring them into compliance with the OSCE Best Practice Guide on Procedures for Management of Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. Given the involvement of other international actors in various aspects of SALW and SCA issues, the OSCE assessment team stressed the need for close co-ordination of activities, and, where possible, co-operation.

Also, given the increasing number of SALW and SCA projects in South-Eastern Europe, it was recommended that a post of SALW and SCA adviser in the Western Balkans should be established.

### **7.4.3 Kyrgyz Republic**

In February 2008, the Kyrgyz Republic submitted a request for assistance to the FSC for enhancing the management and security of stockpiles of SALW and conventional ammunition in the southern part of the country, where an increase in the activity of radical extremist groups is putting the current storage facilities at risk. Kyrgyzstan suffers from



excess stocks of outdated ammunition left behind after the dissolution of the Soviet Union. Safety and security measures need to be significantly updated at the SALW and conventional ammunition storage sites, and coupled with the instability of some of the ammunition, the situation poses a serious danger to the civilian population, since some storage sites are located close to populated areas. Moreover, some of the storage buildings are in poor condition and in some cases are not weatherproof, thus leading to a risk that residues from decaying ammunition could contaminate the soil around the storage sites.

In July 2008, the request was substantiated by the questionnaire that provided detailed information about the type of assistance requested. During the period from 14 to 18 March 2011, a second assessment visit was carried out by the OSCE team in order to evaluate the safety and security of stockpiles of SALW and conventional ammunition and the scope of possible assistance, and to define the technical requirements of the future assistance project. The assessment determined that the areas in which improvement is needed fall into three broad categories:

- Training on management and security of stockpiles of SALW and conventional ammunition;
- Construction and refurbishment of ammunition storage sites; and
- Destruction of surplus and unserviceable SALW, including MANPADS.

In consultation with the Kyrgyz authorities, a project plan is being developed by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and the Conflict Prevention Centre with a view to providing the necessary assistance in 2011–2013.

In 2010, the Kyrgyz authorities requested the assistance of the OSCE in collecting SALW looted during riots in the spring and summer of 2010 to supplement national efforts that had been undertaken up to that time. In response, the OSCE, jointly with the UNDP, initiated an assessment visit to the country from 7 to 12 February 2011 to evaluate the situation on the ground and assess the feasibility and the scope of a future assistance project. The assessment recommended:

- Conducting a comprehensive survey of SALW and security; and
- Designing an amended SALW collection programme.

Currently, the OSCE and the UNDP are in the process of initiating the survey in consultation with the authorities of the Kyrgyz Republic.

## **8. Outreach and co-operation**

### **8.1 Operational support and information exchange**

The OSCE Secretariat holds annual staff talks with the UN to share information about the latest developments and new initiatives, both on the setting of norms and standards and on practical assistance in respect of SALW.

In 2010, the CPC initiated informal regular consultations with the UN Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA), which consists of over 20 relevant UN agencies and programmes that deal with SALW issues, including the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime, the UN Development Programme and the UN Institute for Disarmament Research and others. Since December 2010, two consultations (via videoconference) have been held to exchange information about ongoing and planned initiatives, to co-ordinate action and to seek synergies.

Furthermore, the OSCE Secretariat conducts biannual staff talks with NATO. Issues related to the implementation of projects on SALW and conventional ammunition are discussed in detail. Such talks serve to share information and lessons learnt, avoid duplication of effort, establish possible synergies and increase the effectiveness of projects.

Finally, the OSCE Secretariat holds bi-annual staff talks with the EU to exchange information and discuss a wide range of issues. In 2010–2011, the OSCE and the EU have explored the possibilities for EU financial support for SALW projects, in order to be able to ensure longer-term financing and to make possible the implementation of projects for which funding is lacking.

The CPC exchanges information on OSCE project activities, as well as on normative achievements in the area of SCA, with other international organizations. Since 2008, informal meetings have been organized in Vienna with other international organizations to enhance co-ordination of efforts with regard to projects on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition. The purpose of the meetings is to take stock of the projects relating to SALW and SCA being implemented by international organizations, to exchange lessons learnt and best practices, and to co-ordinate ongoing and future activities. Such meetings are organized in line with the following modalities:

- The one-day informal co-ordination meetings are held twice a year;
- When applicable, the scope of such meetings may be expanded to accommodate relevant projects and issues outside the field of SALW and SCA.

In 2010–2011, the co-ordination meeting was held in Belgrade, Serbia.

## **8.2 Participation in the UN Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action on SALW**

The OSCE actively participated in the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (BMS-4), held in New York from 14 to 18 June 2010. The purpose of the BMS-4 was to assess the implementation of the Programme of Action to date and to further chart its future. States also reviewed progress on the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (ITI).

During the Meeting, the FSC Chairmanship made a statement on the OSCE's efforts towards implementing the UN Programme of Action on SALW and the ITI. In addition, the OSCE organized a side event on the Organization's work on small arms and light weapons. The side event attracted approximately 50 participants. At the side event, the OSCE presented

both its normative SALW work and its projects, including the film on FSC projects. At the question-and-answer session, questions were asked about the control by the OSCE of the SALW manufactured, the possibility of making public the information exchange on SALW and the feasibility of conducting information exchanges on global import/export of SALW as well as about the verification procedures during destruction of SALW.

The OSCE had also submitted its report on implementation of the Programme of Action to the UNODA in advance of the BMS-4. The OSCE Plan of Action on SALW was annexed to the report.

### **8.3 Participation in the Open-Ended Meeting of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the Programme of Action on SALW, focussing also on the International Tracing Instrument**

From 9 to 13 May 2011, an Open-Ended Meeting of Governmental Experts was held by the UN to address key implementation challenges relating to the UN Programme of Action on SALW. The meeting focussed on marking, recordkeeping, tracing and international assistance and co-operation. The FSC Chairmanship made a statement at the meeting, outlining the OSCE's efforts directed towards contributing to the full implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW and the ITI with regard to marking, tracing and recordkeeping.

## **9. Conclusions**

### **9.1 Normative Work on SALW**

The implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW continues to play an important role as a norm-setting document in the OSCE area.

The substantive decisions by the FSC in 2010–2011 were the adoption of the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW, the decision on a one-off information exchange on brokering regulations and the decision to review the Plan of Action on SALW. Furthermore, there were four FSC meetings devoted to SALW in 2010 and two in 2011. A reference guide on the OSCE commitments in respect of SALW, a revised reporting template for one-off information exchange and an electronic end-user certificate for voluntary use by participating States were introduced to support the implementation of the OSCE commitments.

In the past two years, the FSC has adopted an active approach in implementing the OSCE *acquis* on SALW issues. However, the implementation of the Plan of Action on SALW in relation to review of the implementation of principles, norms, and measures with a view to improving capacity and efficiency has been weak.

### **9.2 Practical assistance on SALW**

The practical implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW through measures to respond to the increasing number of participating States' requests for assistance has remained a key OSCE activity. Steps continue to be taken to enhance the effectiveness of SALW activity through regular regional co-operation and informal co-ordination with other international organizations.

Periodic/regular information sharing or briefings on the projects, both by the Co-ordinator and by the actors involved, should raise awareness and help mobilize resources from the participating States.

However, extrabudgetary contributions and fund-raising remain a core issue in the absence of predictable multi-year funding strategies for SALW and SCA projects by participating States.

## 10. Annexes

Annex A: Overview of the one-off information exchange on marking, export controls, stockpile management and destruction procedures in respect of SALW

Annex B: Overview of the annual information exchange on export-import of SALW, surplus SALW and/or SALW seized and destroyed

Annex C: Destruction of SALW in the OSCE area

Annex D: Meetings, seminars and conferences on SALW organized by the OSCE from December 2009 to November 2011

Annex E: Participation in events organized by other international organizations and in jointly organized events

Annex F: Donors to SALW projects

### **Annex A: Overview of the one-off information exchange on marking, export controls, stockpile management and destruction procedures in respect of SALW, as well as on brokering, samples of end-user certificates and illicit air transport**

Reference (paragraph)	Citation regarding implementation measures	Current status		
		Exchanged to date	Updates in 2010	Updates in 2011
Section II, (D)1 (starting from 30 June 2001)	The participating States agree to conduct an information exchange on their national marking systems used in the manufacture and/or import of small arms.	54 participating States	5 participating States	16 participating States

Reference (paragraph)	Citation regarding implementation measures	Current status		
		Exchanged to date	Updates in 2010	Updates in 2011
Section II, (D)1 (starting from 30 June 2001)	The participating States agree to exchange with each other available information on national procedures for the control of the manufacture of small arms.	54 participating States	2 participating States	19 participating States
Section III, (F)2 (starting from 30 June 2001)	The participating States will exchange with each other available information on relevant national legislation and current practice on export policy, procedures, documentation and on control over international brokering in small arms in order to spread awareness of “best practice” in these areas.	54 participating States	4 participating States	17 participating States
Section IV, (E)2 (starting from 30 June 2002)	The participating States will exchange information of a general nature about their national stockpile management and security procedures. The FSC will consider developing a best practice guide, designed to promote effective stockpile management and security.	54 participating States	4 participating States	17 participating States
Section IV, (E)3 (starting from 30 June 2001)	The participating States agree to exchange information on their techniques and procedures for the destruction of small arms. The FSC will consider developing a best practice guide of techniques and procedures for the destruction of small arms.	53 participating States	3 participating States	14 participating States
FSC Decision No. 11/07 (by 25 January 2008)	The FSC requests participating States to exchange information on their present regulations concerning brokering activities with regard to small arms and light weapons.	48 participating States		

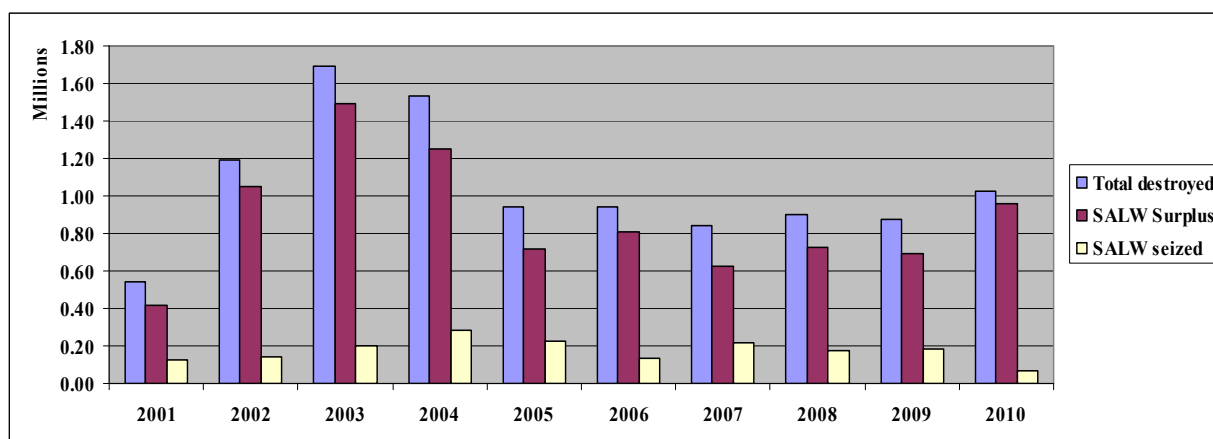
Reference (paragraph)	Citation regarding implementation measures	Current status		
		Exchanged to date	Updates in 2010	Updates in 2011
FSC Decision No. 11/08 (by 30 June 2009)	The FSC decides that the participating States shall provide, as an update to the one-off information exchange established by Section III, part F, paragraph 2, of the OSCE Document on SALW, additional information on national practices.	45 participating States	1 participating State	3 participating States
FSC Decision No. 12/08 (by 27 March 2009)	The FSC requests participating states to provide a sample format of their national end-user certificate and/or other pertinent documents.	49 participating States		2 participating States
FSC Decision No. 17/10 (by 30 June 2011)	The FSC requests participating States to exchange information on their present regulations concerning brokering activities with regard to SALW.	n/a	n/a	39 participating States

**Annex B: Overview of annual information exchange on export-import of SALW, surplus SALW and/or SALW seized and destroyed**

Reference (paragraph)	Citation regarding implementation measures	Status by 2011	
		2010	2011
Section III, (F)1	The participating States agree to conduct an information exchange among themselves about their small arms exports to, and imports from, other participating States during the previous calendar year. They also agree to study ways to further improve the information exchange on transfers of small arms.	48 participating States	44 participating States

Reference (paragraph)	Citation regarding implementation measures	Status by 2011	
		2010	2011
Section IV, (C)1	The participating States agree that the preferred method for the disposal of small arms is destruction.	34 participating States	40 participating States
Section IV, (E)1	The participating States agree to share available information on the category, sub-category and quantity of small arms that have been identified as surplus and/or seized and destroyed on their territory during the previous calendar year.		

### Annex C: Destruction of SALW in the OSCE area<sup>2</sup>



### Annex D: Meetings, seminars and conferences on SALW organized by the OSCE from December 2009 to November 2011

#### Combating Illicit Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons in Central Asia: Regional Follow-Up Meeting

The Conflict Prevention Centre and the OSCE Centre in Astana, jointly with the Government of Kazakhstan, organized a regional follow-up meeting on combating illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons in Central Asia. The meeting took place on 16 and 17 September 2010, in Almaty, Kazakhstan, and brought together representatives from relevant agencies of Kazakhstan, the Kyrgyz Republic, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan. Also, a number of expert speakers from other international organizations, participating States and NGOs took part in the event. The purpose of the meeting was twofold: to examine the main achievements and challenges in implementing effective SALW controls, using reporting as a self-assessment tool, and to discuss how to make the best use of international best practices and assistance offered by the international community to combat illicit trafficking in small arms.

2 It should be noted that, in cases where a participating State has not differentiated between surplus and seized weapons, the statistics are reflected as surplus.

Regional Workshop on Customs Procedures and Licensing Issuance: Integrating the National Processing of Dual-Use Goods and Conventional Weapons Through Information Sharing

The Conflict Prevention Centre (FSC Support Section and Borders Team) and Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC) jointly organized a regional workshop from 25 to 27 October 2011 in Zagreb, Croatia, for licensing officers and customs agencies for South-Eastern European countries. The Workshop brought together representatives from Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Greece, Montenegro, Romania, Serbia and Turkey. Experts from international organizations and academia also took part in the Workshop. During the three days, licensing and customs experts exchanged experiences and information with a view to facilitating risk assessment and detection in order to prevent illicit transfers of controlled and dual-use goods, including SALW. It is planned to hold similar regional events for other OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation in 2012.

**Other events**

Presentations related to SALW in the context of the Security Dialogue of the FSC

FSC Chairpersons regularly invite guest speakers to address the Forum, also on issues related to SALW. In 2010–2011, the presentations on topics related to SALW included the following briefings:

- Presentations by Mr. Daniel Prins, Chief, Conventional Arms Branch, United Nations Office on Disarmament Affairs, on national efforts in the preparation for the Biennial Meeting of States (BMS) on the UN Programme of Action on SALW; and on initiatives on SALW by the UN and the OSCE;
- Presentation by Ambassador Sune Danielsson, Head of the Secretariat of the Wassenaar Arrangement, on the activities of the Wassenaar Arrangement;
- Presentation by Mr. Patrick McCarthy, Project Co-ordinator, UN Co-ordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) Mechanism, on International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS);
- Presentation by Mr. Glenn McDonald, Senior Researcher at the Small Arms Survey, on international transfer and brokering controls: continuing challenges;
- Presentation by Mr. Paul Holtom, Programme Director, Arms Transfers Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, on the launch of the OSCE template for the end-user certificate for SALW;
- Presentation by Mrs. Valentina Stalyho, UNDP Programme Manager in Minsk, on the SALW project in Belarus: progress and constraints; and by Colonel Vladimir Baranov, Ministry of Defence of Belarus, Chief of Department, National Co-ordinator of the OSCE-UNDP SALW project, on the OSCE-UNDP project on capacity-building in respect of SALW stockpile management and security in Belarus.



Exhibition at the High-Level Seminar on Military Doctrine

On the margins of the High-Level Seminar on Military Doctrine, on 24 and 25 May 2011, the FSC Support Section presented a photo exhibition reflecting FSC assistance projects on SALW and conventional ammunition. The exhibition displayed different stages of project assessments and implementation in countries in which assistance had been provided, including Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Montenegro, Tajikistan and Ukraine.

**Annex E: Participation in events organized by other international organizations and in jointly organized events**

The OSCE continued its active external co-ordination and co-operation with other regional and international organizations and civil society, including participation in events organized by other actors.

In 2010–2011, representatives of the CPC continued to promote the OSCE’s outreach activities by participating in events organized by other international and regional organizations. Seminars and workshops at which presentations were given are listed below.

<b>OSCE/FSC participation in SALW-related events organized by other international and regional organizations in 2010–2011</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Place</b>
18–19 February 2010	UN Regional Seminar on Enhancing International and Regional Cooperation to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate Illicit Brokering in SALW in East and Southeast Asia	Bangkok, Thailand
23–24 March 2010	NATO Maintenance and Supply Agency Symposium on System Dismantling and Disposal of Military Equipment and Ammunition	Luxembourg
1 June 2010	Meeting on co-ordination with other international organizations in respect of projects on SALW and SCA	Belgrade, Serbia
14–18 June 2010	Fourth Biennial Meeting of States on the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW	New York, United States of America
2–4 November 2010	Regional Approach to Stockpile Reduction (RASR) Workshop on Conventional Weapons and Munitions	Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
15–16 November 2010	Shaping, Fine-Tuning and Finalizing International Small Arms Control Standards	Geneva, Switzerland
3 December 2010	UNIDIR seminar on the implementation of the Programme of Action on SALW	Geneva, Switzerland
12 April 2011	EU Working Group on Global Arms Control and Disarmament (CODUN) meeting	Brussels, Belgium

<b>OSCE/FSC participation in SALW-related events organized by other international and regional organizations in 2010–2011</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Place</b>
23–25 May 2011	Regional Approach to Stockpile Reduction (RASR) Workshop on the Regional Approach to Stockpile Reduction	Ljubljana, Slovenia
22–23 September 2011	NATO Structured Information Exchange on Projects on SALW and SCA	Brussels, Belgium

## **Annex F: Donors to SALW projects**

The table below indicates pledges of financial support made by delegations towards the implementation of projects on SALW received from 2005 through 2011.

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Funds pledged (in euros)</b>	<b>Country assisted</b>
<b>2005</b>		
Finland	100,000	Tajikistan, Phase I
Norway	30,000	Tajikistan, Phase I
Norway	In kind (secondment of chief technical adviser)	Tajikistan, Phase I (SALW and conventional ammunition)
Slovenia	40,000	Tajikistan, Phase I
Sweden	170,575	Tajikistan, Phase I
United States of America	In kind (physical security and stockpile management course)	Tajikistan, Phase I
United States of America	164,000	Tajikistan, Phase I
<b>Total for 2005</b>	<b>504,575</b>	
<b>2006</b>		
Belgium	50,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Belgium	55,331	Belarus, OSCE-UNDP project
Finland	100,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Norway	In kind (secondment of chief technical adviser)	Tajikistan, Phase II
Norway	60,000	Tajikistan, Phase II (SALW and conventional ammunition)
Spain	100,000	Belarus, OSCE-UNDP project
Sweden	100,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Sweden	524,846	Belarus, OSCE-UNDP project
United Kingdom	145,000	Belarus, OSCE-UNDP project
United States of America	In kind (physical security and stockpile management course)	Tajikistan, Phase II

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Funds pledged (in euros)</b>	<b>Country assisted</b>
<b>2006</b>		
United States of America	235,800	Tajikistan, Phase II
<b>Total for 2006</b>	<b>1,370,977</b>	
<b>2007</b>		
Norway	309,006	Belarus, Phase I
Norway	Secondment of chief technical adviser	Tajikistan, Phase II
Spain	150,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Sweden (through UNDP)	200,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
<b>Total for 2007</b>	<b>659,006</b>	
<b>2008</b>		
Austria	30,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Denmark	7,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Finland	345,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Luxembourg	40,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
Norway	30,000	Tajikistan, Phase II
<b>Total for 2008</b>	<b>452,000</b>	
<b>2009</b>		
Finland	80,000	Belarus, Phase II
France	15,000	Belarus, Phase II
Greece	30,000	Belarus, Phase II
Norway	213,253	Belarus, Phase II
Spain	100,000	Belarus, Phase I
<b>Total for 2009</b>	<b>438,253</b>	
<b>2010</b>		
United Kingdom	15,000	Kyrgyzstan, training in physical security and stockpile management, and destruction of SALW
Germany	50,000	Belarus, Phase II
<b>Total for 2010</b>	<b>65,000</b>	
<b>2011</b>		
France	15,000	Belarus
Italy	10,000	Belarus
United States of America	100,500	Kyrgyzstan, training in physical security and stockpile management, and destruction of SALW
<b>Total for 2011</b>	<b>125,500</b>	
<b>Total for 2005–2011</b>	<b>3,615,311</b>	

**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE  
EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON THE  
CONTINUING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OSCE DOCUMENT ON  
STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION**

(MC.GAL/4/11/Corr.2 of 24 November 2011)

**Executive summary**

This progress report gives comprehensive factual information on the current status of implementation of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) in the period from November 2009 to November 2011<sup>1</sup>. Furthermore, the report also indicates those specific areas where the most critical action or assistance is needed. The following results were achieved in 2010–2011:

In March 2011, the Forum for Security Co-operation adopted FSC Decision No. 3/11, recognizing destruction as the preferred method of disposal of surplus, expired and obsolete conventional ammunition.

During the reporting period, participating States pledged approximately 4,886,000 euros for stockpiles of conventional ammunition and mélange projects (around 969,572 euros for SCA projects across the OSCE area and 3,916,947 euros for the mélange project in Ukraine). Ukraine's in-kind contribution for the implementation of the mélange project amounted to 360,000 euros.

The two-year period has been marked by a strong implementation phase in many projects, leading to the completion of projects in Albania, Moldova, Montenegro and Ukraine. Under the mélange project in Ukraine, the largest OSCE extrabudgetary project ever, around 7,000 tonnes of mélange were disposed of in a safe and environmentally benign manner.

Many other projects are under development or just in the starting phase. Following the OSCE assessment visits conducted in 2010–2011 in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Kazakhstan and Serbia, the OSCE is now facing a challenge of mobilizing approximately 10 million euros of extrabudgetary resources in the next few years, needed to destroy surplus ammunition and secure stockpiles that present humanitarian, environmental and proliferation threats across the OSCE region.

Co-operation between the UNDP and the OSCE has been further enhanced through the development of three new joint projects in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia and Serbia. Also, co-ordination of efforts with other international organizations has been continued on project activities as well as on normative achievements in the area of SCA and small arms and light weapons (SALW).

Although the report concludes that 2010 and 2011 have been successful years, it emphasizes the need for further donations during the remainder of 2011 and in 2012. Projects on demilitarization or safe storage of ammunition and weapons are one of the tangible and visible successful endeavours of the OSCE's work. SCA projects have good public relations

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<sup>1</sup> The deadline for submitting input for this report was 7 November 2011.

value and are therefore of great importance to the Organization. The OSCE has a number of important projects that are in urgent need of funding. Participating States are therefore encouraged to seriously consider making contributions for these projects.

## **1. Introduction**

At the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Athens, the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation, through its Chairperson, was requested to submit to the Eighteenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council a progress report on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (MC.DEC/15/09). The present report covers ongoing efforts to address the challenges posed by stockpiles of ammunition. The report presents conclusions and suggests focus areas.

It has been recognized that surplus stockpiles of conventional ammunition, including rocket fuel component mélange, adversely affect the security and stability of countries and regions. Since 1995, the world has seen at least 236 known or suspected explosive events in ammunition storage areas<sup>2</sup>. In 2011 alone, ammunition explosions occurred in at least three participating States, causing human losses and injuries in the OSCE area. This underlines the need to further develop co-operation on stockpiles of conventional ammunition. The OSCE has developed a solid base for tackling the problem of stockpiles of conventional ammunition stored in conditions that do not meet minimum safety standards. Currently, the Forum is dealing with requests from eight countries designed to address the problem.

Since the OSCE is not a legal entity, implementation of such projects requires a special focus due to increased risks and possible legal and financial liabilities. However, non-action is not an option, as doing nothing could result in the loss of life and possible environmental catastrophe. Thus, preventive action such as demilitarization and improvement of storage facilities is supported at the Forum as a generally wiser and less costly course of action.

In 2010–2011, the OSCE continued to provide practical assistance to participating States. As shown in the report, the OSCE has been able to respond to requests and assist participating States in building or strengthening their national capacities by providing expertise, mobilizing both technical and financial resources, and implementing projects, including through co-operation with other international organizations.

## **2. Objective**

This report is intended to provide an update on the implementation of general principles regarding conventional ammunition agreed on by all the participating States in the Document on SCA. It also describes the progress achieved in project activities on conventional ammunition carried out in response to assistance requests from participating States. The report covers the period from November 2009 to November 2011, owing to the

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2 Source: Report “The Threat from Explosive Events in Ammunition Storage Areas” by Explosive Capabilities Limited (Edition 2010/3) indicates 231 incidents globally plus five media-reported incidents in 2011 in OSCE participating States.

fact that in 2010, the OSCE had the Summit of Heads of State or Government instead of a meeting of the Ministerial Council, so that no ministerial reports were prepared.

The report is primarily designed to provide an overview of the status of projects, and best practice guides, and to highlight the issues posing challenges to successful implementation of the OSCE projects under the Document on SCA in the near future.

### **3. National efforts**

#### **3.1 National efforts related to stockpiles of conventional ammunition**

The OSCE Document on SCA identifies areas of responsibility to be embraced by all the participating States. These include management and security of national stockpiles of conventional ammunition; management of explosive materials and explosive devices and the identification and reduction of surpluses.

### **4. OSCE assistance pursuant to the Document on SCA**

Since 2003, the OSCE has received 29 requests for assistance in the area of SCA from 16 participating States. Specifically, these included eight requests for assistance in ensuring the safety and security of stockpiles of ammunition; eleven requests to assist with the destruction of ammunition; seven requests for assistance in the disposal of rocket fuel component (mélange) and three requests for assistance with the disposal of unexploded ordnance (UXO) and explosive remnants of war (ERW).

In 2010–2011, the OSCE continued the implementation of projects in response to requests for assistance on conventional ammunition submitted by participating States. These two years were marked by a strong implementation phase in many projects.

#### **4.1 Requests for assistance in destruction and stockpile management and security of conventional ammunition**

##### **4.1.1 Requests being assessed or in the project development phase**

Following the request for assistance submitted by Kyrgyzstan, as well as assessment visits conducted in 2008 and 2011, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, together with the CPC, recently finalized the development of the OSCE SALW and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition Programme for Kyrgyzstan, which comprises the following elements:

- Provision of training on physical security and stockpile management;
- Construction and/or refurbishment of three SALW and ammunition storage sites (Buzhum, Gul'cha and Koi-Tash);
- Destruction of surplus or unserviceable SALW, including MANPADS, and ammunition.

The programme will be implemented in 2011–2013 with a total budget of up to 900,000 euros.

In March 2011, Bosnia and Herzegovina submitted a request for assistance to the FSC for enhancing stockpile management and security of SALW and conventional ammunition storage sites. In June 2011, an OSCE assessment team visited all the sites, and recommended that two SALW storage sites (Teufik Buza and Rabic) and two ammunition storage sites (Kula 1 and Krupa) should be refurbished with the support of the OSCE. The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina developed separate projects for each site, with an overall budget of 1.2 million euros that will be implemented jointly with UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina. Despite the fact that, at the time of drafting, the project has not yet been uploaded into the OSCE financial system, its implementation by the UNDP has already been initiated (design and procurement of external doors at SALW and SCA storage buildings) under supervision of the Joint Project Manager seconded by the OSCE Mission.

Following the closure of the OSCE Mission in Georgia in 2009, the OSCE Secretariat, the UNDP Georgia and the Ministry of Defence of Georgia undertook a range of technical assessments in 2010 with the aim of resuming demilitarization activities in Georgia. As a result, the OSCE and the UNDP developed a joint ammunition demilitarization and community security programme. The programme's recently launched pilot project envisions the destruction of Georgia's entire stockpile of aircraft cluster bombs within less than two years.

In June 2011, Serbia requested OSCE assistance in destroying surplus ammunition and improving stockpile management and security of ammunition stockpiles. The OSCE and UNDP Serbia jointly conducted an assessment visit from 11 to 14 September 2011, and recommended that, based on technical, safety and implementation timescales, the project priorities should be:

- Technical and infrastructure support for the demilitarization of surplus stocks of ammunition filled with white phosphorous, and the subsequent disposal of the white phosphorous;
- Technical and infrastructure support for the disposal of napalm powders;
- Infrastructure improvement to existing demilitarization facilities at the Technical Repair Factory Kragujevac;
- New storage buildings at Mrsac and Mirnička Reka.

The project proposal is under development with the aim of starting implementation of another joint OSCE-UNDP project early in 2012.

Also, it should be noted that, given the increasing number of SALW and SCA projects in South-Eastern Europe, a post of OSCE SALW and SCA adviser in the Western Balkans needs to be established.

#### 4.1.2 Projects under implementation

In February 2007, Montenegro requested OSCE assistance in destroying surplus ammunition, improving stockpile management and security and eliminating toxic chemicals (rocket fuel components and napalm component)<sup>3</sup>. Based on the Memorandum of Understanding between the OSCE Secretariat and the UNDP, the Montenegro Demilitarization Programme (MONDEM) was established under UNDP management. The implementation of the Programme has currently been extended until 31 December 2011.

The project on the demilitarization of surplus conventional ammunition was progressing steadily in 2010–2011. The first phase of the demilitarization project was completed in June 2010, when a total of 480 tonnes of unstable ammunition were successfully demilitarized. Funds generated from selling scrap (80,000 US dollars) were ploughed back into the project in preparation for the launch of the project's second phase, which has just rolled out. Funded to around 66 per cent at this stage, the second phase also envisions the purchase of demilitarization equipment for tackling a total stockpile of 1,000 tonnes, of which over 100 tonnes are considered to be unstable and are a matter of priority.

The second component of the MONDEM Programme is aimed at solving the problems of secure storage and management in the ammunition storage areas. The project is helping to bring the management and security of two ammunition storage sites in Montenegro to a level corresponding both to national requirements and to recommendations set forth in the UN Integrated Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Standards (IDDRS) and the OSCE SALW Best Practice Guide on Stockpile Management and Security. During 2010–2011, the MONDEM team achieved significant progress, resulting in the upgrade of the Taras storage site, which holds close to one third of Montenegro's overall stockpile. The site, which currently houses new guard premises and fences, electrical and power installations, access roads and parking facilities, and video surveillance and perimeter security systems, was inaugurated in May 2011. The Montenegrin authorities are also planning to equip the site with a new water supply system out of their own resources. It is planned to start upgrading the second storage site, Brezovik, which is the largest ammunition storage site in Montenegro, as soon as the funding prospects allow. Formal presentation of the engineering project design is scheduled for early November 2011. This project may be split into several sub-projects to facilitate easier donor support. To date, the overall OSCE financial contribution to MONDEM amounts to 623,194.13 euros; financial support to MONDEM through the UNDP is at around 3.2 million US dollars, and the Government of Montenegro is contributing around 1 million euros. Detailed information on sources of funding can be found in annex B.

The OSCE SALW and Conventional Ammunition Programme in Moldova, launched in 2009, already comprises three projects that have been finalized over the last two years and one more project currently in the process of implementation. In addition, two more projects have been uploaded into the OSCE electronic database and are ready for implementation, provided sufficient funding is obtained.

Through implementation of the three projects in 2010–2011, the OSCE Mission to Moldova helped the Ministry of Defence of Moldova to build up substantial capacity and

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3 The project on the disposal of toxic waste in Montenegro was completed in November 2008.



expertise to dispose of various types of ammunition. A total of 78 cluster bombs and 106 aircraft bombs were successfully disposed of and 48 surface-to-air missiles were rendered non-operational as a result of these efforts.

The project to refurbish storage sites for SALW and ammunition in Floresti, Cahul, Balti and Chisinau is currently underway. As a result of its implementation, the necessary conditions for running SALW and ammunition management systems in accordance with the OSCE best practice standards will be put in place. The project is planned to be completed in 2012.

Notwithstanding the success of the above projects, there is a dire shortage of funds for proceeding with the implementation of the programme's largest project, for the construction of a new ammunition storage facility in Bulboaca. The funds required for this project amount to 820,000 euros.

In Ukraine, the OSCE Project Co-ordinator has recently completed a project with the country's Ministry of Emergency Situations, which was jointly developed by the Project Co-ordinator, the CPC and the Ministry in 2008.

The project provided explosive ordnance disposal staff of the Ministry with equipment needed for ground and underwater clearance of explosive remnants of war, specifically on the Crimean coast. In addition, 111 pieces of reliable up-to-date personal protective equipment were made available as part of the project.

#### **4.2 Requests for assistance on elimination of liquid rocket fuel components (mélange and samin) and hazardous military chemicals**

At the end of 2006, an informal "Group of Friends" for the elimination of rocket fuel component mélange was established to discuss and speed up the implementation of projects in this field.

The mélange project in Ukraine became the largest extrabudgetary project that the OSCE has ever undertaken. This project has a major positive environmental impact in terms of removing the contamination/accident risk posed by the deteriorating stockpiles of the hazardous chemical substance. It also delivers lasting benign socio-economic effects on local communities as the military sites with their infrastructural and economic assets will be closed down after the removal of the mélange and, after environmental clean-up, will be re-developed for civilian use.

By October 2011, the OSCE Secretariat, supported by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, successfully finalized Phases III-A and III-B of the project launched in November 2009, removing a total of 5,764 tonnes of mélange from three storage sites in the west of Ukraine and thereby eliminating all this toxic hazard from the entire western Ukraine. This hazardous substance was transported to two chemical plants in the Russian Federation that have extensive experience in mélange disposal. There all the mélange was safely processed into nitric acid and subsequently used for the production of civilian chemical products like fuel additives and industrial explosives.

The next storage site, out of the remaining three (in the centre, east and south of Ukraine), containing 1,129 tonnes, was removed from October to November 2011 under the

final Phase III-C. It is planned to remove all the mélange from Ukraine by late 2012, so that two sites located in the vicinity of the UEFA Eurocup 2012 games will be gone before the start of the games.

In Kazakhstan, the total amount of mélange to be disposed of was assessed by the Ministry of Defence of Kazakhstan and the OSCE at 410 tonnes.

Also Kazakhstan reconfirmed its national financial and technical contribution to the project to be implemented, preferably by the end of 2011.

Based on the successful experience with the mélange project in Ukraine, it is planned to apply the same approach, removing one trainload of mélange to the Russian Federation for disposal at the chemical factory in the Nizhniy Novgorod region.

Since 2008, the OSCE Presence in Albania has been working with the Ministry of Defence on hazardous waste disposal, removing 60 tonnes of mélange rocket fuel and 120 tonnes of Dichloroethane. At the end of 2010, the Ministry approached the Presence, requesting its assistance in disposing of the remaining 72 tonnes of hazardous chemicals. An assessment in this regard conducted in January 2011 concluded that the current situation in respect to storing and handling, with storage facilities in close proximity to living areas and a lack of awareness of the surrounding populations regarding the risks, called for urgent intervention.

A one-year project for safe disposal of the remaining hazardous chemicals by increasing the Ministry's capacities for handling and repackaging them, safely storing them temporarily and ultimately disposing of them is ready for implementation in 2012, upon mobilization of 237,902 euros of donor contributions. Detailed information on sources of funding can be found in annex B.

#### **4.3 FSC decision on destruction of conventional ammunition**

In March 2011, the Forum for Security Co-operation adopted FSC Decision No. 3/11, which recognizes destruction as the preferred method of disposal of surplus, expired and obsolete conventional ammunition.

#### **4.4 Donors**

The overall list of donors to OSCE SCA projects, including mélange, is provided in annex D.

### **5. Co-operation and exchange of information**

#### **5.1 Co-operation with the UN**

In line with the UN Programme of Action on SALW, which encouraged regional organizations to co-operate and to develop and strengthen partnerships to share resources to combat illicit SALW, the OSCE developed a general framework for technical co-operation with the UNDP. A Memorandum of Understanding signed in 2006 provides a non-exclusive framework for technical co-operation for the implementation of SALW and conventional

ammunition projects. In April 2010, the Memorandum was extended for two years until June 2012.

In addition to two joint projects launched in the framework of the Memorandum in Belarus and Montenegro in 2007, three new joint projects have been started in Georgia, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia.

In 2009–2011 the United Nations was developing technical guidelines for the management of conventional arms and ammunition stockpiles to assist UN member States in the implementation of adequate stockpile management systems. These guidelines were designed to allow UN member States gradually to institute a series of progressively more comprehensive stockpile management systems, as well as to serve as a useful tool in aid of those providing international assistance in stockpile management. These guidelines make use *inter alia* of the OSCE Handbook of Best Practices on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition.

## **5.2 Exchange of information with other international organizations**

The OSCE exchanges information on OSCE project activities as well as on normative achievements in the area of SCA with other international organizations. Following the OSCE's initiative for the holding of regular co-ordination meetings as of 2008, one-day informal meetings were held in Belgrade (June 2010) and in Brussels (September 2011) with other international organizations, to enhance co-ordination of efforts with regard to projects on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition. These meetings afforded an opportunity to take stock of SALW and SCA projects implemented by international organizations and in the latter case by individual donors, with the aim of identifying synergies for project activities and avoiding overlaps.

## **6. Conclusions**

The OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition remains an effective and useful tool for addressing the problems arising from stockpiles of conventional ammunition. It continues to serve as an important framework for dealing with surpluses and stockpiles of ammunition with a view to reducing the risk of destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled proliferation.

When it comes to the normative aspects of the SCA Document, an appreciable development in the past two years has been the introduction of destruction as the preferred method of disposal of ammunition. At the same time, there is more room for enhancing the other normative aspects of this Document, for example, development of clear criteria for defining surpluses of conventional ammunition in the efforts to ensure ammunition's safe and secure storage. The OSCE should work further in this area at both the norm-setting and the practical levels.

One of the most vibrant areas of implementation of the OSCE Document on SCA remains the one dealing with requests for assistance from the participating States in the field of destruction, and stockpile management and security.

In this field, 2010 and 2011 have been two dynamic years. Projects were completed in Albania, Moldova, Tajikistan and Ukraine. New projects have been started up in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia and Kazakhstan, while a new project for Serbia is currently under development.

On the one hand, this bears out OSCE's credibility in helping participating States with their SCA problems. However, from another point of view, it also raises expectations that the OSCE is capable of delivering the same or a higher level of technical and financial support in the future.

The most significant result in 2010–2011 was the successful disposal of nearly 7,000 tonnes of Ukrainian mélange that made the western and central parts of Ukraine free of this hazardous substance. This project also remains at the top of the priority list for 2012, with the aim of completing removal of the remaining 8,500 tonnes by October 2012.

Another important achievement in 2011 was the resumption of ammunition demilitarization activities jointly with the UNDP in Georgia.

In 2010 and 2011, there was some increase in donor funding available for SCA projects as compared to the year 2009. For that period participating States pledged 969,572 euros for projects relating to conventional ammunition.

The mélange project in Ukraine has attracted 3,916,947 euros in the past two years, accounting for a substantial share of the total amount of donor contributions. Ukraine's in-kind contribution for the implementation of the project amounted to 360,000 euros.

On the other hand, for quite some time already, there have been other projects in need of donor funding, such as a project to build a new storage site in Moldova.

Projects on demilitarization or safe storage of ammunition and weapons are one of the tangible and visible successful endeavours of the OSCE's work. They have a good public relations value and are therefore of great importance to the Organization.

However, the extra budgetary contributions and the fund-raising remain a core challenge in the absence of predictable multi-year funding strategies for SALW and SCA projects by participating States.

## 7. Annexes

### Annex A: Original requests for assistance and current status

**Chart I. Original requests for assistance and current status**  
(Lists requests in the alphabetical order of participating States)

Requesting State	Scope of the problem (as specified in national requests)
<b>Albania</b>	Date of request: 20 February 2008 Elimination of 30 tonnes of rocket fuel component (mélange) Status: Completed Date of request: September 2008 Project on demilitarization of ammunition by provision of relevant equipment (band saws) Status: Completed Date of Request: December 2010 Project for disposal of 72 tonnes of hazardous chemicals Status: Starting
<b>Armenia</b>	Date of request: 22 April 2004 Elimination of 862 tonnes of stocks of rocket fuel component (mélange) Status: Completed
<b>Azerbaijan</b>	Date of request: 26 July 2005 Elimination of 1,200 tonnes of stocks of rocket fuel components (mélange and samin) and site clean-up Status: Handed over to NATO and completed
<b>Belarus</b>	Date of request: 9 March 2004 Disposal of 97,000 tonnes of surplus ammunition, increasing by 4,000–7,000 tonnes per year, including missiles and hexogen ammunition, through development of national capacity or transportation for disposal in a third country. (While there is an ongoing State programme for ammunition disposal (2.5 million US dollars), Belarus does not have the technical capacity to dispose of all types of surplus ammunition.) Status: No activities
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	Date of request: 29 March 2011 Improvement of the security and management of stockpiles of SALW and CA Status: Two ammunition storage sites were identified as most suitable for OSCE-supported refurbishment. Project starts in 2012
<b>Cyprus</b>	Date of request: 2 November 2011 Technical assistance to improve destruction capacities. All relevant work will be done by the National Guard of Cyprus.

<b>Requesting State</b>	<b>Scope of the problem (as specified in national requests)</b>
<b>Georgia</b>	<p>Date of request: 25 July 2007</p> <p>Demilitarization of 4,300 tonnes of surplus ammunition (artillery shells, guided and unguided missiles, aviation bombs, pyrotechnic ammunition and shells of various calibres);</p> <p>Remediation of soil at five former military airfields;</p> <p>Disposal of 9,000 warheads by smelting;</p> <p>Destruction of 4,705 items of ammunition by open detonation.</p> <p>Status: Started</p>
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	<p>Date of request: 15 December 2004</p> <p>Assistance in the disposal of transportable conventional ammunition using industrial facilities in Arys and Kapchagai;</p> <p>Assistance in the disposal of non-transportable conventional ammunition in its storage location (Ayaguz, Uch-Aral, Semipalatinsk and Ust-Kamenogorsk);</p> <p>Re-establishment of conventional ammunition test laboratory to carry out regular examination of conventional ammunition;</p> <p>Establishment of a conventional ammunition management system as an integral part of a common armed forces procurement and management system;</p> <p>Elimination of 410 tonnes of rocket fuel component (mélange).</p> <p>Status: Kazakhstan has taken the lead in ammunition disposal and the establishment of an ammunition management system. The OSCE provides assistance for the disposal of mélange in conjunction with the mélange project in Ukraine. A project proposal for the conventional ammunition test laboratory has been developed, but remains unfunded.</p>
<b>Kyrgyz Republic</b>	<p>Date of request: 5 February 2008</p> <p>Improvement of the security and management of stockpiles of SALW and CA</p> <p>Status: Two assessment visits were carried out. An OSCE programme for SALW and CA was designed to include five separate but interlinked projects addressing different aspects of stockpile management and security. Implementation started autumn of 2011.</p>
<b>Moldova</b>	<p>Date of request: 20 December 2006</p> <p>Construction of a new ammunition storage facility in Bulboaca;</p> <p>Upgrade of SALW and ammunition storage facilities (Floresti, Cahul, Balți, Chisinau);</p> <p>Procurement and equipping of a mobile system for visual inspection of conventional ammunition;</p> <p>Destruction of cluster bombs;</p> <p>Destruction of air bombs;</p> <p>Disposal of 19 R60 air-to-ground rockets;</p> <p>Disposal of five V28 surface-to-air missiles;</p> <p>Ammunition technician training.</p> <p>Status: Two projects (4 and 5) are already completed. One (7) has rendered the missiles non-operational and prepared them for final disposal. Project 2 is in progress and project 1 has yet to garner sufficient donor funding to be launched. Other projects are under development.</p>

<b>Requesting State</b>	<b>Scope of the problem (as specified in national requests)</b>
<b>Montenegro</b>	<p>Date of request: 28 February 2007            Destruction of heavy weapons systems;            Destruction of 9,900 tonnes of surplus conventional ammunition;            Elimination of 160 tonnes of stocks of rocket fuel components (mélange, samin) and napalm;            Improvement of stockpile security and management.            Status: Projects 1 and 3 have been completed. The first phase of the destruction of conventional ammunition has also been finalized (project 2), and the first of the two ammunition storage sites has been refurbished (project 4). Both projects are continuing subject to the availability of continued funding.</p>
<b>Russian Federation</b>	<p>Date of request: 19 May 2004            Request for the disposal of surplus ammunition in Kaliningrad Oblast (100,000 tonnes, including 20,000 tonnes in a dangerous condition);            Improvement of stockpile security and management.            Status: Request withdrawn on 28 March 2007 (FSC.DEL/111/07). The Russian Federation will provide information about national efforts towards destroying the ammunition in question.</p>
<b>Serbia</b>	<p>Date of request: 1 June 2011            Provision of equipment for ammunition demilitarization and training to operate this equipment;            Disposal of 1,133 tonnes of white phosphorous- and napalm powder-based ammunition;            CA stockpile management and security (two ammunition storage sites).            Status: A joint OSCE-UNDP assessment visit was conducted in September 2011. Project development is under way.</p>
<b>Tajikistan</b>	<p>Date of request: 21 September 2004 (Phase I), 22 February 2006 (Phase II)            Specific situation: Organic arsenicals stored together with unexploded ordnances (UXOs) collected from the battlefield. Storage locations and conditions are not acceptable and present a serious danger to staff, the local population and civil infrastructure.            Status: Completed.</p>
<b>Ukraine</b>	<p>Date of request: 29 September 2004, additional request, 2 October 2007            New destruction capacities for RDX charges in Western Ukraine;            Improvement of security system for ammunition stockpiles;            Disposal of 16,764 tonnes of liquid rocket fuel component (mélange).            Following consultations between the Government of Ukraine and the OSCE, it is planned to eliminate 3,168 tonnes of mélange as the pilot project;            Assistance in overcoming the consequences of the Novobohdanivka storage-site disaster (destruction of remaining ammunition, area clean-up);            Assistance in clearing unexploded ammunition left on the territory of Ukraine.            Status: The UXO/ERW clearance project has been completed. The mélange project is being implemented; approximately 7,000 tonnes of mélange have been removed from western and central Ukraine.</p>

<b>Requesting State</b>	<b>Scope of the problem (as specified in national requests)</b>
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	Date of request: 25 February 2005 Elimination of over 1,000 tonnes of stocks of rocket fuel component (mélange) Status: NATO has taken the lead in this project.

## **Annex B: Donor funding for planned/running conventional ammunition projects**

### **Albania**

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Funds pledged (in euros)</b>	<b>Project</b>
<b>2009</b>		
Denmark	120,000	Demilitarization
<b>2010</b>		
Germany	78,000	Destruction of ammunition Phase II
<b>Total</b>	<b>198,000</b>	
Funds needed: Disposal of hazardous chemicals		237,902

### **Georgia**

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Funds pledged (in euros)</b>	<b>Project</b>
<b>2009</b>		
Denmark	30,000	Disposal of cluster bombs
<b>2010</b>		
Ireland	50,000	Disposal of cluster bombs
<b>2011</b>		
Denmark	59,325	Disposal of cluster bombs
Austria	15,083	Disposal of cluster bombs
<b>Total</b>	<b>154,408</b>	
Funds needed:		391,331

### **Kazakhstan (ammunition laboratory)**

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Funds pledged (in euros)</b>	<b>Project</b>
<b>2009–2011</b>		
–	–	
<b>Total</b>	–	
Funds needed:		302,500



### Kyrgyz Republic

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Project
<b>2011</b>		
United States of America	250,000	SALW and CA Programme in Kyrgyzstan
<b>Total</b>	<b>250,000</b>	
Funds needed:		550,000

### Moldova

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Phase
<b>2009</b>		
Finland	62,000	Refurbishment of SALW and SCA storage facilities
Spain	61,000	Destruction of cluster bombs
<b>2010</b>		
Germany	210,000	Refurbishment of SALW and SCA storage facilities
Germany	25,420	Disposal of surface-to-air missiles
Ireland	7,400	Destruction of air bombs
Spain	19,000	Destruction of air bombs
Luxembourg	14,000	Construction of a new storage facility in Bulboaca
Norway	In kind	Destruction of cluster bombs
Russia	In kind	Disposal of surface-to-air missiles
<b>2011</b>		
Austria	15,500	Disposal of surface-to-air missiles
<b>Total</b>	<b>414,320</b>	
Funds needed: Construction of a new storage facility in Bulboaca		820,000

### Montenegro

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Phase
<b>2009</b>		
Spain	100,000	Improvement of CA stockpile storage security (Taras)
<b>2010</b>		
Denmark	20,000	Destruction of surplus ammunition
Hungary	10,000	Destruction of surplus ammunition later reverted to Improvement of CA stockpile storage security (Taras)

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Funds pledged (in euros)</b>	<b>Phase</b>
<b>2010</b>		
Luxembourg	25,000	Destruction of surplus ammunition
Norway	63,194	Destruction of surplus ammunition
<b>2011</b>		
Luxembourg	25,000	Destruction of surplus ammunition
Liechtenstein	20,000	Destruction of surplus ammunition
<b>Total</b>	<b>263,194</b>	
Funds needed: Ammunition demilitarization, Phase II		300,000
Funds needed: Improvement of stockpile security management		2,400,000

### Ukraine

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Funds pledged (in euros)</b>	<b>Phase</b>
<b>2009</b>		
Denmark	50,000	Clearance of explosive remnants of war
<b>2010</b>		
Germany	52,650	Clearance of explosive remnants of war
United States of America	In kind (equivalent of 79,100)	Clearance of explosive remnants of war
<b>2011</b>		
Ireland	10,000	Clearance of explosive remnants of war
<b>Total</b>	<b>112,650</b>	
Funds needed:		—

### Bosnia and Herzegovina

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Funds pledged (in euros)</b>	<b>Phase</b>
<b>2011</b>		
SEESAC	275,000	Replacements of openings at SALW and SCA storage buildings
<b>Total</b>	<b>200,000</b>	
Funds needed: Internationally contracted Ammunition Technician Officer; Reconstruction at SALW storage sites; Repair and/or installation of lighting; Installation of alternate power supply; Installation of fire detection and intruder detection systems at storage buildings; Procurement of fire fighting equipment.		1,050,000

## Annex C: Donor funding for planned/running/recently completed mélange projects

### Kazakhstan

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)
<b>2006</b>	
Spain	150,000
Sweden	40,000
Kazakhstan	To be confirmed once disposal contract is ready
<b>Total</b>	<b>190,000</b>
Funds needed: To monitor project implementation	5,500

### Ukraine

In 2006–2008, donor countries (Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, Norway, Poland, Spain and Sweden) pledged a total of 3,197,080 euros. Details can be found in the progress report of 2009 (MC.GAL/8/09). The table below reflects funding pledged in 2009–2011.

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)
<b>2009</b>	
Denmark	500,000
Germany	250,000
<b>2010</b>	
Sweden	1,736,220
United States of America	1,846,821
Denmark	140,000
<b>2011</b>	
Norway	193,906
<b>Total</b>	<b>4,666,947</b>
Funds needed (estimated):	9,500,000

## Annex D: Overall funding for all SCA projects

The table below indicates pledges of financial support made by delegations towards the implementation of projects on conventional ammunition, explosive material and detonating devices in the period 2009–2011.

Donor	Funds pledged (in euros)	Country assisted
<b>2009</b>		
Denmark	30,000	Comprehensive Programme on SALW and SCA (Task: Georgia – disposal of cluster bombs)
Denmark	50,000	Ukraine ERW clearance

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Funds pledged (in euros)</b>	<b>Country assisted</b>
<b>2009</b>		
Denmark	120,000	Albania (demilitarization)
Finland	62,000	Refurbishment of SALW and SCA storage facilities, Moldova
Spain	61,000	Destruction of cluster bombs, Moldova
Spain	100,000	Montenegro, improvement of CA stockpile storage security
<b>Total</b>	<b>423,000</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>2010</b>		
Denmark	20,000	Montenegro, destruction of surplus ammunition
Germany	78,000	Albania, destruction of ammunition, Phase II
Germany	210,000	Moldova, refurbishment of SALW and SCA storage facilities
Germany	25,420	Moldova, disposal of surface-to-air missiles
Germany	52,650	Ukraine ERW clearance
Hungary	10,000	Montenegro, improvement of CA stockpile storage security
Ireland	50,000	Comprehensive Programme on SALW & SCA (Task: Georgia – disposal of cluster bombs)
Ireland	7,400	Moldova, destruction of air bombs
Luxembourg	14,000	Moldova, construction of a new storage facility
Luxembourg	25,000	Montenegro, destruction of surplus ammunition
Norway	63,194	Montenegro, destruction of surplus ammunition
Spain	19,000	Destruction of air bombs, Moldova
United States of America	In-kind (equivalent to 79,100)	Ukraine ERW clearance
<b>Total</b>	<b>574,664</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>2011</b>		
Austria	15,500	Moldova, disposal of surface-to-air missiles
	15,083	Georgia, disposal of cluster bombs
Denmark	59,325	Georgia, disposal of cluster bombs
Ireland	10,000	Ukraine, ERW clearance
Liechtenstein	20,000	Montenegro
United States of America	250,000	Kyrgyzstan, SALW and SCA Programme, construction and refurbishment of storage sites

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Funds pledged (in euros)</b>	<b>Country assisted</b>
<b>2011</b>		
Luxembourg	25,000	Montenegro, destruction of surplus ammunition
<b>Total</b>	<b>394,908</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Total for CA</b>	<b>1,392,572</b>	<b>2009–2011</b>

The table below indicates pledges of financial support made by delegations towards the implementation of projects on the elimination of rocket fuel component (mélange) in the period 2009–2011.

<b>Donor</b>	<b>Funds pledged (in euros)</b>	<b>Country assisted</b>
<b>2009</b>		
Denmark	500,000	Ukraine, mélange
Germany	250,000	Ukraine, mélange
<b>Total</b>	<b>750,000</b>	<b>2009</b>
<b>2010</b>		
Sweden	1,736,220	Ukraine, mélange
United States of America	1,846,821	Ukraine, mélange
Denmark	140,000	Ukraine, mélange
<b>Total</b>	<b>3,723,041</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>2011</b>		
Norway	193,906	Ukraine, mélange
<b>Total</b>	<b>193,906</b>	<b>2011</b>
<b>Total for mélange</b>	<b>4,666,947</b>	<b>2009–2011</b>
<b>Total for SCA and mélange</b>	<b>6,059,519</b>	<b>2009–2011</b>

## **Annex E: Co-operation within the OSCE**

Hazard awareness training in Tajikistan: In August 2011, the OSCE Office in Tajikistan, jointly with Austria and Germany, organized a series of five hazard awareness seminars for law-enforcement agencies at five locations in Tajikistan (Dushanbe, Khujand, Rasht, Khorog and Kulyab). These seminars were designed to improve the skills and knowledge of local specialists working with ammunition storage and security. Very experienced experts from Austria and Germany were able to provide their local counterparts with in-depth theoretical and practical information on standards and practices for the safe and secure storage of conventional ammunition and small arms.

### Mélange video at the OSCE Summit in Astana

On the margins of the OSCE Summit in Astana in December 2010, the FSC Support Section presented a short video about the implementation of the OSCE mélange project in Ukraine.

**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE  
EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL  
ON EFFORTS TO FURTHER IMPROVE THE IMPLEMENTATION  
OF THE CODE OF CONDUCT ON POLITICO-MILITARY  
ASPECTS OF SECURITY**  
(MC.GAL/3/11 of 14 November 2011)

## **1. Introduction and objective**

The OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (hereinafter referred to as the Code) is a normative document adopted by the CSCE participating States at the Budapest Summit in December 1994. The Code entered into force on 1 January 1995. By adopting the document, the CSCE participating States agreed to reform their domestic politico-military affairs and to apply internationally agreed principles of democracy and rule of law to their national security policies and doctrines. The Code occupies a fundamental place in the body of normative documents developed within the politico-military dimension of the OSCE, and remains unique among international commitments.

This report is intended, in line with Athens Ministerial Council Decision No. 16/09, to report on the progress achieved in respect of efforts to further improve the implementation of the Code. It addresses the information exchange between participating States on implementation of the Code, efforts that have been undertaken in the Forum for Security Co-operation since the Athens meeting of the Ministerial Council and other activities conducted within the Organization. The report covers the period from November 2009 to November 2011<sup>1</sup>.

## **2. Efforts by the FSC**

Since the Athens Meeting of the Ministerial Council, the FSC has continued to work towards enhanced implementation of the Code. The Corfu Process, initiated in 2009, recognized that the principles embodied in the Code are of fundamental importance to security and stability in the OSCE area. During the reporting period, two FSC meetings focusing on the Code's principles were held, one in February 2010 and one in June 2011. The purpose of these meetings was to promote discussion on the principles inherent in the Code and to examine their relevance with regard to the evolving security situation.

Following the technical update of the annual Code of Conduct questionnaire in 2009 (FSC.DEC/2/09), the FSC developed a Reference Guide to assist the participating States in preparing their national submissions. The Reference Guide, which was endorsed by FSC Decision No. 5/11 in July 2011, can be consulted on a voluntary basis and contains examples of relevant information that may be included in replies.

In October 2011, the FSC adopted a decision on an annual discussion on the implementation of the Code of Conduct (FSC.DEC/12/11). The purpose of this yearly meeting is to establish a focused and regularized mechanism through which participating

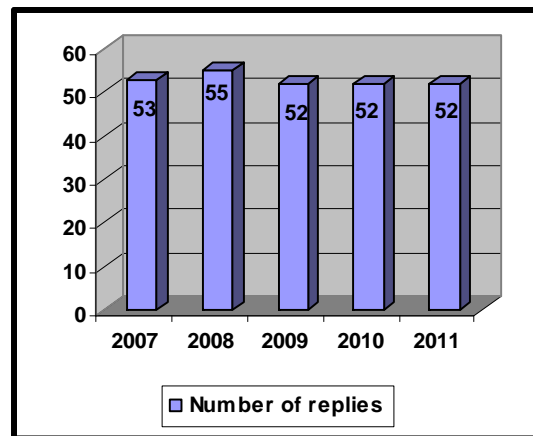
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<sup>1</sup> The deadline for submitting input for this report was 7 November 2011.

States can intensify their discussion of the annual information exchange, as well as of other themes relating to the Code of Conduct. The meeting will take place during the second session of the FSC, starting in 2012. It will place greater emphasis on the important principles of the Code of Conduct and will provide for a regular and focused review of its implementation.

### 3. Information exchange

The participating States have agreed to exchange information on the implementation of the Code of Conduct (FSC.DEC/2/09) on an annual basis. The level of commitment to the information exchange has traditionally been high, and the majority of the OSCE participating States have abided by their commitment to provide information about their implementation efforts. All the participating States have provided replies to the questionnaire at least once.



This information exchange is a unique mechanism for fostering international transparency with regard to armed forces and their control by constitutionally established authorities. Since 2008, the replies have been published on the OSCE website, where they can be accessed by the public.

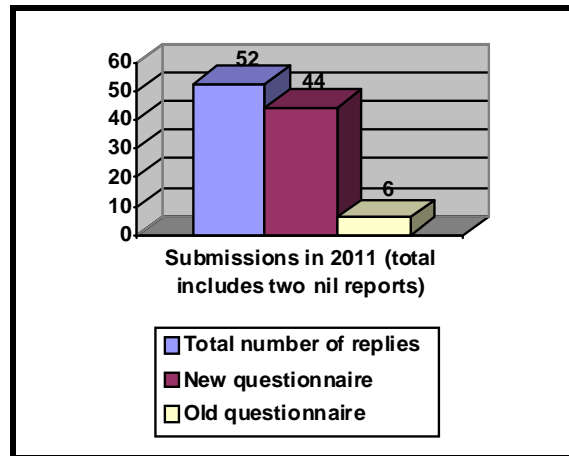
In 2010, 52 participating States provided information on their implementation activities. Equally, in 2011, 52 participating States had, by 7 November 2011, provided their annual replies.

When adopting the new questionnaire in 2009, the participating States agreed that the updated format would replace the old one in the 2010 information exchange. However, a number of countries still provided even their replies for 2011 in the old format.

Several replies also included additional information not directly requested in the questionnaire. In accordance with the interpretative statements appended to FSC Decision No. 2/09, at least 16 participating States provided information on the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women, peace and security, and at least two participating States referred to private military and security companies in their 2011 returns.

In order to facilitate the drafting of the Reference Guide, the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) commissioned an academic study (report published as FSC.GAL/99/10) to analyse the 2010 replies. The experts concluded that the new

questionnaire had considerably helped to ensure better and more structured answers, although some overlaps still remained. The Reference Guide should be helpful in further streamlining the reports. The study was funded through extrabudgetary contributions from Austria, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Switzerland and the United Kingdom.



#### 4. Awareness-raising and outreach

FSC Decision No. 1/08, on awareness-raising and outreach, tasked the CPC with organizing at least one specialized, extrabudgetary event annually to promote the principles of the Code and their implementation.

In accordance with this decision, in September 2010, the CPC organized a regional seminar for the Eastern European participating States in Minsk, Belarus. The participants included representatives from Belarus, Hungary, Lithuania, Moldova, Poland, the Russian Federation and Ukraine. The seminar examined both the inter- and the intra-State aspects of the Code, and the topics ranged from the indivisibility of security to the human rights of armed forces personnel. The event was organized in co-operation with the OSCE Office in Minsk and was funded by contributions from Austria and Switzerland.

In July 2011, a regional seminar was organized in Odessa, Ukraine, for the South Caucasus and Black Sea region. The event was attended by representatives of six of the eight countries invited, namely, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania and Ukraine. The first part of the two-and-half-day seminar focused on the intra-State aspects of the Code, with emphasis on the democratic control of armed forces, the implementation of international humanitarian law and the human rights of armed forces personnel. All the countries invited also delivered presentations on their experiences and the challenges encountered in implementing the Code. To provide an additional forum for Security Dialogue, the second part of the seminar was dedicated to confidence- and security-building measures and arms control.

Furthermore, the agenda of the OSCE Mediterranean Conference that took place in October 2011 included an item on the democratic control of armed forces, and thus contributed to the implementation of FSC Decision No. 1/08.

During the reporting period, the OSCE field operations were also actively promoting the implementation of the Code through awareness-raising and training activities.



The OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina has continued its long-standing co-operation with the local authorities. The experience of this close co-operation was also shared with the Forum for Security Co-operation in June 2011, when the Head of the OSCE Mission and a representative of the armed forces gave a presentation on the contribution of the Code of Conduct to security in Bosnia and Herzegovina at a meeting of the FSC.

In May 2011, training on the Code of Conduct was for the first time included in the programme of the Command Staff Course. The Code is also covered by the annual courses directed to the verification centres and unit commanders. In June 2011, the Mission, in co-operation with the Council of Ministers' Inter-Ministerial Working Group for Implementation of and Training on the Security Policy of Bosnia and Herzegovina, organized a seminar on the Code of Conduct. The event provided a briefing for security sector personnel, including representatives from the police, the border police, the intelligence forces and the armed forces, on the principles and provisions of the Code, designed to assist them in their daily activities.

During the reporting period, the Code was also presented to the participants of three politico-military review conferences. These events helped to raise awareness and provided a platform to discuss future implementation. Following the adoption of the new questionnaire, the Mission also organized workshops to facilitate the information exchanges for 2010 and 2011. Follow-up events will be organized at the end of 2011.

In December 2010, the OSCE Office in Yerevan organized a workshop on the implementation of the Code of Conduct. The workshop was targeted towards officials of the Ministry of Defence, members of the National Assembly and the Office of the Ombudsman. With regard to the ongoing reform of the armed forces, the Office has also provided training for the public information officers of the Ministry of Defence on successful interaction with the media and the public and on the right to access to information.

## **5. Conclusions**

In summary, efforts to further improve the implementation of the OSCE Code of Conduct were enhanced by the initiatives of the FSC Chairpersons aimed at addressing and promoting the Code within the framework of a Security Dialogue in 2010 and 2011. Furthermore, the participating States adopted a Reference Guide complementing the technically updated questionnaire. Lastly, a decision was adopted on holding an annual meeting on the implementation of the Code, which provides a sound basis for a comprehensive and fully fledged discussion of all aspects of its implementation.

As regards the information exchange, a continuing high level of commitment in terms of the quantity of replies was evident. Some participating States extended their exchange of information and voluntarily shared information on the implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and on issues related to private military security companies. As in preceding years, reports differ with regard to substance and extent. Also, some overlaps can be observed in the replies of participating States. Again, some participating States did not submit their reports at all, while others used old formats. There are high hopes that the Reference Guide adopted this year, and the implementation discussion next year will lead to more and better compliance in terms of both quantity and quality.

During the reporting period, several seminars on awareness-raising and training activities relating to the Code were conducted by the CPC and field missions. Participating States hosting or participating in such seminars contribute to transparency, national and regional stability and security. All the participating States are encouraged to continue supporting and hosting seminars or workshops among participating States, and with OSCE Partners.

With reference to the latter, an initiative on the outreach of the Code was taken by including the topic of the democratic control of armed forces in the agenda of the 2011 OSCE Mediterranean Conference. Especially at the present time, the Code has once more proven that it has an important role to play as a pool of principles and guidelines reflecting inter-State and intra-State norms of behaviour which have to be taken into account in security sector reform.

With the most recent FSC decisions on the Code, most of the recommendations and suggestions on improving its implementation put forward at the special FSC meetings in 2006 and 2007 have been successfully converted into tools and instruments for increasing awareness and outreach, improving the information exchange and discussing participating States' implementation of the Code. The attention of participating States may now focus on full and comprehensive compliance with the Code's implementation.

**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE  
EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON  
EFFORTS IN THE FIELD OF ARMS CONTROL AGREEMENTS AND  
CONFIDENCE- AND SECURITY-BUILDING MEASURES IN  
ACCORDANCE WITH ITS MANDATE**

(MC.GAL/5/11 of 14 November 2011)

## **1. Introduction and objective**

This report is submitted in accordance with Decision No. 16/09 on issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation, adopted by the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Athens. It provides an overview of efforts undertaken in the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) in the field of arms control agreements and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), in accordance with its mandate, during the period from November 2009 until November 2011<sup>1</sup>.

It also addresses the information exchanged in the FSC between participating States on the implementation of agreed CSBMs, normative initiatives and developments in the Forum, as well as other related activities carried out in the Organization. The report reflects the discussions that took place and the decisions adopted in the Forum. Detailed information on implementation may be found in the Conflict Prevention Centre Summary Report on Recent Trends in the Implementation of the Vienna Document 1999 and Other Measures Addressed during the Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting<sup>2</sup>.

## **2. Efforts by the FSC since the Athens Meeting of the Ministerial Council**

The Athens Ministerial Council in 2009 called on the FSC to “explore ways in which to strengthen the OSCE’s politico-military toolbox, with particular attention to strengthening current arms control and CSBM instruments, including strengthening the Vienna Document 1999”<sup>3</sup>. Consequently, the FSC engaged in a constructive dialogue on the updating of the Vienna Document 99 (VD 99), and in May 2010 adopted Decision No. 1/10, which establishes a procedure for an update of the VD every five years, starting no later than 2011. The provisions of this decision became the most politically and substantively important improvement to the Vienna Document 1999, since they marked the end of a long period of stagnation in the Vienna Document discussions and launched the updating process by providing a clear framework for regular modernization of this key OSCE politico-military document.

To further structure the work of the FSC, the participating States decided by FSC Decision No. 7/10 that Chapter V, on “Prior notification of certain military activities”, and Chapter IX, on “Compliance and verification”, should be updated as a package. In addition,

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1 The deadline for submitting input for this report was 7 November 2011.

2 FSC.GAL/19/10/Corr.1, 16 February 2010 and FSC.GAL/19/11.

3 Ministerial Council Decision No. 16/09.

in October 2010, the FSC Chairperson appointed a co-ordinator to collect the views, ideas and inputs of the delegations, to assist the FSC Chairmanship and to keep the FSC informed on the progress made.

The debate among the participating States in the Forum was also enriched by contributions from the academic community during two special Security Dialogues dedicated to the Vienna Document in February 2010 and in February 2011.

By the Astana Summit in December 2010, the FSC had adopted five so-called Vienna Document Plus decisions, which update the current provisions of the VD 99 and will eventually be incorporated into the Vienna Document 2011. During the Astana Summit, the Heads of State or Government of the participating States again recognized the need to revitalize, update and modernize the confidence- and security-building measures and called on the FSC to work to that end.

By 7 November 2011, the FSC had adopted the following Vienna Document Plus decisions:

- Decision No. 10/10 “Taking national holidays into account when planning verification activities” of 27 October 2010;
- Decision No. 15/10 “Eligibility of air bases for hosting visits” of 24 November 2010;
- Decision No. 11/10 “Timing of a demonstration of new types of major weapon and equipment systems” of 10 November 2010;
- Decision No. 12/10 “Incorporating FSC Decision No. 1/10 into the Vienna Document, Chapter XII” of 10 November 2010;
- Decision No. 13/10 “Updating the listing of Partners for Co-operation mentioned in Chapter XII” of 10 November 2010;
- Decision No. 4/11 “Updating the list of OSCE participating States mentioned in the introduction” of 15 June 2011;
- Decision No. 6/11 “Accuracy of co-ordinates of formations, combat units, air formations and air combat units” of 20 July 2011;
- Decision No. 7/11 “Amendments and additions to Chapter IX ‘Compliance and Verification’, Paragraphs 98 and 127” of 27 July 2011;
- Decision No. 10/11 “Updating the title and introduction of the Vienna Document 1999” of 28 September 2011.

In addition, 18 more proposals are under discussion in the Forum for Security Co-operation. They pertain to Chapters I, III, V and IX.

### **3. Overview of arms control and CSBM implementation in 2010 and 2011**

During 2010–2011, the OSCE participating States continued to implement their joint commitments under the Vienna Document 1999<sup>4</sup>. The OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) maintained records of exchanges of information taking place as part of those commitments. These are regularly reflected in the CPC Monthly Reports and CPC Quarterly and Annual Surveys on CSBM Information Exchanged. In addition, the CPC produces an annual summary report that reflects trends in the implementation of CSBMs.

The level of CSBM implementation under the Vienna Document 1999 in the OSCE region is relatively stable and high. Measured by the number of submissions under various information exchanges, such as the Annual Exchange of Military Information (AEMI) and the Global Exchange of Military Information (GEMI), the level of implementation has remained steady during the past five years.

Altogether, 55 participating States provided information under the AEMI exchange for 2010 and 2011. For defence planning, the numbers are significantly lower. In 2010, 45 participating States submitted this information, and by 7 November 2011, 40 countries had provided information on their defence planning. In addition, there are five participating States that have not submitted any information on their defence planning and budgets during the past five years.

The reporting period was also active in terms of verification under Chapter IX of the Vienna Document 1999. In 2010, 97 inspections and 48 evaluation visits were conducted. By 7 November 2011, the respective numbers for 2011 were 91 and 39.

The implementation of the VD 99 was discussed during the two Annual Implementation Assessment Meetings in March 2010 and March 2011, as well as at the meeting of the heads of verification centres in December 2010. The meetings proved useful in terms of the modernization of the VD 99, since some proposals were later on followed up in the FSC and resulted in decisions.

In 2011, 51 participating States were connected to the Communications Network; only one OSCE participating State having military forces was not connected to it. The reliability of the Network remained very high, with the servers in Vienna available over 99.9 per cent of the time. In addition, over half (35) of the end-user stations were connected to the Network at least 99 per cent of the time, and the overall availability of all the end-user stations connected to the Network exceeded 97 per cent. The custom-designed OSCE software packages used to process notifications and to prepare annual information exchanges is continuously updated and provided to participating States for their use. The OSCE Communications Network remains a highly reliable, safe and secure tool for participating States, and for their use in support of the CSBMs.

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4 Vienna Document 1999 of the Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures, adopted at the 269th plenary meeting of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation in Istanbul on 16 November 1999, FSC.DOC/1/99.

#### **4. Other activities**

Following the recommendation of the VD 99, the FSC organized the High-Level Seminar on Military Doctrine on 24 and 25 May 2011. The Seminar brought together close to 300 senior military officials from the participating States and Partners for Co-operation. The purpose of the meeting was to examine developments in military technology and military doctrines and their implications for security in the OSCE area. Issues such as the changing nature of conflicts, hybrid threats and challenges, and technological advancements were also discussed at the two-day event. The discussion was considered to be a useful CSBM, and it was recommended that similar topics, such as presentations on military doctrines, should also be included in the weekly FSC agenda.

In July 2011, the CPC organized a seminar on the OSCE Code of Conduct and Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in the South Caucasus and Black Sea Region in Odessa, Ukraine. Participants from Armenia, Azerbaijan, Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania and Ukraine discussed the role of CSBMs and arms control for future security in the OSCE area, and examined the potential role of CSBMs in conflict resolution.

In July 2010 and June 2011, the OSCE Centre in Astana and the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Kazakhstan organized the annual regional training on the Vienna Document 1999. The workshops brought together participants from Central Asia and the South Caucasus to discuss issues related to the Annual Exchange of Military Information as well as the practical verification activities.

#### **5. Conclusions**

The degree of implementation of the commitments related to the Vienna Document 1999 (VD) remained high and stable throughout the past two years.

The Annual Implementation Assessment Meetings in 2010 and 2011 proved to be valuable platforms for discussing CSBMs in the OSCE region, including their implementation and further development. In addition, the meeting of the heads of verification centres in 2010 also considered useful proposals for further enhancing the implementation of the VD.

The High-Level Seminar on Military Doctrine held in 2011 served as an important CSBM and permitted an examination of developments in the military field and their implications for security in the OSCE area. This practice of holding regular seminars has proven to be very useful and should be continued in the future, also taking into account the lessons learned identified during past Seminars.

FSC Decision No. 1/10 established a solid procedure for incorporating relevant decisions into the VD and foresees that a special meeting will take place every five years or more frequently, starting not later than 2011, in order to reissue the Vienna Document. This decision ended a long period of stagnation and provided a framework for a regular modernization of this key document. The OSCE Summit in Astana in 2010 gave further impetus to the efforts to revitalize, update and modernize conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building regimes.

**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT TO THE  
EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON  
EFFORTS TO SUPPORT IMPLEMENTATION OF UNITED NATIONS  
SECURITY COUNCIL RESOLUTION 1540 (2004)  
IN THE OSCE REGION**  
(MC.GAL/6/11 of 14 November 2011)

## **1. Introduction and objective**

This report provides an overview of efforts undertaken in the OSCE in the field of non-proliferation. In particular, the report addresses OSCE's efforts in facilitation of regional implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1540 (2004) and draws on discussions and reports on national progress presented in the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC).

The report covers the period from August 2010 until November 2011<sup>1</sup>.

## **2. Mandate**

The OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation adopted in 1994 outline the commitment of the participating States to prevent proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

In 2004, the United Nations Security Council affirmed that proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, as well as their means of delivery, and related materials constitutes a threat to international peace and security and in this context adopted resolution 1540 (2004).

The participating States of the OSCE, recalling their commitments in this regard, in particular the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation, decided to call upon all 56 participating States to implement fully UNSCR 1540 by adopting a decision supporting its effective implementation (FSC.DEC/7/05/Corr.1).

The OSCE agreed to contribute to the implementation of the resolution, as appropriate and in co-ordination with the relevant United Nations fora, based on the OSCE concept of comprehensive and co-operative security and the Organization's mandate as a regional organization under Chapter VIII of the UN Charter.

At the Seventeenth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Athens, the participating States recognized that proliferation of weapons of mass destruction remains an issue of great concern. To further strengthen non-proliferation efforts in the OSCE, a ministerial decision was adopted on further OSCE efforts to address transnational threats and challenges to security and stability (MC.DEC/2/09).

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1 The deadline for submitting input for this report was 7 November 2011.

The FSC, in accordance with its mandate, is to facilitate, where appropriate, the fulfilment by the OSCE participating States of the provisions of UNSCR 1540 (2004) (MC.DEC/16/09).

Furthermore, by adopting the Ministerial Declaration on Non-Proliferation, participating States have also pledged to facilitate implementation of UNSCR 1540 by the provision of effective assistance to those States that require it (MC.DOC/5/09).

In the Astana Commemorative Declaration: Towards a Security Community, adopted in 2010, the Heads of State or Government of the OSCE participating States referred to the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction as an emerging transnational threat, which can originate within or outside the OSCE region (SUM.DOC/1/10/Corr.1).

### **3. Efforts by the FSC**

#### **3.1 OSCE Workshop to Identify the Proper Role of the OSCE in Facilitation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004)**

On 27 and 28 January 2011, the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) held an OSCE Workshop to Identify the Proper Role of the OSCE in Facilitation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), in Vienna, Austria, which was co-sponsored by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). The Workshop provided a comprehensive platform for exchanging views on policy issues, implementation practices, and needs for further dialogue, co-operation and assistance among national representatives and international organizations involved in various aspects of implementation of UNSCR 1540, including OSCE Secretariat structures.

A broad range of possibilities in the context of which the OSCE can be instrumental were considered. In particular, participating States spoke about further awareness-raising activities, tailored training courses, assistance with the development of national action plans and improvement of legislation, promotion of the Handbook of Best Practices Guides, as well as continued dialogue and co-operation with other international organizations.

#### **3.2 CPC Annual Work Plan for 2011 in Support of Regional Implementation of UNSCR 1540**

Based on participating States' suggestions, during the OSCE Workshop to Identify the Proper Role of the OSCE in Facilitation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, the Conflict Prevention Centre's Annual Work Plan for 2011 in Support of Regional Implementation of UNSCR 1540 was designed.

The Work Plan aimed to improve regional co-operation on implementation of UNSCR 1540 and envisaged establishing a strong stakeholder co-ordination network to promote profound understanding of UNSCR 1540 issues and implementation needs, and assisting interested participating States with day-to-day build-up of their national capacities. The assistance could be provided based on national consent and could rely on a co-operative approach, expertise and experience of the international community.



### **3.3 Joint FSC-PC meeting on non-proliferation**

On 13 July 2011, during the Italian FSC Chairmanship and the Lithuanian PC Chairmanship, a joint FSC-PC meeting on non-proliferation took place. The meeting was organized as a follow-up to the Workshop to Identify the Proper Role of the OSCE in Facilitation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 and to facilitate an expert discussion on national implementation of the resolution. UNODA, in its keynote address, expressed appreciation of the partnership with the OSCE in support of full implementation of resolution 1540, which increasingly focuses on capacity-building and assistance facilitation. National presentations by two participating States reiterated that such meetings provided an excellent opportunity to exchange information on matters of non-proliferation, and also described ways in which the OSCE could assist participating States in improving their national implementation. A number of participating States, along with the European Union, testified to the significance attached by the OSCE to countering threats stemming from the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. Furthermore, the European Union and some participating States expressed their support to update, in the near future, the 1994 OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation, taking into account new developments in the field of combating proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

### **3.4 Regional Workshop on the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004)**

From 27 to 29 September 2011, the CPC together with the UNODA organized a regional workshop in Astana, Kazakhstan, to promote capacity-building at the national and regional levels to advance full implementation of resolution 1540. The Workshop aimed to enhance national border and export control capacities, and to improve information- and experience-sharing between all five Central Asian States. Furthermore, the agenda of the Workshop was fixed in such a way as to facilitate technical assistance related to implementation of the resolution that might be required by participating States.

Most importantly, the Workshop assisted participating States to identify specific forms of OSCE support required for comprehensive implementation of UNSCR 1540 in the Central Asian region, including awareness-raising events, tailored training events for law enforcement officers (also long-term courses for the “train-the-trainer” module) and possible assistance in fine-tuning national legislation. A number of concrete follow-up steps to facilitate implementation of UNSCR 1540 at the national level were identified during bilateral discussions.

## **4. Proposals and initiatives**

A number of specific proposals and initiatives have been presented and discussed in the FSC working framework, including:

- A food-for-thought paper and proposal for a draft decision on points of contact on UN Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) (FSC.DEL/129/11);
- Discussions on drafting further chapters of the Best Practice Guide on UN Security Council Resolution 1540;

- Proposal to update the 1994 OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation (FSC.DEL/65/10/Rev.2);
- Establishment of a Roster of Technical Experts on UNSCR 1540.

Discussions aimed at reaching consensus on these proposals are ongoing.

## **5. Practical assistance**

### **5.1 Overview**

Assisting OSCE participating States in comprehensive implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540, while recognizing the need to enhance co-ordination of efforts at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, has been an essential part of the efforts of the Forum for Security Co-operation during the reporting period.

Following the OSCE Workshop to Identify the Proper Role of the OSCE in Facilitation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 held in January 2011, the OSCE registered five requests for assistance in developing national action plans or strategies to tackle proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery.

In particular, ongoing tailored dialogue with Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina and Serbia, as well as initial contacts with Moldova and Kyrgyzstan can be seen as exemplary of the response of the OSCE.

To this end, a number of participating States have requested training and capacity-building for law enforcement agencies in the field of fighting proliferation of biological and chemical materials.

### **5.2 The OSCE's support in national implementation of UNSCR 1540**

#### **5.2.1 Serbia**

Following the OSCE Workshop in January 2011, Serbia expressed its interest in developing a national action plan. A draft outline of a national action plan was designed in close co-operation with the Serbian authorities and the Group of Experts of the 1540 Committee and submitted for inter-ministerial review in Serbia. Also, the national progress in this domain was presented to the 48th joint FSC-PC meeting on non-proliferation in July 2011.

#### **5.2.2 Bosnia and Herzegovina**

Bosnia and Herzegovina expressed its interest in further updating its national legislation in line with the UNSCR 1540 obligations. During the 48th joint FSC-PC meeting on non-proliferation, Bosnia and Herzegovina indicated its willingness to serve as a pilot country where specific measures or national strategy on implementation of UNSCR 1540 would be developed. The country is also interested in promoting an integrated approach towards counter-terrorism activities in the Balkans. In that context, it would welcome assistance by UNODA and the OSCE.

### 5.2.3 Belarus

During the OSCE Workshop to Identify the Proper Role of the OSCE in Facilitation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, in January 2011, Belarus emphasized the OSCE's role as a regional organization in assisting participating States with implementation of UNSCR 1540.

As a follow-up to the 48th joint FSC-PC meeting on non-proliferation in July and to expert consultations held in October 2011, Belarus is developing a national framework document on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, with assistance by the OSCE and the Group of Experts of the 1540 Committee.

### 5.2.4 Kyrgyzstan

In January 2011, Kyrgyzstan conveyed its interest in joining international export-control regimes and improving its legal structures and law-enforcement practices in the context of implementation of UNSCR 1540.

In September 2011, during the regional Workshop on the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004) held in Astana, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan confirmed its willingness to work together with the OSCE and the Group of Experts of the 1540 Committee in fine-tuning its national legislation, including preparation of its national action plan.

### 5.2.5 Moldova

In September 2011, Moldova requested assistance from the OSCE in strengthening its national capacities in accordance with the obligations arising from UNSCR 1540, for preventing the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and defending against CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear material) threats. The OSCE was requested to support development of a national action plan and establishment and execution of effective export, import and trans-shipment controls over weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, and to assist in the development of a national network on biological threats.

## **5.3 Memorandum of Understanding with the UNODA**

In line with UN Security Council resolution 1540, recognizing the need to enhance co-ordination of efforts at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, the OSCE has developed a general framework for technical co-operation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). A Memorandum of Understanding was recently signed by both parties. Its goal is to enhance the capacities of both organizations in facilitation of implementation of resolution 1540.

The parties to this Memorandum would further enhance international efforts directed at reducing proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and the potential for non-State actors to develop, acquire, manufacture, possess, transport, transfer or use these weapons and their means of delivery. In particular, they will co-operate in the following areas of activity:

- (i) Assessment and/or consultative missions;

- (ii) Development of national action plans and/or strategies;
- (iii) Project formulation;
- (iv) Project resource mobilization;
- (v) Project implementation;
- (vi) Project monitoring and reporting;
- (vii) Policy development as well as outreach.

## **5.4 Training**

During the OSCE Workshop in January 2011, all the participating States reiterated the OSCE's role in providing tailored training courses to relevant officials on a number of subjects related to the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction.

These recommendations were further addressed during the OSCE-UNODA Regional Workshop on Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 held in September 2011 in Astana, Kazakhstan. All the Central Asian countries expressed a need for specific training, mainly in the area of biological materials.

As follow-up to the requests for training, the OSCE has drafted a curriculum for a training course to address nuclear, biological and chemical export-controls legislation and procedures for customs, border police, ministry of foreign affairs and other relevant authorities at the level of policy-makers and practitioners from interested participating States and Partners for Co-operation, to be conducted in the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

Similar courses could be developed in co-operation with the Vienna Centre for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation (VCDNP) in Vienna, Austria, for the Eastern and South-Eastern European countries.

In addition, in October 2011, the OSCE, together with the RACVIAC – Centre for Security Co-operation, held a training workshop for the south-eastern European region which brought together officials of customs services and strategic goods licensing authorities to examine the criticality of complementarities of work and the commonality of their duties when processing movements of commodities which have been designated by their national authorities as “dual-use” or controlled goods.

## **6. Co-operation and co-ordination**

### **6.1 Co-operation with the United Nations**

During the OSCE Workshop to Identify the Proper Role of the OSCE in Facilitation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540, in January 2011, participating States stressed the need for continuing constructive dialogue and co-operation with other international organizations directly involved with implementation of UNSCR 1540, and in

particular with the United Nations. Specifically, participating States stressed the importance of co-operative efforts with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts.

#### 6.1.1 UN Security Council Resolution 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts

Following establishment of a post of 1540 Adviser under the four-year extrabudgetary project, “Support of Regional Implementation of UNSCR 1540”, in order to initiate a closer working relationship with the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts, regular consultations with the OSCE Secretariat were instituted. The OSCE regularly briefs the 1540 Committee and its Group of Experts on developments in the OSCE region and activities of the OSCE Secretariat, and co-ordinates the response to requests for assistance from OSCE participating States.

#### 6.1.2 United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

In 2010–2011, the OSCE and the UNODA commenced regular consultations on various practical issues related to facilitation of implementation of the resolution.

In particular, the UNODA co-sponsored the OSCE Workshop to Identify the Proper Role of the OSCE in Facilitation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540. The Regional Workshop on Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540, held in Astana, Kazakhstan, in September 2011, became the first successful joint activity implemented in the field, and launching a series of similar regional events planned through 2012–2013, for the Baltic, Black Sea and Mediterranean regions.

Also, specific assistance projects can be developed and implemented under the Memorandum of Understanding between the UNODA and the OSCE signed in October 2011.

#### 6.1.3 United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

The UNODC-OSCE Secretariat Joint Action Plan for 2011–2012 was agreed upon by the two organizations in September 2011. The parties to this agreement intend to undertake substantive, long-term co-operation also in the area of promotion of implementation of UNSCR 1540.

#### 6.1.4 United Nations Interregional Crime and Justice Research Institute (UNICRI)

In 2011, UNICRI invited the OSCE to participate in a round-table meeting for CBRN (chemical, biological, radiological and nuclear material) national focal points in Sarajevo, under the EU project on the centres of excellence initiative. The primary objective of co-operation between the OSCE and UNICRI is to maximize the use of existing resources, reinforce capacity-building at the regional and national levels on CBRN risk mitigation, and support OSCE participating States in identifying potential regional gaps in CBRN risk mitigation.

### **6.2 Co-ordination with international, regional and subregional organizations**

Following the Meeting of International, Regional and Subregional Organizations on Co-operation in Promoting the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004) organized

in December 2010 by the UNODA and the Austrian Federal Ministry of European and International Affairs, the OSCE established direct contacts with the IAEA, the OPCW, NATO and the BAFA (acting as implementing agent of the EU-funded co-operation programme in export control in respect of dual-use goods) to facilitate the sharing of information on good practices and lessons learned, to develop and implement standards, and to identify assistance requirements and programmes.

#### 6.2.1 International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)

In order to avoid duplication of efforts, the OSCE has been working with the IAEA on incorporating their Integrated Nuclear Security Plans into initial drafts of national action plans on UNSCR 1540 (nuclear risks).

Also, in the course of 2011, the OSCE Secretariat agreed with the IAEA to utilize their expertise on controls of nuclear materials and their team of experts on nuclear legislation issues. In particular, the IAEA will be involved in training programmes of the OSCE's Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

#### 6.2.2 Organization for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons (OPCW)

The OSCE exchanged information on project activities related to implementation of UNSCR 1540 with the OPCW. Possibilities for combining efforts in joint projects to address chemical components as part of national action plans and/or strategies are being considered.

#### 6.2.3 European Union (BAFA – German Federal Office of Economics and Export Control)

The BAFA promotes international co-operation on export control and raises awareness and promotes willingness to implement mechanisms in line with the European Security Strategy and the EU strategy against proliferation of weapons of mass destruction (2003), as well as with UNSCR 1540 (2004). In this connection, the OSCE has established close co-ordination, mostly on enhancement of the legal and regulatory frameworks of interested participating States.

The BAFA was actively involved in the Regional Implementation Workshop on UNSCR 1540 held in Astana, Kazakhstan in September 2011, as well as in the regional Workshops on Customs Procedures and Licensing Issuance: Integrating the National Processing of Dual-Use Goods and Conventional Weapons through Information Sharing.

#### 6.2.4 Others

In order to ensure complementary of efforts with other international organizations, and to avoid duplication of efforts, the OSCE has also established close working relations with the Secretariat of the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC), the Preparatory Commission for the Comprehensive Nuclear-Test-Ban Treaty Organization (CTBTO), the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS), and the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

## 7. Conclusion

Comprehensive and effective implementation of UN Security Council resolution 1540 requires innovative and inclusive actions by participating States as well as the OSCE. It is also important that participating States look at the obligations arising from UNSCR 1540 not as imposed duties, but rather as opportunities for national benefits through enhanced co-operation at the regional and global levels.

Implementation of the resolution is a long-term process that requires commitment not only by participating States, but also by key international actors, such as international and regional organizations, academia, private companies and civil society.

Therefore, the key OSCE activity has been and can remain support to participating States in their national efforts towards implementation of UNSCR 1540, while ensuring synergies with other relevant actors under the lead of the 1540 Committee.

## 8. Annexes

### **Annex A: Overview of participation in events organized by other international organizations**

<b>OSCE/FSC participation in UNSCR 1540-related events organized by other international and regional organizations in 2010–2011</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Place</b>
22–23 November 2010	OPCW table-top exercise on the preparedness to prevent terrorist attack involving chemicals	Warsaw, Poland
15–16 December 2010	Meeting of international organizations dealing with matters relating to UNSCR 1540	Vienna, Austria
25–27 February 2011	Stanley Foundation in 42nd United Nations Issues Conference on “UNSCR 1540: Identity, Extension, and Implementation”	New York, United States of America
24 March 2011	Round-table meeting for CBRN national focal points organized by UNICRI	Sarajevo, Bosnia and Herzegovina
11–12 April 2011	OPCW non-proliferation seminar	The Hague, The Netherlands
18–19 May 2011	Interpol Global Radiological and Nuclear Terrorism Prevention Conference	Lyon, France
30–31 May 2011	IAEA Open-Ended Meeting of Technical and Legal Experts on the Code of Conduct on the Safety and Security of Radioactive Sources	Vienna, Austria
1–3 June 2011	Annual meeting of the OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Point Network	Vilnius, Lithuania
6–8 June 2011	CTBTO Conference: Science and Technology	Vienna, Austria

<b>OSCE/FSC participation in UNSCR 1540-related events organized by other international and regional organizations in 2010–2011</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Place</b>
16–17 June 2011	Annual NATO Conference on WMD Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation	Bergen, Norway
9 September 2011	VCDNP Seminar on “North Korea: Reactors, Bombs and People”	Vienna, Austria

### **Annex B: Overview of planned OSCE/FSC events in 2012/2013**

<b>OSCE/FSC planned events on implementation of UNSCR 1540 in 2012</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Place</b>
24–26 January 2012	Workshop on Customs Procedures and Licensing Issuance: Integrating the National Processing of Dual-Use Goods and Conventional Weapons Through Information Sharing, Mediterranean Region	Valetta, Malta (TBC)
13–15 March 2012	Workshop on Customs Procedures and Licensing Issuance: Integrating the National Processing of Dual-Use Goods and Conventional Weapons Through Information Sharing, Central Asian Region	Ashgabat, Turkmenistan (TBC)
15–17 May 2012	Workshop on Customs Procedures and Licensing Issuance: Integrating the National Processing of Dual-Use Goods and Conventional Weapons Through Information Sharing, Eastern European and Caucasus Region	Kiev, Ukraine (TBC)
June 2012	OSCE-UNODA Regional Workshop on the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004), Baltic Sea Region	Vilnius, Lithuania (TBC)
September 2012	OSCE-UNODA Regional Workshop on the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004), Black Sea Region	Odessa, Ukraine (TBC)
2012/2013	OSCE-UNODA Regional Workshop on the Implementation of UNSC Resolution 1540 (2004), Mediterranean Region	(TBC)



**LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE  
FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION TO THE MINISTER FOR  
FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF LITHUANIA, CHAIRPERSON OF THE  
EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(Annex 11 to MC(18) Journal No. 2 of 7 December 2011)

Your Excellency,

As the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), it is a pleasure for me to inform you about the activities of the FSC in 2011.

In preparing this letter, I have consulted this year's FSC Chairmanships, which in addition to Kazakhstan, are Iceland and Italy. During 2011, the Chairmanships constantly worked in close co-operation with each other to ensure continuity, balance and efficiency in the implementation of the Forum's annual work programme.

The focus of the FSC's work in 2011 continued to be on the core politico-military issues, such as arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), small arms and light weapons (SALW), stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security (CoC) and the implementation of UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1540 (2004). Separate progress reports on further implementation of the commitments on those issues were forwarded to the Ministerial Council and contain more detailed information about developments in the FSC during 2010–2011 regarding these aspects of its work.

Overall, 2011 was a challenging and active year for the FSC. Initiatives put forward by delegations had by November led to the adoption of 13 new decisions, some of which were designed to support the implementation of existing commitments, while others introduced new areas of work for the Forum. The FSC also contributed within its mandate to the Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC), as well as to the preparation of Vilnius Ministerial Council meeting's documents.

In line with the priorities identified in the Astana Commemorative Declaration (2010), in 2011, the Forum engaged in intensive discussions to update, revitalize and modernize confidence- and security-building measures. In particular, following the establishment of a procedure for regular updating of the Vienna Document every five years, ending a decade of stagnation in the Vienna Document discussions, the Forum has intensified its work to update the Document to reflect the current politico-military realities. By 30 November 2011, the FSC had adopted nine Vienna Document Plus decisions, which were integrated into the Vienna Document 2011 issued in November 2011. A number of other Vienna Document Plus proposals continue to be under consideration in the FSC.

The strategic discussion during the Security Dialogue emphasized the FSC's importance as a platform to address and discuss security issues. Specifically, an active dialogue took place on matters related to topical European security issues, including arms control and CSBMs.

One of the most important events of 2011, the High-Level Seminar on Military Doctrine, was held on 24 and 25 May 2011. As stipulated by the provisions of the Vienna

Document, the Seminar brought together a number of senior military officials from the participating States and Partners for Co-operation to examine developments in military technology and military doctrines and their implications for security in the OSCE area. The event itself served as a useful CSBM.

As envisaged by Chapter XI of the Vienna Document 1999, the FSC held the twenty-first Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) on 1 and 2 March 2011. For the first time, the Meeting focused solely on the Vienna Document 1999 and provided an opportunity for participating States to discuss present and future implementation of agreed CSBMs, and it allowed experts to exchange experiences, make suggestions and assess the implementation of the OSCE commitments in the field of CSBMs. The heads of verification centres (HoV) meetings, held on the margins of the Annual Exchange of Military Information in 2010, proved to be a useful initiative, bringing together the expert knowledge of participating States in the practical implementation of CSBM measures, and allowing for an exchange of experiences and recommendations on their improvement. The fourth HoV meeting will take place on 14 December 2011.

The FSC also contributed to the OSCE Annual Security Review Conference, held from 29 June to 1 July 2011. Discussions on the revitalizing, updating and modernizing conventional arms control and CSBMs continued at the ASRC, affording an opportunity to address outstanding challenges and opportunities at a strategic level. In particular, the ASRC reconfirmed that conventional arms control and CSBMs continue to play a vital role in providing a foundation for stability.

The OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) remained key topics on the FSC's agenda. The FSC adopted an important decision on destruction of surplus, expired and obsolete ammunition as the preferred method of disposal. Following the adoption of the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW in 2010, the Forum's work focused on the implementation of the Plan. Particularly, in order to alleviate the reporting burden on States and improve the quality of reports, the CPC and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs aligned their reporting templates on the OSCE Document on SALW and the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Furthermore, in accordance with Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/09 on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition and the subsequent FSC Decision No. 17/10, the participating States conducted an information exchange on national controls over brokering activities in SALW, which was then summarized in a CPC summary report. The CPC, together with the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute, has developed an electronic template for an end-user certificate relating to SALW that should facilitate the implementation of the relevant commitments. These initiatives were presented and discussed at the special FSC meeting on 28 September 2011. Furthermore, a representative of the FSC Chairmanship delivered an OSCE statement on marking, tracing and record-keeping at the UN Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the Programme of Action on SALW, held in May 2011 in New York. Recently, the FSC decided to hold a meeting to review the implementation of the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW in May 2012.

In 2011, the OSCE continued implementation of projects in response to requests for assistance on SALW and SCA. Dealing with the requests from participating States with regard to destruction and stockpile management and security of SALW and SCA remains one of the most dynamic areas of implementation of the Documents on SALW and SCA. During

the year, projects in Albania, Moldova and Ukraine were completed. Also during the year, the OSCE continued the implementation of two joint assistance programmes with the UNDP, one in Montenegro and the other one in Belarus, and launched another joint project in Georgia. This year, the Forum also received four new requests for assistance on SALW and SCA from Bosnia and Herzegovina, Serbia, Cyprus and Moldova. In the field of practical assistance on SALW and SCA, special attention should be paid to resolving issues regarding the financing of the projects in Albania, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro and Ukraine. The FSC continued to manage a comprehensive SALW and SCA programme. In addition to regular donations to established projects, this programme facilitates contributions to SALW and SCA projects under development.

The Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security retained its importance in the work of the FSC in 2011. During the year, the FSC continued its discussion on the implementation of this landmark document in the field of security sector governance. Building upon the work accomplished in the previous years, the Forum took note of the Reference Guide on the Questionnaire on the Code of Conduct and offered it for use by interested participating States as an important element to facilitate the implementation of the Code. Furthermore, the Forum organized a discussion on the Code of Conduct in the framework of a Security Dialogue. Last but not least, in order to further raise awareness of the Code as well as to promote its implementation, the FSC decided to hold an annual implementation discussion on the Code of Conduct, starting in 2012.

The general level of implementation of information exchanges in 2011 was stable and high, although less compliant in terms of timing than in previous years. FSC Chairs made extensive use of the Announcing and Reminding Mechanism in order to improve the availability of information among participating States. These efforts have resulted in somewhat greater compliance with obligations, although not all the participating States have as yet provided the information required.

Work also continued on supporting the implementation of UNSCR 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery. In January 2011, the OSCE held a Workshop to Identify the Proper Role of the OSCE in Facilitation of UNSCR 1540 (2004), which identified a broad range of possibilities in the context of which the OSCE can be instrumental. These recommendations, such as assisting interested participating States with drafting of their national action plans and fine-tuning of relevant legislation, organizing further awareness-raising activities, and offering customized training courses, have all been put into practice already. In addition, a joint FSC-PC meeting on non-proliferation was held in 2011, showcasing national progress on implementation of UNSCR 1540 and establishing a further role for the OSCE in implementation of the resolution as well as in support for the initiative to update the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation of 1994. Furthermore, in order to enhance co-ordination of non-proliferation efforts, a memorandum of understanding between the OSCE and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs was signed in October 2011.

Finally, all three FSC Chairmanships in 2011 continued to work on strengthening co-operation between the FSC and the Permanent Council (PC) as part of the OSCE's concept of comprehensive and indivisible security. Three joint FSC-PC meetings had been held by December 2011 to address cross-dimensional issues relevant to the work of both the FSC and the PC.

**REPORT BY THE  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE CONTACT GROUP WITH THE  
MEDITERRANEAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION TO THE  
EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(MC.GAL/8/11 of 2 December 2011)

At the Astana Summit meeting in December 2010, the participating States recognized that the security of the OSCE area is “inextricably linked” to that of its neighbouring regions. The uprisings that affected the southern Mediterranean region throughout 2011 highlighted this connection. In response, the Lithuanian Chairmanship moved the situation in the southern Mediterranean to the top of the OSCE agenda. The Mediterranean Contact Group has played a key role, aiming for a dialogue with full participation by both Partner and participating States, and seeking ways to bring tangible, practical benefits to the participants.

The OSCE Partnership Fund makes possible the participation of Partner States in relevant OSCE activities and supports specific projects. In 2011, the Mediterranean Contact Group drew on the resources of the Partnership Fund to address emerging challenges in the region, including corruption and environmental security.

The fight against corruption is recognized as one of the factors underlying the unrest in the southern Mediterranean region. With support from the Partnership Fund, the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities organized a round-table meeting in Vienna in July 2011 on the role of civil society, including the media, in preventing, detecting and prosecuting corruption. The round table facilitated an exchange of innovative practices and models between and among OSCE participating and Partner States, identifying areas of progress as well as persistent challenges where action is needed. It also helped the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation to prepare for the civil society segment during the fourth session of the Conference of the States Parties to the United Nations Convention against Corruption, held in Marrakech in October 2011.

The Mediterranean has been identified as one of the regions most vulnerable to environmental threats to security, with the potential for serious repercussions for Europe. In 2011, the OSCE Permanent Council approved a proposal to use the Partnership Fund to support a series of workshops on environment and security issues in the southern Mediterranean as part of the follow-up to the seminar on environmental security in the region that took place in 2007 in Valencia.

The Mediterranean Contact Group met five times during 2011, discussing a wide range of security issues and possible avenues for OSCE support for peaceful transitions in the region. Experts from the OSCE and other international organizations addressed the group, and representatives of Algeria, Egypt, Jordan, Morocco and Tunisia briefed it on unfolding events and national reform programmes. The Contact Group meetings also provided an opportunity for briefings on OSCE activities in areas of particular relevance to the Mediterranean Partners in all three dimensions.

At the first meeting of the Contact Group (18 February 2011), a representative of the Lithuanian Chairmanship presented the priorities and plans of the Chairman-in-Office for the year in areas of special relevance to the Mediterranean Partners, stressing the OSCE’s willingness to be more actively engaged in co-operation. As a follow-up to the Mediterranean

Conference in Malta in 2010, the Chairmanship presented a perception paper on the need for more meaningful and practical follow-up, as well as the need to focus, prioritize and streamline the work of the Contact Group. He encouraged the Partners to make full use of the Partnership and to present explicit requests for assistance by the OSCE. The Chairperson of the Contact Group presented the Group's work plan for 2011, which focused on common interests between the OSCE and the southern Mediterranean regions in the three dimensions, and ways of operationalizing proposals for assistance and practical measures to deepen the engagement with Partners and produce more results. The meeting also included a discussion of developments in Egypt and Tunisia, and participating States offered expressions of solidarity and support for peaceful transitions across the region. The Group was also briefed on the OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Point Network, and the Partner States were encouraged to participate in it.

The second meeting (25 March 2011) was principally devoted to issues in the economic and environmental dimension. The Partners welcomed a background paper presented by the OSCE Chairmanship on possible OSCE assistance to the Partners, especially since it recognized that assistance must be tailored to the specific needs of individual States, and could include assistance on economic and migration issues as well as electoral assistance. The Group also appreciated briefings on Morocco's constitutional reforms and Egypt's referendum on constitutional amendments. A representative of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities shared ideas on co-operation between his Office and the Mediterranean Partners in the areas of energy security, migration management and the Valencia follow-up project on environmental security in the Mediterranean region.

The Contact Group's third meeting (13 May 2011) was devoted to the human dimension and featured a presentation by the Director of the ODIHR, a briefing on the Human Dimension Committee and an update on Algeria's ongoing reform processes. The Lithuanian Chairmanship also discussed the visit to Tunisia in April by the Lithuanian Foreign Minister and the OSCE Chairman-in-Office, in the context of which they had discussed elections, migration, corruption and other areas where the OSCE could potentially provide assistance with representatives of the Tunisian Government and civil society, as well as with the UN co-ordinator. They had been accompanied by experts from the ODIHR and the Secretariat, who had held meetings on democratic reform and human rights. The Director of the ODIHR proposed areas for potential co-operation in the third dimension, including: electoral processes, assessment of legislation on political parties, independent judiciary, national human rights instruments, advice and capacity-building on combating terrorism while promoting and protecting human rights, and tolerance and non-discrimination. It was stressed that, for the OSCE to be activated, a clear request from the Partner State concerned would have to be expressed.

The fourth meeting (15 July 2011) focused on the politico-military dimension, and included briefings by the Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre and the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation. The OSCE Chairmanship also discussed an ODIHR working visit to Morocco in May that had aimed to identify areas for co-operation in the first dimension and the OSCE anti-corruption round table in Marrakech. The Director of the Conflict Prevention Centre welcomed enhanced co-operation with the Partners and encouraged them to participate in OSCE discussions on security in the OSCE region and beyond. He discussed three OSCE documents of particular relevance to the Mediterranean region: the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security; the OSCE Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), focusing on the fight against

proliferation of illicit SALW; and a catalogue of confidence- and security-building measures, entitled Stabilizing Measures for Localized Crisis Situations. He also noted that the OSCE promoted implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004) on non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, and suggested holding joint regional workshops with the Mediterranean Partners and the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs. The Chairperson of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation explained that the Forum focused on core mandates and activities of the politico-military dimension and fostered discussion of a broader perspective of collective security in the OSCE region focused on security in regions bordering the OSCE area.

The fifth meeting (12 September 2011) focused on co-operation with other international organizations, and featured three guest speakers: the head of NATO's Mediterranean Dialogue, the director of External Relations at the Council of Europe and the head of the Mission of the League of Arab States (LAS) in Vienna. The first two described their organizations and areas in which they could potentially provide assistance to the Partner States. The LAS representative mentioned that the OSCE Secretary General and the LAS Secretary General had met in Cairo in September and discussed ways in which the two organizations could enhance co-operation to facilitate the sharing of OSCE expertise and experience with the southern Mediterranean region. An OSCE participating State also provided information on the Union for the Mediterranean. All agreed on the need for closer co-operation and the sharing of best practices and lessons learned.

The annual joint meeting of the Asian and Mediterranean Contact Groups (21 July 2011) provided an opportunity for a broader exchange of views on developments in regions bordering the OSCE area, including the southern Mediterranean, as well as updates on recent OSCE events, such as the annual session of the Parliamentary Assembly. It also included a discussion of OSCE activities in the areas of police reform, good governance and freedom and reform of the media.

The Mediterranean Conference in 2011, held in Budva, Montenegro, on 10 and 11 October, focused on "Democratic Transformation: Challenges and Opportunities in the Mediterranean Region". It covered issues in all three dimensions, including the role of the police and the armed forces in democratic societies; the promotion of human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law; and the strengthening of good governance. The Conference confirmed that the OSCE participating and Partner States shared fundamental principles and a commitment to enhancing dialogue and co-operation with each other, and reconfirmed the consensus of the Astana Summit meeting that the security of the OSCE area and that of the Partners for Co-operation were "inextricably linked." It also recognized the vital role of civil society in the development of modern, free, secure and humane societies.

The discussion at the Conference on the police and armed forces called for a country-specific approach to reform tailored to the needs and situation of each country. Training should be a priority to ensure that reform was effective. Co-ordination among international actors and key stakeholders was also crucial. The participants shared experiences with community policing, the establishment of human rights departments in the police as well as of national human rights institutions, and the enhancement of interaction between the police and armed forces and the civilian population. The group made a number of concrete proposals, such as translation into Arabic and French of key OSCE publications

on police reform, and discussed the possible adoption by the Partners of an instrument similar to the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security.

The discussion on democracy recognized that the Mediterranean could serve as a bridge between shared values. Stability must not be purchased at the price of liberty, and respect for human rights could help to bind participating and Partner States more closely together. The OSCE had had decades of experience with the democratization process, and a number of participating States offered to share their own experience with democratic transition with the Mediterranean Partners. Such transitions were complex, challenging and sometimes unpredictable, and the OSCE admittedly did not have all the answers, but it was ready and willing to share its experience with the Mediterranean Partners, and also to learn from their experience. However, concrete forms of assistance must be defined to ensure that the OSCE provided the kind of support the Partners actually needed. The Partners expressed the desire for intensified co-ordination among international organizations, but also made a plea for patience.

The Mediterranean is also a common economic area where enhanced partnership could benefit the whole region. Corruption hinders development and undermines popular trust in government, and that can contribute to instability and social unrest. Money-laundering services corruption, as well as organized crime and all forms of trafficking, and also helps the financing of terrorism. Democracy, transparency in public processes and the fight against corruption are critical to encouraging foreign and domestic economic investment, and good governance is essential to prosperity, stability and security. The OSCE promotes transparency and the fight against corruption by supporting the rule of law and judicial reform. It also helps to raise awareness about and provides advice on adapting national legislation to comply with the United Nations Convention against Corruption. Environmental security also ties in with economic development, and the Partners were urged to join the Aarhus Convention on Access to Information, Public Participation in Decision-Making and Access to Justice in Environmental Matters.

Democratic transition is a complex, multidimensional, long-term process, and “one size does not fit all”. While the culture and priorities of each country are unique, learning from both the successes and the failures of other countries can help make the process go faster and more smoothly. The OSCE is ready to share its know-how and experience with democratic transitions, including supporting concrete measures and projects to strengthen democratic institutions, ensure freedom of expression, strengthen civil society and stimulate economic growth. While the OSCE’s relationship with the Partners for Co-operation must be firmly rooted in partnership, it is important to recognize that changes in the southern Mediterranean are being driven from within. Thus, while the OSCE can advise, assist, and offer lessons learned and best practices, it cannot impose its priorities, policies or vision. That is up to the peoples of the Mediterranean themselves.

The Irish Chairmanship of the Contact Group would like to conclude by thanking the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation for their commitment to working toward the norms and principles of the OSCE, especially during a challenging period of transition. It is also grateful to the Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship of 2011 for its commitment to supporting the democratic transitions of the Mediterranean Partners. The Irish OSCE Chairmanship in 2012 will continue the OSCE’s commitment to the Mediterranean region, and looks forward to working closely with the incoming Ukrainian Chair of the Mediterranean Contact Group.

**REPORT BY THE  
CHAIRPERSON OF THE CONTACT GROUP WITH THE ASIAN  
PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION TO THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING  
OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(MC.GAL/9/11 of 2 December 2011)

Events in both the Asian and the Mediterranean regions in 2011 underscored the importance of the fact that the security of the OSCE region is “inextricably linked” to security in neighbouring regions, which the OSCE participating States acknowledged at the Summit meeting in Astana in December 2010. The “Arab Spring” in the southern Mediterranean region, the disasters that struck Japan in March 2011, as well as the ongoing challenges arising from transnational threats such as trafficking in illicit drugs, all brought this connection to the fore.

The OSCE Asian Contact Group continues to play a very active role in ensuring that the Asian Partners for Co-operation contribute to the OSCE dialogue and participate in OSCE activities. In its six meetings in 2011, the Contact Group discussed a wide range of security issues. The Contact Group meetings also provided an opportunity for briefings on OSCE activities in areas of particular relevance to the Asian Partners in all three dimensions.

At the first meeting of the Contact Group (21 February 2011), a representative of the Lithuanian Chairmanship presented the priorities and plans of the Chairperson-in-Office for the year in areas of special relevance to the Asian Partners. The Contact Group Chairperson presented the Group’s work plan for 2011 and highlighted the importance of the Partnership Fund, which enables Partners for Co-operation to participate in OSCE activities and also supports specific projects. The Group was briefed on the OSCE Border Security and Management National Focal Points Network, and the Partner States were encouraged to express an interest in participating in the Network. The Group was also briefed on OSCE field operations in Central Asia.

The second meeting (18 March 2011) was principally devoted to the cross-dimensional issue of transnational threats. An adviser to the Secretary General provided an overview of OSCE activities in these areas and pointed out that the participating States shared the view that OSCE efforts to combat transnational threats should involve the Partners more closely through dialogue, participation in activities and exchange of information and best practices. A representative of the Lithuanian Chairmanship discussed the recent visits of the Lithuanian Foreign Minister and the OSCE Chairman-in-Office to Central Asia and the Caucasus, as well as OSCE initiatives related to the Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation.

At its third meeting (1 April 2011), the Asian Contact Group welcomed presentations on ASEAN and its plans to create a community based on politico-security, economic and socio-cultural pillars (ASEAN Connectivity); and on the Conference on Interaction and Confidence-Building Measures in Asia (CICA). A representative of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities briefed the Group on its activities in Central Asia in the economic and environmental dimension, including the Environment and Security Initiative (ENVSEC) and its work in the area of water management; co-operation on transport, good governance and migration management; and support for efforts to combat money-laundering and the financing of terrorism.



At the Contact Group's fourth meeting (1 July 2011), the Chairmanship informed the participants about the special session of the 2011 Annual Security Review Conference devoted to the Partners for Co-operation, which had emphasized the necessity of establishing a multilateral mechanism to help Afghanistan achieve a democratic form of governance. The Contact Group discussed the outcomes of and follow-up to the OSCE-Mongolia Conference, which had featured intensive engagement and exchange of views on ways of strengthening joint efforts to respond to transnational threats, intensify economic co-operation and enhance the role of human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law in promoting comprehensive security. The Group appreciated a briefing on Mongolia's adoption of the ninth United Nations Millennium Development Goal (guaranteeing human rights and strengthening democratic governance) and Mongolia's unique 130 democratic governance indicators and its self-assessment tool for measuring its progress toward achieving that goal. The Group also appreciated a presentation on the ODIHR's support for participating States in implementing their commitments to human rights, elections, democracy and the rule of law. The Asian Partners were encouraged to take advantage of the ODIHR's depth of experience to further strengthen their voluntary commitments to OSCE norms and principles.

The Group's fifth meeting (20 September 2011) focused on Afghanistan. The meeting included presentations on OSCE activities related to Afghanistan, which had concentrated on three main tracks: election support for presidential and parliamentary elections; Partnership Fund support for Afghan participation in OSCE activities across the three dimensions, including the sponsorship of some specific projects; and a package of 16 concrete assistance projects aimed at strengthening the capacity of Afghan border, customs and counter-narcotics agencies. Of the package of projects, 11 had been successfully launched, and ten had been completed by the end of 2011. However, three projects had not been launched because of a lack of funding, and it had not been possible to start two border-related projects that implied OSCE engagement on Afghan territory because of a lack of consensus among participating States.

At the Contact Group's sixth meeting (1 November 2011), a representative of the OSCE Chairmanship informed the participants about an informal briefing on OSCE engagement in Afghanistan on 5 October that had reviewed the achievements and lessons learned from the first package of assistance projects. A presentation by the Ambassador for International Security Affairs of the Republic of Korea on promoting co-operative security in Northeast Asia sparked a discussion of security issues in that region. The Group also welcomed a presentation by an independent expert on the development of security co-operation in Europe and the manner in which that experience was relevant to security co-operation in other regions.

The last meeting of the Asian Contact Group focused on non-proliferation issues, with a presentation by Australia on the situation in the Asia-Pacific region and by the CTBTO on its activities. Kazakhstan, as Chair of the FSC, presented OSCE-related activities. The presentations and ensuing discussions proved once more the commonality of interests and the potential for fruitful exchanges and co-operation between the OSCE and its Asian Partners.

The annual joint meeting of the Asian and Mediterranean Contact Groups (21 July 2011) provided an opportunity for a broader exchange of views on developments in regions bordering the OSCE area, including the southern Mediterranean, as well as updates on recent OSCE events, such as the annual session of the Parliamentary Assembly. It also

included a discussion of OSCE activities in the areas of police reform, good governance and freedom and reform of the media.

The 2011 OSCE-Mongolia Conference, held in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia, on 23 and 24 May 2011, focused on enhancing OSCE co-operation with the Asian Partners in addressing common challenges through a comprehensive approach to security. The Conference explored ways to promote comprehensive security by strengthening joint efforts to confront transnational threats, enhance economic co-operation and strengthen human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.

The Conference session devoted to the politico-military dimension focused on strengthening synergies in responding to transnational threats, and particularly combating trafficking in illicit drugs originating in Afghanistan; and enhancing multilateral security co-operation and military transparency in East Asia. The participants recognized that rapid changes taking place in Asia were creating both opportunities and challenges, increasing the incentives for strengthening regional co-operation. It was noted that civilian control was critical to enhancing military transparency, and that solving territorial disputes would pave the way for greater co-operation. Moreover, disaster relief deserved increased attention in addition to traditional security issues. Although there were significant differences between the history and security needs of the OSCE region and Asia, it was broadly acknowledged that the OSCE and its approach to dialogue and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) could provide inspiration to the Asian Partners, and that there was significant scope for co-operation based on common interests.

The session on economic and environmental security challenges focused on transport and energy security issues, devoting special attention to customs and cross-border operations as a means to promote secure borders and economic development. Co-operation on second-dimension issues produced mutual benefits, including increased security, economic growth, environmental protection and energy security. A representative of the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities emphasized that strengthening engagement in the economy and in the environmental sector directly correlated with enhanced democracy and security in the OSCE region and beyond. Co-operation and a comprehensive approach were essential to sustainable transportation options and energy security to help ensure sustainable development and integrate environmental and social considerations. In the area of energy security, stability, predictability and respect for the rule of law were critical factors to attract investment as well as to ensure energy security.

The session devoted to the third dimension recognized that democracy was not simply a goal, but was also a process that embodied the will of the people. Thus, both civil society and independent media played a crucial role in countries in transition. Successes as well as failures would occur on the road to democracy, but mistakes should not discourage a country in transition from pursuing the goal. The Asian Partners themselves had a wealth of experience in building democracy, thanks to the enormous efforts that had been expended by their people as well as their governments. It was also pointed out that, in the areas in which the ODIHR operated, election observation remained the most important activity in which the Partners for Co-operation could participate.

The OSCE Partnership Fund makes possible the participation of Partner States in relevant OSCE activities and supports specific projects. In 2011, the Asian Contact Group drew on the resources of the Partnership Fund to promote comprehensive security in the

region. For example, a side event at the OSCE-Mongolia Conference on “Afghanistan Capacity Building: Strengthening the Diplomatic Service”, sponsored by Mongolia and financially supported also by Kazakhstan, identified specific needs and possible approaches to enhance the capacity of the Afghan diplomatic corps. Transparency and openness in diplomatic relations can help a State undergoing a transition to gain the trust and support of other countries, which will in turn help to attract aid and investment. During the side event, Mongolia proposed a training initiative to build the capacity of Afghan diplomats. This training workshop is planned to take place in Ulaanbaatar in 2012 with support from the OSCE Partnership Fund. It will support the Afghan Ministry of Foreign Affairs in strengthening its diplomatic service by sharing experience and exchanging knowledge about international relations, foreign economic and trade policy (including energy security), and environmental diplomacy and communicating with larger neighbours.

The Partnership Fund has also agreed to support a seminar on co-operation for security and development in Northeast Asia and the OSCE experience, jointly organized by the Austrian centre for International Studies (ACIS), the Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship, the Kazakh Chair of the Asian Contact Group and the Government of Mongolia. This seminar will build on a series of meetings on the relevance of the OSCE experience to multilateral security co-operation in Northeast Asia that have been convened since 2006. Its purpose is to develop concrete principles, goals and measures to initiate a mechanism for multilateral security co-operation in Northeast Asia, including CSBMs, to prevent, mitigate or resolve maritime conflicts and disputes in the region. It will develop recommendations for a road map for the Six-Party Talks covering such issues as denuclearization, security guarantees and a peace treaty. The seminar will also examine how nuclear-weapon-free zones can enhance regional stability and security, and explore possible ways to enhance economic co-operation in the region. Originally scheduled to take place in Vienna in November 2011, the seminar has been postponed to 2012 to allow for meaningful contributions from all the major actors in the Six-Party Talks.

The Permanent Council also authorized (by PC.DEC/1003) the use of the Partnership Fund for the sponsoring of a Workshop on Promoting Security through a Comprehensive Approach to Development in Border Areas: A Capacity Building Programme According to Thai Experience, to be hosted by Thailand in 2012. The Workshop, in follow-up to a similar successful initiative in 2010, will focus on strengthening joint efforts to combat transnational threats posed by illicit crop cultivation and drug trafficking, by sharing experiences and best practices on ways of converting underdeveloped and unstable border areas into secure and prosperous regions through a comprehensive approach that includes alternative livelihoods.

The Kazakh Chairmanship of the Asian Contact Group would like to express its satisfaction at the results achieved in the dialogue and co-operation with the Asian Partners. The Asian Partners are to be praised for their vital participation and contributions. Our gratitude goes also to the 2011 OSCE Lithuanian Chairmanship for its leadership and support, as well as to the Secretary General and the External Co-operation Section for the constant assistance provided.

## **REPORT TO THE EIGHTEENTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL ON THE MEETING BETWEEN THE OSCE TROIKA AND THE ASIAN PARTNERS FOR CO-OPERATION**

(MC.GAL/14/11 of 16 December 2011)

The annual meeting between the OSCE Ministerial Troika and the Asian Partners for Co-operation, with the participation of the OSCE Secretary General and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, took place on 7 December 2011, on the margins of the Vilnius Ministerial Council. The meeting was chaired by Mr. Audronius Ažubalis, Minister of the Foreign Affairs of Lithuania.

Minister Ažubalis praised the high level of co-operation established between the OSCE and the Asian Partners. He noted that the OSCE Partnership for Co-operation had been a priority for the Lithuanian Chairmanship, pointing to the proposed ministerial decision on the Partners for Co-operation. Enhancing OSCE engagement with Afghanistan represented another area of highest commitment for Lithuania and negotiations were undergoing on the adoption of a ministerial decision on this issue allowing for strengthening co-operation across the three OSCE dimensions of security by launching a second package of projects. He further welcomed Mongolia's application to become a participating State of the OSCE, which represented a clear sign of the continued relevance of the OSCE values and commitments. In conclusion, he thanked Kazakhstan for the able leadership displayed in chairing the Asian Contact Group.

Mr. Zhigalov, Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Kazakhstan, praised the Asian Partners for their commitment and enthusiasm towards the OSCE. Kazakhstan looked forward to lively exchanges and fruitful outcomes of the 2012 OSCE-Thailand Conference, as well as of the workshop for sharing experiences on combating illicit crop cultivations to be also hosted by Thailand. He supported the view on the importance on furthering engagement with Afghanistan and welcomed Mongolia's request to become an OSCE participating State, calling upon the OSCE participating States to respond positively. Additionally, he stated that Kazakhstan was convinced that the security of the OSCE area was inextricably linked with security in the region of the Asian Partners and reaffirmed Kazakhstan's commitment to intensify dialogue and co-operation with Asia. He further thanked the Secretary General and the Secretariat for the valuable support and all the Asian Partners for their contributions to the dialogue and co-operation with the OSCE.

All participants expressed their deepest sympathy to Japan, which had been struck by a catastrophic earthquake and the resultant tsunami in March 2011, as well as to Thailand, which had been hit by the most serious floods in the history of the country. They also expressed their condolences and sorrow after the deadly terrorist attacks in Kabul and Mazar-e Sharif on 6 December. They underlined that this demonstrated the need to support Afghanistan in addressing its challenges to achieve peace, stability and prosperity and reiterated their commitment to work together and through the OSCE to this end.

Asian Partners for Co-operation believed that efforts should be redoubled to bridge Asia and Europe, and bring the two continents closer together. They highlighted that the OSCE was in a good position to play an important role in this effort and that the CSCE/OSCE experience was looked at as a source of inspiration by the Partners. OSCE participating States and Partners shared common values, including democracy, human rights,

peaceful resolution of conflicts and rule of law. However, these principles were not universally held and there were sustained security challenges in Asia and the Pacific. Examples included the totalitarian regime in North Korea, the democratic deficit in China, human rights challenges across Indochina, a military coup in Fiji, a very thinly emerging civilian government in Burma, and remaining challenges in Sri Lanka. Besides, Asia faced significant unresolved territorial disputes, including the North Korean issue, the territorial disputes between China and Japan and the East China Sea, the question of Taiwan, the South China Sea, and, in South Asia, the continued disagreements over territories like Kashmir.

Multilateral co-operation existed in Asia, but had often focused mainly on the economic aspects. However, one Partner noted that with the participation of the United States of America and Russia this year, the East Asia Summit process had entered into a new phase, which would hopefully bring to an enhanced focus on security aspect. Asia had a great deal to learn from the OSCE's comprehensive approach to security and the confidence-building measures that contributed to the peaceful solution of the Cold War in Europe. The ASEAN would also benefit from experiences and lessons learned from the OSCE, as the ASEAN strived to become an ASEAN Community by 2015. On the other hand, the OSCE could benefit from experience and lessons learned from the ASEAN, which had in the past been the key to the maintenance of peace and stability in South-east Asia. Additionally, the six-party talks could eventually become something similar to a CSCE/OSCE type of process in North-East Asia. What would happen to the Asian region would inevitably have a great impact on the peace and stability throughout the OSCE.

Partners recognized that the two pillars of the relationship between the OSCE and its Partners for Co-operation were the continuous dialogue and the joint projects. Several Partners suggested involving academics to discuss the future of the relationship between OSCE and the Asia-pacific region, as two regions closely interconnected, in terms of economy and security.

The Asian Partners for Co-operation fully supported the efforts of Mongolia to become a full member of the OSCE, and encouraged all participating States of the OSCE to back Mongolia's application. They also hoped that a Decision on Partners for Co-operation would be adopted later in the day at the ministerial meeting, and promised to actively engage in its implementation.

Additionally, the Asian Partners for Co-operation expressed their support to the OSCE-Thailand Conference to be held in Chiang Mai on 13 and 14 February 2012. The conference would provide a good opportunity for sharing experiences on issues of mutual interest such as enhancement of regional security, confidence-building measures, strengthening of regional security, sustainable energy and transport linkages and the promotion of human rights.

The Secretary General supported the Asian Partners' views that relations and exchanges among regional organizations should be enhanced. He also stated his full support to the idea of creating academic networks to foster a stronger and deeper interaction. He briefed about the Conferences on Afghanistan he had attended in Istanbul and Bonn, and expressed hopes that the Ministerial Council would adopt the decision on Afghanistan later in the day, referring to the second package of projects which would expand the co-operation with Afghanistan. Additionally, he stressed that the interest of Mongolia in becoming a member of the OSCE honoured the Organization recognizing its value.

The representative of the Parliamentary Assembly emphasized that parliamentarians attached a great importance to the co-operation with the OSCE Partners, which was seen as a two-way street. He noted that the idea of academic networks had the full support of President Efstathiou. Regarding the application of Mongolia to become a participating State of the OSCE, the Special Representative reported that parliamentarians had not had the chance so far to discuss it in the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly decision making process, but he added that the members seemed very positive towards this idea.

The Irish incoming OSCE Chairmanship stated its commitment to further developing and building the co-operation with the Asian Partners and reiterated its strong support to Mongolia's application to become a participating State.