

**Chairmanship: Slovenia**

**888th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM**

1. Date: Wednesday, 4 July 2018

Opened: 10 a.m.  
Suspended: 1 p.m.  
Resumed: 3.05 p.m.  
Closed: 5.10 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador A. Benedejčič

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE: THE ROLE OF MINE ACTION IN ALL PHASES OF THE CONFLICT CYCLE

- *Presentation by Ambassador T. Lovrenčič, Director of ITF Enhancing Human Security*
- *Presentation by Ms. T. Yrjölä, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe*
- *Presentation by Ms. A. Calza Bini, Director of the Gender and Mine Action Programme*
- *Presentation by Mr. V. Verba, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine*

Chairperson, Ambassador T. Lovrenčič, Head of the OSCE Programme Office in Dushanbe, Ms. A. Calza Bini, OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine, Austria-European Union, Austria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/129/18), United Kingdom (Annex 1), Switzerland, Canada,

Ukraine, Tajikistan (FSC.DEL/131/18 OSCE+), United States of America,  
Armenia, Russian Federation

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

- (a) *Briefing on the military exercise “Adriatic Strike 2018”, conducted in Slovenia from 3 to 8 June 2018:* Slovenia, Chairperson
- (b) *Briefing on the military exercise “Vostok 2018”, to be conducted in the Russian Federation during August and September 2018:* Russian Federation, Chairperson, United States of America
- (c) *Ceremony to mark the opening of a laboratory for the chemical and thermal analysis of ammunition under the Project for the Safety and Security Upgrade of Ammunition and Weapons Storage Sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina (SAFE-UP BiH), to be held at TROM-Doboj in Bosnia and Herzegovina on 19 July 2018:* FSC Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Hungary), Chairperson
- (d) *Situation in and around Ukraine:* Ukraine (FSC.DEL/132/18 OSCE+), Austria-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Montenegro; the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate country Bosnia and Herzegovina; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland, Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/130/18), United States of America, Russian Federation, Poland, France, United Kingdom, Switzerland, Italy, Slovakia

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in 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 (RevCon3), held in New York from 18 to 29 June 2018:* France (Annex 2), Slovenia
- (b) *Annual Security Review Conference, held from 26 to 28 June 2018:* Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 11 July 2018, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



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**888th Plenary Meeting**  
FSC Journal No. 894, Agenda item 1

## **STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

Twenty years on from the adoption of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, landmines and explosive remnants of war remain indiscriminate weapons that maim and kill innocent people every day, long after fighting has stopped. This is why it is so important that we are talking about this subject today, and that we continue to take action to address this scourge.

The United Kingdom has played a key role in tackling the lethal legacy of landmines. That role was embodied by the efforts of Her Royal Highness, Diana, Princess of Wales, in bringing landmines to the world's attention. The United Kingdom was one of the Convention's founding signatories, and since then we have become one of the world's leading donors on mine action. But there is still more to do.

The United Kingdom is a keen believer that addressing the problem of mines and, increasingly today, improvised explosive devices (IEDs), requires action in multiple fora and at multiple levels. International co-operation is key. Therefore, the United Kingdom underlines the significance of the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Convention on Cluster Munitions and the Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons, which the United Kingdom chaired in 2017. The United Kingdom remains fully committed to these key international disarmament initiatives that all contribute to efforts to deliver mine action. The United Kingdom continues to call on any participating States not already party to these conventions to accede without delay. Ultimately, the more States that abide by the obligations of the conventions, the larger the humanitarian impact and the more lives will be saved in years to come.

The United Kingdom is clear on the importance of upholding our own obligations. We are working hard to clear the only part of the United Kingdom's sovereign territory impacted by landmines, the Falkland Islands.

The United Kingdom continues to offer substantial international assistance to help others achieve their objectives. Last year, the United Kingdom's Department for International Development tripled its funding for mine action – spending over 113 million euros over three years to tackle the humanitarian and development impact of landmines and explosive remnants of war, including through programmes to educate children, who are disproportionately affected by these weapons, on their risks.

In addition to the United Kingdom's Global Mine Action Programme, the United Kingdom's Conflict, Stability and Security Fund also supports mine action programmes around the world, including in Ukraine, Georgia, and Azerbaijan. For example, in Azerbaijan UK funding has supported local economies by enabling access to agricultural land.

Finally, the United Kingdom reinforces its assistance by firmly and actively facilitating discussions amongst the international community to consider the way ahead in mine action. The United Kingdom was pleased to host a conference in May this year that considered the challenges in realizing aspirations for a mine-free world, and looked towards methods for overcoming them. These discussions built on a conference which the United Kingdom convened one year ago on the subject of the clearance of IEDs in the Middle East. It is vital that we continue to assess the challenges ahead and collaboratively consider the means to meet these challenges. This is why the United Kingdom welcomes last June's UN Security Council resolution 2365 on mine action, and last August's UN Security Council resolution 2370, which calls for more stringent national measures to deny terrorists ready access to weapons and explosive precursors.

In closing, I would like to underline the United Kingdom's utmost commitment to mine action and strongly encourage all participating States to augment their efforts and help us to collectively tackle the scourge of landmines.

Thank you.



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**888th Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 894, Agenda item 3(a)

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF FRANCE**

Mr. Chairperson,

France chaired the Third Review Conference on the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (RevCon3), which took place from 18 to 29 June 2018 at the United Nations Headquarters in New York.

The Conference unanimously adopted an outcome document that includes a political declaration, an operational action plan for implementing the programme of action on small arms and light weapons (SALW) and its attached International Tracing Instrument, and a schedule of meetings for the six coming years.

France welcomes the adoption of the RevCon3 Outcome Document, which gives fresh impetus to combating trafficking in SALW. It contains specific measures in priority areas for combating the threat of illicit trafficking in SALW, in particular:

- Combating the diversion of SALW, which is essential for preventing their use by terrorist groups and individuals.
- Combating the illicit manufacture and transformation of weapons, including taking into account the latest technological developments (3D printing).
- Strengthening international co-operation and assistance to facilitate the Programme of Action's practical implementation.

The Outcome Document also contains far-reaching provisions on ammunition (in particular, support for the work pursued under UN General Assembly resolution 72/55), and on gender (section II, B, 2 on gender mainstreaming in efforts to combat trafficking in SALW).

The Conference's discussions also gave full recognition to the work of regional organizations, including the OSCE, and innovative initiatives such as that of France and Germany in the Western Balkans.

We welcome the efforts made by all delegations and the participation of civil society, which made it possible to achieve this substantial result, and we call for full implementation of the conclusions adopted.