



Moldovan Chairmanship

Vienna, 24 June 2014

Report by Ambassador Andrei Popov, Chairperson of the Forum for Security Cooperation at the Annual Security Review Conference 2014

Mr. Chairperson,
Mr. President,
Mr. Deputy Prime-Minister,
Mr. Secretary General,
Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen,

In my capacity as the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation, I am pleased to outline the highlights of the FSC's work since the last ASRC. During this period that covers the FSC Chairmanship tenures of Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta and Moldova, the Forum has continued its efforts to strengthen the implementation of existing politico-military commitments, and to discuss possible additional measures in line with the Astana Commemorative Declaration and relevant decisions adopted at the meetings of the Ministerial Councils in Vilnius and Kyiv.

Throughout the last several months the work of the FSC has been seriously marked by the Ukraine crisis, with the Forum contributing to defusing tensions and addressing developments related to the politico-military dimension of the crisis. Participating States regularly seized the opportunity to exchange their views on this issue at the Forum. In addition, the Vienna Document as an integral part of the OSCE toolbox was widely used by participating states to address security concerns. In March and April 2014 the FSC held four joint meetings with the Permanent Council to assess the situation with respect to Ukraine, including three meetings related to the activation of the Chapter III of the VD 2011 on risk reduction. This has confirmed once again the value of the FSC as a primary platform to discuss politico-military aspects also during crisis situations.

With regard to the Vienna Document, the FSC also continued to discuss proposals related to its updating and modernization. Overall, 23 proposals have been made touching on all aspects of the document. Last July, the FSC adopted decision No. 4/13, which adapted the length of visits to air bases. This decision directly followed the outcome of the 2012 Meeting of the Heads of Verification Centres, which served to discuss technical aspects related to the Vienna Document's implementation. Lastly, I would like to recall that in March 2014 the FSC held a successful twenty-fourth Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting, which produced over 30 proposals captured in the CPC's survey of suggestions.

As regards the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, I would like to highlight the Second Annual Implementation Discussion which was held in July 2013 under the Lithuanian Chairmanship. The meeting provided a good opportunity to discuss how to promote and improve the implementation of the Code of Conduct, including its annual information exchange, and to examine its application in the context of the existing political and military situation. During this meeting, 19 suggestions were made on the Code of Conduct and related areas for its improvement and future development. Moreover, under FSC decision No. 1/08 on outreach and awareness-raising, the OSCE organized two major events on the Code. In September 2013, a regional conference for the Mediterranean area was held in Malta which brought together high-level officials from OSCE participating States bordering

the Mediterranean Sea and from the OSCE's Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation. In March 2014, the CPC organized an OSCE-wide workshop in Belgrade to improve internal coherence and co-ordination among OSCE executive structures. The FSC also held several security dialogues related to the Code of Conduct which served to generate new ideas and to assess and discuss its implementation. In March 2014 the FSC decided to hold the 3rd Annual Implementation Discussion meeting on 9th of July 2014.

The OSCE continues playing an important role in curbing the proliferation of illicit SALW. The FSC's work with regard to SALW in the past year has focussed on the implementation of existing norms and measures, and on the harmonization of efforts at the OSCE and global levels. With the relaunch of the informal Group of Friends on SALW, the OSCE work on this issue has been reactivated. Also, the Forum took an important decision to further enhance the FSC transparency tools on SALW and, on a basis of the CPC mapping study, discussed existing differences between the OSCE and global SALW control frameworks. Last week, the FSC Chairmanship participated in the 5th Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW, held in New York on 16-20 of June 2014.

The OSCE is also known for its valuable work in reducing threats to security and the environment posed by surplus or outdated stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA) awaiting destruction. Conventional ammunition poses a threat not only because it can end up on the illicit market, but also because of its highly explosive nature. During the period 2011-2013 alone, more than 25 unplanned ammunition explosions occurred in 12 participating States, causing human losses and injuries in the OSCE area. Since 1987 the world has seen at least 453 known unplanned explosive events in ammunition storage areas. Since the adoption of the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition in 2000 and 2003, respectively, the OSCE received more than 47 assistance requests from more than a dozen participating States. Since last July, the OSCE completed several projects and activities – in Georgia (with the destruction of 1,288 cluster bombs), in Kazakhstan (with the removal and disposal of 410 tonnes of the rocket fuel component “Melange”), in Kyrgyzstan (with 51 MANPADs destroyed), in Serbia (with removal and disposal of 161 tonnes of napalm powder) and in Ukraine (with the removal and disposal of approximately 16,000 tonnes of “Melange”). In addition, the OSCE received two requests for assistance in the area of SALW and SCA from Albania and Tajikistan. Currently, the OSCE is implementing 18 SALW and SCA projects in 11 participating States valued at 11 million euro. On this occasion, I would like to thank all the donors for their generous contributions. Sustainable funding, however, remains a key challenge in the implementation of projects related to SALW and SCA.

The UN Security Council resolution 1540 has been yet another important element of the FSC's work over the past year. Participating States have taken an active role in implementation of the resolution, and this has resulted in a number of national implementation action plans being drafted. In June 2014, the FSC held a Security Dialogue on UNSCR 1540, having as a key note speaker the Chair of the 1540 Committee. This event highlighted the important role that the OSCE as a regional organization can play in complementing the ongoing efforts of the 1540 Committee as well as in assisting participating States in implementing this Resolution. In addition, in May 2014, a joint FSC-PC was held on “Efforts in the field of disarmament” with UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Angela Kane, outlining UNODA's cooperation with the OSCE. Lastly, in line with the FSC Decision No. 19/11 (2011), the first Meeting of the OSCE Points of Contact on UNSCR 1540 took place in April 2014, in order to enhance information sharing and promotion of best practices among States.

In line with the mandate received at the meeting of the Ministerial Council in Vilnius, the FSC has been also examining efficient ways of delivering assistance in the implementation in

the OSCE region of the UNSCR 1325 and related resolutions on the issue of gender and security. In this regard, several Security Dialogues have been devoted to the issue of women, peace and security.

Mr. Chairperson,

As I have outlined, the FSC continues to actively address a broad range of politico-military issues. By pursuing this work, the FSC is gradually contributing to the Helsinki+40 process in accordance with Ministerial Council Decisions adopted in Dublin and Kyiv.

I am looking forward to the discussions in the coming three days and wish this Conference the best of success.

Thank you for your attention.