

TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL

OPENING SESSION (OPEN)

1. Date: Thursday, 2 December 2021

Opened: 10.15 a.m.
Closed: 11 a.m.
2. Chairperson: H.E. Ms. Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden,
Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE

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

Agenda item 1: FORMAL OPENING

The Chairperson formally opened the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council.

Agenda item 2: ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA

Chairperson

The agenda for the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council was adopted and is annexed hereto (Annex 1).

Agenda item 3: ADDRESS BY THE OSCE CHAIRPERSON-IN-OFFICE

H.E. Ms. Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, addressed the Meeting (MC.DEL/8/21).

Agenda item 4: ADDRESS BY THE PRESIDENT OF THE OSCE
PARLIAMENTARY ASSEMBLY

H.E. Ms. Margareta Cederfelt, President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, addressed the Meeting (MC.GAL/4/21).

Agenda item 5: REPORT BY THE OSCE SECRETARY GENERAL

H.E. Ms. Helga Maria Schmid, Secretary General of the OSCE, addressed the Meeting (MC.GAL/5/21).

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 2 December 2021, at 11 a.m., in the plenary hall and via video teleconference

FIRST PLENARY SESSION (CLOSED)

1. Date: Thursday, 2 December 2021

Opened: 11 a.m.
Closed: 1.10 p.m.

2. Chairperson: H.E. Ms. Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden,
Chairperson-in-Office of the OSCE
Ambassador Ulrika Funered, Permanent Representative of Sweden to
the OSCE

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

Agenda item 6: STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS

Turkey (MC.DEL/20/21 OSCE+), Russian Federation (MC.DEL/3/21),
Slovenia-European Union (MC.DEL/69/21 OSCE+) (MC.DEL/38/21), Greece
(MC.DEL/64/21 OSCE+), United States of America (MC.DEL/4/21), United
Kingdom (MC.DEL/23/21), Luxembourg (MC.DEL/62/21), Canada, North
Macedonia (MC.DEL/75/21 OSCE+), Kazakhstan (MC.DEL/53/21 OSCE+),
Czech Republic (MC.DEL/19/21), Norway (MC.DEL/15/21), Netherlands
(MC.DEL/71/21 OSCE+), Malta (MC.DEL/59/21 OSCE+), Germany
(MC.DEL/13/21 OSCE+), Poland (MC.DEL/5/21 OSCE+), Austria, Georgia
(MC.DEL/50/21 OSCE+), Croatia (MC.DEL/41/21), Slovakia
(MC.DEL/22/21 OSCE+), Denmark (MC.DEL/9/21), France (MC.DEL/24/21
OSCE+), Spain (MC.DEL/68/21 OSCE+)

4. Next meeting:

Thursday, 2 December 2021, at 3 p.m., in the plenary hall and via video
teleconference

SECOND PLENARY SESSION (CLOSED)

1. Date: Thursday, 2 December 2021

Opened: 3.05 p.m.
Closed: 5.55 p.m.

2. Chairperson: H.E. Ms. Olta Xhaçka, Minister for Europe and Foreign Affairs of Albania

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

Agenda item 6: STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

Serbia (MC.DEL/40/21 OSCE+), Finland (MC.DEL/76/21 OSCE+),
Uzbekistan, Tajikistan, San Marino (MC.DEL/7/21), Armenia (Annex 2),
Lithuania (MC.DEL/70/21 OSCE+), Hungary, Iceland (MC.DEL/17/21),
Montenegro (MC.DEL/14/21 OSCE+), Portugal (MC.DEL/30/21 OSCE+),
Azerbaijan (Annex 3), Monaco, Albania (MC.DEL/11/21 OSCE+), Andorra
(MC.DEL/18/21 OSCE+), Moldova (MC.DEL/56/21/Rev.1 OSCE+),
Kyrgyzstan (MC.DEL/56/21 OSCE+), Estonia, Bosnia and Herzegovina,
Belarus (MC.DEL/33/21), Romania (MC.DEL/37/21), Ukraine
(MC.DEL/55/21), Latvia, Ireland (MC.DEL/29/21), Mongolia
(MC.DEL/10/21), Holy See (MC.DEL/12/21 OSCE+), Switzerland
(MC.DEL/25/21 OSCE+), Italy (MC.DEL/66/21), Bulgaria
(MC.DEL/6/21/Rev.1 OSCE+), Turkmenistan, Liechtenstein
(MC.DEL/16/21), Belgium (MC.DEL/67/21), Cyprus (MC.DEL/21/21
OSCE+)

4. Next meeting:

Friday, 3 December 2021, at 10 a.m., in the plenary hall and via video teleconference

THIRD PLENARY SESSION (CLOSED)

1. Date: Friday, 3 December 2021

Opened: 10.05 a.m.
Suspended: 11 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador Adam Hałaciński, Permanent Representative of Poland to the OSCE

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

Agenda item 6: STATEMENTS BY HEADS OF DELEGATIONS (continued)

Thailand (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/54/21 OSCE+), Egypt (Partner for Co-operation), Tunisia (Partner for Co-operation), Morocco (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/26/21 OSCE+), Republic of Korea (Partner for Co-operation), Jordan (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/74/21), Algeria (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/31/21), Israel (Partner for Co-operation) (MC.DEL/52/21 OSCE+), Australia (Partner for Co-operation), Japan (Partner for Co-operation)

Right of reply: Morocco (Partner for Co-operation), Algeria (Partner for Co-operation)

4. Next meeting:

Friday, 3 December 2021, at 11 a.m., in the plenary hall and via video teleconference

THIRD PLENARY SESSION (CONTINUED) (CLOSED)

1. Date: Friday, 3 December 2021

Resumed: 11 a.m.
Closed: 12.30 p.m.

2. Chairperson: H.E. Ms. Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office
Ambassador Ulrika Funered, Permanent Representative of Sweden to the OSCE

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

Agenda item 7: ADOPTION OF MINISTERIAL COUNCIL DOCUMENTS AND DECISIONS

Chairperson

The Chairperson announced that Decision No. 1/21 (MC.DEC/1/21) on the 2021 Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC), the text of which is appended to this journal, had been adopted by the Ministerial Council on 18 August 2021 through a silence procedure.

The Chairperson announced that Decision No. 2/21 (MC.DEC/2/21) on the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2025, the text of which is appended to this journal, had been adopted by the Ministerial Council on 30 November 2021 through a silence procedure.

Document adopted: The Ministerial Council adopted the Ministerial Statement on the Negotiations on the Transdniestrian Settlement Process in the “5+2” Format (MC.DOC/1/21), the text of which is appended to this journal.

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 3/21 (MC.DEC/3/21) on strengthening co-operation to address the challenges caused by climate change, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Canada (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision)

Decision: The Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 4/21 (MC.DEC/4/21) on the time and place of the next meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, the text of which is appended to this journal.

Agenda item 8: CLOSING STATEMENTS BY PARTICIPATING STATES

Slovenia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; as well as San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment)

(MC.DEL/60/21), Canada (also on behalf of Albania, Austria, Belgium, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America), United States of America (Annex 4), Slovakia (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (MC.DEL/44/21), Slovenia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro, North Macedonia and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Ukraine, in alignment) (MC.DEL/61/21), Russian Federation (Annex 5), Denmark (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (Annex 6), Romania (also on behalf of Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (Annex 7), Montenegro (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (Annex 8), Iceland (also on behalf of Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (Annex 9), United Kingdom, Canada (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America) (MC.DEL/73/21), Canada

(Annex 10), Russian Federation (also on behalf of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan) (Annex 11), Belgium (also on behalf of Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Uzbekistan) (Annex 12)

Agenda item 9: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Announcement of the distribution of the Stockholm “Quadriga” statement “Our Commitments, Our Security, Our OSCE”*: Chairperson (also on behalf of Albania, North Macedonia and Poland) (Annex 13)
- (b) *Announcement of the distribution of the “Quadriga” statement on the OSCE’s efforts towards peace with respect to Ukraine*: Chairperson (also on behalf of Albania, North Macedonia and Poland) (Annex 14)
- (c) *Closing remarks*: Chairperson

The letter from the Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation to the Chairperson-in-Office is annexed hereto (Annex 15).

4. Next meeting:

Friday, 3 December 2021, at 12.40 p.m., in the plenary hall and via video teleconference

CLOSING SESSION (OPEN)

1. Date: Friday, 3 December 2021

Opened: 12.40 p.m.
Closed: 1 p.m.

2. Chairperson: H.E. Ms. Ann Linde, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Sweden, OSCE
Chairperson-in-Office

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

Agenda item 10: FORMAL CLOSURE (STATEMENTS BY THE CURRENT
AND INCOMING CHAIRPERSONS-IN-OFFICE)

Chairperson (Sweden) (MC.DEL/72/21), Poland (MC.DEL/46/21 OSCE+)

The Chairperson formally declared the Twenty-Eighth Meeting of the
Ministerial Council closed.

4. Next meeting:

1 and 2 December 2022, to be held in Łódź, Poland



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Stockholm 2021**

MC(28).JOUR
2–3 December 2021
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

First day of the Twenty-Eighth Meeting
MC(28) Journal, Agenda item 2

**AGENDA FOR
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF THE
OSCE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

(Stockholm, 2 and 3 December 2021)

1. Formal opening
2. Adoption of the agenda
3. Address by the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office
4. Address by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly
5. Report by the OSCE Secretary General
6. Statements by heads of delegations
7. Adoption of Ministerial Council documents and decisions
8. Closing statements by participating States
9. Any other business
10. Formal closure (statements by the current and incoming Chairpersons-in-Office)



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Stockholm 2021**

MC(28).JOUR
2–3 December 2021
Annex 2

Original: ENGLISH

First day of the Twenty-Eighth Meeting
MC(28) Journal, Agenda item 6

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Madam Chairperson,
Dear colleagues,
Ladies and gentlemen,

At the outset I would like to join my colleagues in thanking the OSCE Swedish Chairmanship for steering the Organization throughout the year.

One year after the war of aggression unleashed by Azerbaijan against the people of Nagorno-Karabakh and the conclusion of the 9 November trilateral statement, the situation in Nagorno-Karabakh and borders between Armenia and Azerbaijan remains tense. Since May 2021 Azerbaijani armed forces have infiltrated across the borders of Armenia. Up to now, they maintain and continue strengthening their illegal presence on the sovereign territory of Armenia.

By its aggressive actions Azerbaijan is flagrantly violating the Charter of the United Nations and the principles of the Helsinki Final Act. Needless to say, Azerbaijan's actions also violate its obligations under the trilateral statement of 9 November on the cessation of all hostilities.

Another feature of the use of force is a constant attempt of Azerbaijan not merely to hold but capture Armenian servicemen and civilians. Not only does Azerbaijan continue to ignore the calls of the international community for the immediate and unconditional release of all Armenian prisoners of war and civilian hostages, but on a number of instances, most recently on 16 November, its armed forces captured more military personnel in the course of its attack on the territory of Armenia.

No pretext can justify these violent actions. The continued presence of Azerbaijani armed forces on the territory of Armenia is a factor of destabilization in our region.

We hope that the 26 November trilateral meeting organized by the Russian Federation will pave the way for undertaking certain measures towards de-escalation of the situation in the region.

Dear colleagues,

The use of force has never been a way to peace in general and in particular in our region. The use of force can defreeze dormant conflicts for a certain period of time but they will get frozen again once there is no negotiated and peaceful solution. War can come as a unilateral choice but peace always requires consent of all sides.

Armenia is willing to achieve lasting stability in the South Caucasus and is ready for negotiations to achieve that.

The sooner Azerbaijan embarks on the resumption of the peace process, the better will be chances to achieve comprehensive and durable settlement in our region. The definition of the status of Nagorno-Karabakh based on the realization of the right to self-determination, the safe and dignified return of the displaced Armenian population throughout the entire territory of Nagorno-Karabakh should be substantive issues of negotiations. Equally, the resolution of pending humanitarian issues such as the unconditional return of all Armenian prisoners of war and all other captives, inquiry into the cases of enforced disappearances, protection of cultural heritage necessitates the strong engagement of the OSCE and its relevant mandates.

With this in mind, Armenia will further contribute towards the resumption of a fully-fledged Nagorno-Karabakh peace process under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairmanship in close co-operation with all OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries.

In closing, I would like to welcome Poland as an incoming Chairmanship of the OSCE and wish them every success. Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Stockholm 2021**

MC(28).JOUR
2–3 December 2021
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

First day of the Twenty-Eighth Meeting
MC(28) Journal, Agenda item 6

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF AZERBAIJAN**

Madam Chairperson,

At the outset, I would like to congratulate H.E. Ms. Ann Linde, the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for hospitality and excellent organization of the Ministerial Council. I wish every success to our distinguished colleague H.E. Mr. Zbigniew Rau of Poland as the incoming Chairperson-in-Office.

Dear colleagues,

The Ministerial Council meeting almost coincided with the first anniversary of the trilateral statement of Armenia, Azerbaijan and the Russian Federation that put an end to the armed conflict and set the agreed parameters for establishing durable peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan. This statement was further complemented by the trilateral statement of 11 January 2021, specifically dealing with the opening of transport communications in the region.

The “Nagorno-Karabakh conflict” that lasted for almost 30 years is over. Immediately after the end of the conflict, Azerbaijan has proactively engaged in large-scale construction works in the liberated territories.

To this end, only this year 1.3 billion dollars has been allocated from the State budget. We have already accomplished construction of infrastructure and facilities, such as highways and airports. Cultural and religious monuments vandalized, desecrated or misappropriated during occupation are now being rebuilt and renovated.

Thus, the traces of occupation are being eliminated and the return to normal life is well underway. The OSCE, with its experience and available tools in post-conflict rehabilitation, can contribute to this process. We have proposed that the OSCE be engaged in targeted and demand-driven practical co-operation with Azerbaijan and are still expecting a response.

In the meantime, the end of the conflict presents a unique opportunity for both Armenia and Azerbaijan to move forward in building good-neighbourly inter-State relations

on the basis of mutual recognition of and respect for each other's sovereignty, territorial integrity and inviolability of international borders.

Azerbaijan repeatedly emphasized its readiness, in this regard, and took several unilateral steps in practice immediately after the end of the conflict. Armenia is yet to reciprocate.

In this context, continued violations by Armenia of its commitments under the trilateral statements are source of serious concern. Armenia has yet to comply with the 10 November trilateral statement and fully withdraw its armed forces from the territories of Azerbaijan.

Delay in restoration of all economic and transport links in the region must be ceased. It is a significant confidence-building and post-conflict normalization measure, along with its vast economic benefits for all concerned. Soonest operationalization of the Zangezur corridor is needed not only for unobstructed movement of persons, vehicles and cargo between mainland Azerbaijan and its Nakhchivan Autonomous Republic, it will also restore transport communications between Armenia and Azerbaijan in both directions, and thus, will serve the cause of irreversible peace and co-operation, and create new unprecedented opportunities for the whole region.

Armenia has also failed to submit full and accurate maps of all mined areas. This slows down the process of post-conflict rehabilitation and reconstruction in the liberated territories, and poses a serious barrier to the return of internally displaced persons to their homes in safety and dignity. Presently, Azerbaijan is among the most heavily mined countries in the world. Since the signing of the trilateral statement of 10 November 2020, 181 citizens of Azerbaijan, including 70 civilians, among them journalists and other media workers, have been killed or seriously wounded due to the explosion of mines indiscriminately laid by Armenia. Additional pressure needs to be exerted on Armenia to provide accurate maps of all mined areas, in line with its obligations under customary international humanitarian law.

Furthermore, Armenia has yet to implement its obligations with regard to identifying the whereabouts of close to 4,000 Azerbaijanis missing since the armed hostilities in early 1990s. This is important for healing the wounds of the former conflict.

Distinguished ministers,

With the liberation of territories of Azerbaijan from occupation, justice and order are restored, replacing the so-called "reality" that Armenia had created by force in violation of international law. As a result, peace between Armenia and Azerbaijan is within reach for the first time after nearly three decades.

In this regard, the meeting of the leaders of Azerbaijan, the Russian Federation and Armenia in Sochi on 26 November proved to be a significant step forward. The three leaders held detailed and substantive discussions on the implementation of previously agreed parameters and also identified further steps related to post-conflict normalization. The establishment by the end of this year of a bilateral Armenia-Azerbaijan commission, with a consultative role for the Russian Federation, for border delimitation and demarcation is of particular importance. Azerbaijan expects that these agreements will be realized in practice

without delay and contribute to our goal of transforming the South Caucasus into more stable and predictable space.

At the current critical juncture, joint efforts by the entire international community are needed to help consolidate security and stability. The best thing the international community could do now is to avoid reinvigorating false expectations, and instead, focus all its efforts towards contributing to the full implementation of the trilateral statements and practical engagement with Armenia and Azerbaijan for building confidence and stability in the region.

The OSCE Minsk Group can also be helpful in post-conflict context in normalization between Armenia and Azerbaijan.

In view of the changed realities, we call upon our colleagues and partners to assess and take advantage of new promising opportunities in the region for development and co-operation.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day. Thank you, Madam Chairperson.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Stockholm 2021**

MC(28).JOUR
2–3 December 2021
Annex 4

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Eighth Meeting
MC(28) Journal, Agenda item 8

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

Thank you, Madam Chairperson.

We commend the Swedish Chairmanship for its dedication in leading this Organization under the able stewardship of the Chairperson-in-Office Ann Linde and Ambassador Ulrike Funered.

The United States looks forward to working with Poland in 2022 as we seek to address some of the most significant challenges to our region. Indeed, as Secretary Blinken and so many other ministers underscored, we face challenges to the foundational principles of this Organization.

The situation in the South Caucasus region, including tensions between Armenia and Azerbaijan, remains fragile, and we urge the sides to work with the Minsk Group Co-Chairs and continue to engage in direct dialogue aimed at contributing to security, stability and prosperity in the region.

The United States welcomes the “5+2” statement on the settlement of the Transnistrian conflict. In addition to the issues addressed in it, we recall the need for fulfilment of OSCE Summit commitments regarding the withdrawal of Russian military forces from Moldova.

We regret that participating States did not reach consensus on a Georgia regional statement and express our unwavering support for Georgia’s sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

In Belarus, we remain gravely concerned by the Lukashenko regime’s unprecedented repressive actions to silence dissent and crack down on civil society and independent media. That is why we joined others in invoking the Vienna Mechanism earlier this year.

In Ukraine, Russia has instigated an eight-year conflict and massive humanitarian crisis, forcibly seized and occupied Ukraine’s sovereign territory in Crimea, and continues to commit serious abuses in areas under its control. Let me be crystal clear: “Ukraine is in no way posing a threat to Russia or seeking a confrontation that would justify a Russian military intervention. The only threat is that of renewed Russian aggression toward Ukraine. It’s now

on Russia to de-escalate the current tensions by reversing the recent troop build-up.” We are deeply concerned by the threats faced daily by the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine and regret Russia’s refusal to extend the mandate of the border Observer Mission. We do not, nor will we ever, recognize Russia’s purported annexation of Crimea. Crimea-related sanctions will remain in place until Russia returns full control of the peninsula and Minsk-related sanctions will remain in place until Russia fully implements its Minsk commitments.

We regret Russia prevented the 2021 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) from taking place. As Secretary Blinken said, it is essential that the HDIM take place in 2022. The HDIM constitutes a unique and indispensable function of the OSCE, whereby all participating States are held accountable to each other and by civil society for living up to human dimension commitments.

Actions to block or otherwise impede progress on OSCE objectives and core functions adversely affect the comprehensive security which we all committed to achieve.

We were disappointed that none of the Forum for Security Co-operation texts achieved consensus. However, we are pleased that 47 participating States joined together this year in affirming support for modernizing the Vienna Document and that many participating States supported the strong statements on small arms and light weapons and on the centrality of the women, peace, and security agenda.

We need to redouble our efforts in the second dimension next year, not only on climate but on the economic side of the ledger, and in recognition of the linkages between dimensions. Corruption undermines democratic development and faith in institutions; the linkages between corruption and national security are real.

In a year overshadowed by a pandemic, a declaration by the Ministerial Council on women’s economic empowerment, underscoring the disproportionate impacts of COVID-19 on women in the OSCE area would have been appropriate. We regret that we could not reach consensus on such an important issue as preventing and combating trafficking in human beings. We hope Poland will build upon the substance of the draft from our negotiations.

We thank the Chairperson-in-Office and the Norwegian chairperson of the Human Dimension Committee for their hard work this year on freedom of expression and other human rights and fundamental freedoms. These are under assault in many countries in the region and must be a focus in 2022.

I welcome the decision reached here on climate change – the first in seven years – and look forward to further work on building climate resilience in 2022.

The United States continues to place great value on this Organization, its principles and commitments, and its independent institutions. You can be assured of the United States’ continued dedication to the OSCE and the goal of building a peaceful and prosperous region, where all people are treated with dignity and are free to exercise their human rights.

Madam Chairperson, we request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Stockholm 2021**

MC(28).JOUR
2–3 December 2021
Annex 5

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Second day of the Twenty-Eighth Meeting
MC(28) Journal, Agenda item 8

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

Madam Chairperson,
Esteemed colleagues,

First of all, allow me to express our gratitude to the Swedish Chairmanship for the successful holding of this key OSCE event – the Ministerial Council meeting in Stockholm – in a face-to-face format, despite the challenging conditions due to the ongoing coronavirus pandemic. New technologies, even the most advanced ones, will never be able to substitute for face-to-face interaction. The substantively rich exchange of views during the plenary sessions and the working lunch and dinner, and also on the margins of the Ministerial Council meeting, was very useful.

We believe that the practice of reaching agreement on draft Ministerial Council documents prior to the start of the meeting is worth maintaining. It fosters a sense of discipline. Obviously, it is necessary to start the work on draft documents well in advance and to look for solutions, rather than putting things off until the last minute.

Unfortunately, the complex political climate at the OSCE and the acute crisis of trust in relations among the participating States prevented the potential of our Organization from being unlocked fully in terms of reducing politico-military tensions in the Euro-Atlantic area and finding collective responses to common challenges. This became evident during the process of agreeing on Ministerial Council decisions.

Together with a number of other States, Russia put forward a draft declaration on preventing and combating the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes. We are disappointed that the politicized approaches of certain countries deprived us all of the opportunity to work out a Ministerial Council document on this important subject.

At the same time, we are pleased to note that it proved possible to agree on and adopt a decision on strengthening co-operation to address the challenges caused by climate change. This confirms the relevance of the OSCE's complementary role in the global climate process under the aegis of the United Nations. Aspects such as co-operation in mitigating the negative impacts of climate change, the importance of restoration of forests and the increased use of clean energy sources are enshrined in the document.

A defining moment for the OSCE's future was the approval of Finland as the holder of the OSCE Chairmanship in 2025, the Organization's golden jubilee. We congratulate our Finnish colleagues and hope that this landmark event will restore our Organization to its historic mission of working to strengthen pan-European security.

Fundamental disagreements made it impossible to adopt the Stockholm Declaration, a political declaration, that offered a good chance to reaffirm the goals of building a free, democratic, common and indivisible security community, as endorsed at the OSCE Summit in Astana in 2010.

For the second year in a row, agreement could not be reached on a declaration on the impact of COVID-19. The adoption of such a document could send a strong signal that the OSCE countries are capable of maintaining a united front in the face of a common misfortune. We hope that next year this important topic can be dealt with more effectively.

There are plenty of unifying themes at the OSCE. Our interests overlap in many areas where co-operation would be mutually beneficial. Unfortunately, many initiatives are assessed by certain participating States not in terms of their content, but in terms of who authored them. We took a constructive attitude. The Russian delegation worked conscientiously on the drafts proposed by the Chairmanship and carefully reviewed other documents as well.

We would ask the future Polish Chairmanship to take into account one important aspect. The past few years have shown that "gender extremism" in our work does not yield results. Trying to impose non-consensus concepts that only a fraction of the States subscribe to takes up a lot of time and energy.

The situation in Afghanistan calls for increased co-operation in countering transnational threats, above all terrorism but also illicit drug trafficking. The OSCE should maintain a high profile in combating the spread of terrorist ideology, notably via the Internet, social media and the media, and make better use of the potential of the Security Committee of the OSCE Permanent Council in priority areas in the field of counter-terrorism.

In the second dimension, it is important to preserve the depoliticized nature of co-operation and to properly address the crucial topic of the socio-economic consequences of the coronavirus pandemic.

In the human dimension, it is necessary to show respect for the different models of civilizational and societal development. Double standards, lecturing and imperiousness need to be forsworn; ideological dividing lines should not be drawn. It is time to ensure adequate protection of the linguistic and educational rights of national minorities. The glorification of Nazism and the falsification of history must be combated resolutely. The preparation of Ministerial Council declarations to combat intolerance against Christians and Muslims, as mandated by the 2014 Basel Ministerial Council, must finally be undertaken.

We wish our Polish colleagues every success in 2022. We are counting on Poland to structure the OSCE's work strictly on the basis of the Chairmanship's mandate, taking due account of the approaches of all participating States.

Thank you for your attention.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting of the Ministerial Council.



Second day of the Twenty-Eighth Meeting
MC(28) Journal, Agenda item 8

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF DENMARK
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF ALBANIA, ANDORRA,
ARMENIA, AUSTRIA, AZERBAIJAN, BELGIUM, BOSNIA AND
HERZEGOVINA, BULGARIA, CANADA, CROATIA, CYPRUS, THE
CZECH REPUBLIC, ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GEORGIA,
GERMANY, GREECE, HUNGARY, ICELAND, IRELAND, ITALY,
LATVIA, LIECHTENSTEIN, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MALTA,
MOLDOVA, MONACO, MONTENEGRO, THE NETHERLANDS,
NORTH MACEDONIA, NORWAY, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA,
SAN MARINO, SERBIA, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, SWEDEN,
SWITZERLAND, TURKEY, UKRAINE, THE UNITED KINGDOM
AND THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)**

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the following 48 participating States: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and my own country Denmark.

This year, we mark the 30th anniversary of the landmark Moscow Document, which contributed to shaping the democratic principles of the OSCE area, as we know them today. In this milestone document, the participating States jointly emphasized that the respect for human rights, fundamental freedoms, democracy and the rule of law is one of the foundations of the international order.

Since then, we have made great strides in advancing human rights and fundamental freedoms. However, still today, we see that the fight for freedom, justice and democracy is far from over, and that their defence requires our ongoing vigilance and principled action. The space for civil society and independent media is rapidly shrinking. Discrimination excludes too many from full, equal and meaningful participation in our societies. And the news headlines feature threats and violence against peaceful protesters.

At the same time, the world has never been more interconnected. People exercise their human rights and fundamental freedoms online as well as offline. Human rights violations and abuses in one part of our region can have a serious impact in another. As the OSCE's comprehensive security concept provides, respect for human rights within States remains essential to lasting security and prosperity among States.

We highly value the Human Dimension Implementation Meeting (HDIM) as an important platform for the participating States and civil society to review the implementation of the OSCE human dimension commitments across the region. We deeply regret that this year's meeting was not held, and it is important that the HDIM is held next year.

Madam Chairperson,

In Moscow 30 years ago, all participating States categorically and irrevocably declared that commitments in the human dimension are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned.

Accordingly, we will continue to speak out when democratic principles, human rights and fundamental freedoms are violated or abused. Whether it is human rights defenders and journalists facing reprisals for their brave work, or violent crackdowns on peaceful protesters aspiring for democratic change. We will keep pressing for the eradication of torture and other ill-treatment. We will continue to defend free and fair elections. We will challenge stereotypes and prejudice, combat myths with facts, and promote a world where no individual is left behind or targeted for who they are, for whom they love, for what they look like, or for what they believe or say.

Civil society is the conscience of our countries. It provides a source of ideas and is a key component of an open, inclusive and thriving democracy, where no one is above the law. We are therefore committed to a world where all are free to associate and peacefully assemble, speak their mind, believe or not believe and hold their governments to account without retribution. We pay tribute to the individuals and civil society organizations that work tirelessly to defend our shared dedication to democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms. They deserve our recognition, protection and support.

We commend the work of the OSCE autonomous institutions – the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the High Commissioner on National Minorities – for their efforts to promote and protect human rights, as core components of peaceful, inclusive and democratic societies. Their work, mandates and institutional independence are essential to the promotion and advancement of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms in our region. We highly appreciate the important work of the OSCE field operations. They assist the implementation of our commitments on the ground every day.

Thirty years on, the commitments and tools in the Moscow Document remains as important as ever. We will continue to fight to ensure that the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments stays at the forefront of our work in this Organization for the benefit of all who call the OSCE area their home.

In closing, we would also like to express our sincere appreciation to the OSCE Chairmanship and the chairperson of the Human Dimension Committee who work on our behalf to strengthen the human dimension.

I would be grateful if you would attach this statement to the journal of this Ministerial Council meeting. Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Stockholm 2021**

MC(28).JOUR
2–3 December 2021
Annex 7

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Eighth Meeting
MC(28) Journal, Agenda item 8

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ROMANIA
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF ALBANIA, BELGIUM, BULGARIA,
CANADA, CROATIA, THE CZECH REPUBLIC, DENMARK,
ESTONIA, FRANCE, GERMANY, GREECE, HUNGARY, ICELAND,
ITALY, LATVIA, LITHUANIA, LUXEMBOURG, MONTENEGRO,
THE NETHERLANDS, NORTH MACEDONIA, NORWAY,
POLAND, PORTUGAL, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA,
SPAIN, TURKEY, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)**

Madam Chairperson,

This statement is delivered on behalf of the following participating States: Albania, Belgium, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States of America, as well as my own country, Romania.

The global COVID-19 pandemic continues to test the resilience of our nations and our OSCE community. The unprecedented challenges of the pandemic have added a new layer of complexity to the security environment and challenges we face and to a context in which international law and Helsinki Final Act principles are being blatantly disregarded. Verification activities suspended due to the COVID-19 pandemic should be resumed as soon as the health situation allows and with a view to reciprocity.

Climate change is one of the defining challenges of our times. It is a threat multiplier that impacts our security both in the OSCE area and globally. We encourage meaningful engagement in the OSCE on this issue, including to increase our awareness, adaptation and mitigation efforts. Climate change puts our resilience and civil preparedness to the test, affects our planning and the resilience of our military installations and critical infrastructure.

Security challenges have not diminished. Key principles and commitments continue to be contravened. We stand firm in our commitment to the fight against terrorism in all its

forms and manifestations and are taking stronger action together to prevent and counter it. Instability beyond our borders is also contributing to irregular migration and human trafficking. Both State and non-State actors use hybrid activities to target our political institutions, our public opinion, and the security of our citizens. Cyberthreats are complex, destructive, coercive, and becoming ever more frequent. This has been recently illustrated by ransomware incidents and other malicious cyberactivity.

In order to tackle these challenges and rebuild trust the OSCE participating States need to engage in sincere dialogue and multilateral co-operation, based on respect for fundamental principles that lie at the heart of this Organization.

We continue to respond to the deteriorating security environment by enhancing our deterrence and defence posture. We remain open to a meaningful dialogue with Russia, including in OSCE platforms, on the basis of reciprocity, with a view to avoiding misunderstanding, miscalculation, and unintended escalation, and increasing transparency and predictability. We also remain open to a constructive relationship with Russia when its actions make that possible.

However, the reality is that Russia's growing multi-domain military build-up, more assertive posture, novel military capabilities, and provocative activities, including near our borders, as well as its large-scale no-notice exercises, the continued military build-up in Crimea and on Ukraine's borders, the deployment of modern dual-capable missiles in Kaliningrad, military integration with Belarus, and repeated violations of our airspace, increasingly threaten the security of the OSCE area and the rules-based international order and contribute to instability along our borders and beyond. In addition to its military activities, Russia has also intensified its hybrid actions against our allies and partners, including through its intelligence services and proxies. This includes attempted interference in elections and democratic processes; political, economic and energy-related pressure and intimidation; widespread disinformation campaigns; malicious cyberactivities and turning a blind eye to cybercriminals operating from its territory, including those who target and disrupt critical infrastructure in our countries. We stand in full solidarity with the Czech Republic and other participating States that have been affected in this way.

Here at the OSCE, we deeply regret Russia's refusal to support holding the 2021 Human Dimension Implementation Meeting. Moscow's obstructionism is detrimental to the efficient pursuits of human dimension objectives which are at the core of the OSCE comprehensive concept of security.

We reiterate our unwavering support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, extending to its territorial waters. In accordance with its international commitments, we call on Russia to withdraw the forces it has stationed in the country without its consent. We strongly condemn and will not recognize Russia's illegal and illegitimate annexation of the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol and denounce its temporary occupation. The human rights abuses and violations against the Crimean Tatars and members of other local communities must end. Russia's military build-up and destabilizing activities in and around Ukraine have further escalated tensions and undermined security. We condemn its ongoing aggression in eastern Ukraine. We also condemn Russia's ongoing militarization of the Crimean peninsula, which continues to impact the security situation near the Kerch Strait, Sea of Azov and the Black

Sea region. We call on Russia to reverse its military build-up and stop restricting navigation in parts of the Black Sea. We also call on Russia to stop impeding access to the Sea of Azov and Ukrainian ports. We deeply regret Russia's refusal to extend the mandate of the OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk and in accordance with Article 4 of the Minsk Protocol we underline the importance of the effective monitoring of the Ukrainian border areas temporarily not under the control of the Government of Ukraine. We call on Russia to remove any obstacles in this regard allowing for greater transparency and to provide safe and secure access for Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) operations throughout Ukraine, consistent with the SMM's mandate, including new forward patrol bases as suggested by the SMM. We commend Ukraine's posture of restraint and diplomatic approach aimed at peacefully resolving the Russia-Ukraine conflict. We seek to contribute to de-escalation.

We call for the full implementation of the Minsk agreements by all sides, and support the efforts of the Normandy format and the Trilateral Contact Group. Russia, as a signatory of the Minsk agreements – and a party, not a mediator to the conflict – bears significant responsibility in this regard. We call on Russia to stop fuelling the conflict by providing financial and military support to the armed formations it backs in eastern Ukraine. We reiterate our full support to the OSCE SMM to Ukraine. We stress the importance of ensuring its safety and full and unhindered access for its monitors throughout the entire territory of Ukraine, including Crimea and the Russia-Ukraine border, in accordance with its mandate. To this end we call on Russia to use its undeniable influence over the armed formations it backs to stop obstructing SMM patrols, targeting unmanned aerial vehicle flights and tampering with SMM cameras as well as cease restricting its movements within the non-government-controlled area.

We reiterate our support for the territorial integrity and sovereignty of Moldova and Georgia within their internationally recognized borders. In accordance with international obligations and commitments, we call on Russia to withdraw the forces it has stationed in both countries without their consent.

We remain deeply concerned about increased repression in Belarus since August 2020. We strongly condemn continued wide-scale attacks and unprecedented pressure on independent media outlets, journalists, civil society organizations, human rights defenders, political opposition members and other everyday citizens who peacefully demand democracy. We call on the authorities to immediately and unconditionally release all political prisoners, including those belonging to the Union of Poles in Belarus. We urge the Belarusian authorities to enact the relevant recommendations within the OSCE. The policies and actions of Belarus have implications for regional stability. We strongly condemn the continued instrumentalization of irregular migration artificially created by Belarus as part of hybrid actions targeted against Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia for political purposes. We will remain vigilant against the risk of further escalation and provocation by Belarus at its borders with Poland, Lithuania, and Latvia, and will continue to monitor the implications for our security. We call on Belarus to cease these actions, to respect human rights and fundamental freedoms, and to abide by international law.

Arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation instruments have made and should continue to make an essential contribution to achieving our security objectives and to ensuring strategic stability and our collective security. We remain collectively determined to

uphold and support existing disarmament, arms control, and non-proliferation agreements and commitments. We will seek to further strengthen arms control, disarmament, and non-proliferation measures, as a key element of security in the OSCE area, taking into account the prevailing security environment. We welcome new strategic talks between the United States of America and Russia on future arms control measures, taking into account our collective security.

As we mark the twenty-fifth anniversary of the OSCE's Lisbon Framework for Arms Control, we underline the importance of conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) for advancing comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security in the OSCE area. The effectiveness of arms control instruments and CSBMs is primarily reliant on political will. We call on all OSCE participating States to fully adhere to their arms control commitments and obligations. We are determined to preserve, strengthen, and modernize conventional arms control in Europe, based on key principles and commitments, including respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity, refraining from the threat or use of force, reciprocity, transparency, and host nation consent to the presence of foreign forces.

Russia's ongoing selective implementation of the Vienna Document, its long-standing failure to implement the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe and its decision to withdraw from the Treaty on Open Skies, combined with its aggressive military posture, continue to undermine security and stability in the OSCE area. We call on Russia to return to full implementation of and compliance with the letter and spirit of all of its international obligations and commitments, which is essential to rebuild trust and confidence, military transparency and increase predictability in the OSCE area.

Enhancing military transparency and confidence in the entire OSCE area is, and will remain, a top priority in the Forum for Security Co-operation. We call on Russia to abide by its Vienna Document commitments, fully and in good faith, and to be open and transparent about its no-notice snap exercises and large-scale exercises and troop movements. Russia's failure to provide substantive explanations regarding its unusual military build-up in and around Ukraine last spring and failure to address concerns regarding the exercise "Zapad-21" yet again call into question its adherence to the Vienna Document. Our concerns about Russia's unusual military activities are ongoing. OSCE participating States should continue to address effective risk reduction and incident prevention and ways to increase military transparency, including in the discussions within the Structured Dialogue and its expert-level workshops in accordance with the Hamburg mandate.

We consider full implementation and substantial modernization of the Vienna Document the most critical step OSCE participating States can take in that regard. We welcome the broad support for modernizing the Vienna Document and look forward to intensified discussions in the Forum for Security Co-operation leading to consensus on an updated Vienna Document. The joint proposal on Vienna Document modernization supported by the majority of participating States provides a sound basis for active and collaborative negotiations. We appeal to Russia to reconsider its position and constructively engage without precondition in negotiations on the mutually beneficial and long-overdue modernization of the Vienna Document. We call on Russia to demonstrate the necessary political will to re-build military transparency, de-escalate tensions and address widely shared concerns about the European security environment.

The Treaty on Open Skies is an important legally binding instrument and a recognized element of the confidence-building framework in the OSCE area, intended to provide a level of transparency that contributes to the promotion of confidence, stability and security between States Parties. In this regard, we deeply regret the notification by Russia of its decision to withdraw from the Treaty. We have repeatedly called on Russia to return to full compliance with the Treaty and have taken multiple steps to constructively resolve outstanding issues of compliance. The past months should have been used to reconsider the withdrawal decision and to return to full compliance.

At the same time we value the Structured Dialogue launched by the 2016 Hamburg ministerial declaration on the current and future challenges and risks to security in the OSCE area as an opportunity to renew a meaningful exchange of ideas among all of the stakeholders to rebuild trust. We commend the Spanish chairperson of the Informal Working Group and his team for the significant and valuable work done this year and the previous one in the Structured Dialogue addressing risk reduction and threat perceptions. We actively support the continuation of the Structured Dialogue as a transparent, inclusive process owned and driven by participating States, and without a predetermined outcome. We acknowledge that this is a long-term process, which will take more time. We encourage all participating States to engage constructively in these efforts in Vienna.

We regret the fact that no consensus has been reached on the proposals for four Forum for Security Co-operation deliverables for this Ministerial Council meeting. We welcome the joint statements on Vienna Document modernization and on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition.

Recognizing the critical importance of women's full, equal, and meaningful participation at all levels of decision-making and leadership in all aspects of peace and stability, as well as the disproportionate impact that conflict has on women and girls, including conflict-related sexual violence, we are committed to fully implementing the women, peace and security agenda. We underline the relevance of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and related resolutions for the OSCE's work, including the Forum for Security Co-operation.

In conclusion, all OSCE participating States need, without further delay, to rebuild the co-operative security environment, by returning to constructive dialogue based on respect in practice for the principles that fully uphold the rules-based international order.

The participating States subscribing to this statement request its attachment to the journal of this Ministerial Council meeting.



Second day of the Twenty-Eighth Meeting
MC(28) Journal, Agenda item 8

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF MONTENEGRO
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF ALBANIA, ANDORRA, AUSTRIA,
AZERBAIJAN, BELARUS, BELGIUM, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA,
BULGARIA, CANADA, CROATIA, CYPRUS, THE CZECH REPUBLIC,
DENMARK, ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GEORGIA, GERMANY,
GREECE, HUNGARY, ICELAND, IRELAND, ITALY, KAZAKHSTAN,
KYRGYZSTAN, LATVIA, LIECHTENSTEIN, LITHUANIA,
LUXEMBOURG, MALTA, MOLDOVA, MONACO, THE
NETHERLANDS, NORTH MACEDONIA, NORWAY,
POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, SAN MARINO, SERBIA,
SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND,
TURKEY, UKRAINE, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND
THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)**

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the following 50 participating States: Albania, Andorra, Austria, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Turkey, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and my own country, Montenegro.

We recognize that illicit trafficking in and destabilizing accumulation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA) can pose a serious threat to our societies and acknowledge the work of the OSCE as the largest regional organization together with the participating States to mitigate these threats.

We recognize the importance of OSCE norms and best practices aimed at combating illicit trafficking in all its aspects with regard to SALW and SCA, and note the threat posed by the diversion of SALW and SCA to illicit markets, *inter alia*, into the hands of terrorist and other criminal groups, and are mindful of the security and safety risks in this regard.

We are concerned by the negative impact of illicit trafficking in SALW and SCA on our societies, in particular the impact on women and children and note the importance of tackling the aforementioned challenges effectively and continue to enhance the OSCE's SALW- and SCA-related norms and best practices and their implementation.

We acknowledge the focus of the United Nations on addressing SALW-related issues in all its aspects and the importance of regional organizations in such efforts. In this respect we welcome the outcomes of the Seventh 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, held in New York in July 2021 as well as the report of the Group of Governmental Experts on problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus, issued in September 2021, and the relevant United Nations General Assembly resolutions.

We welcome the outcomes of the second Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA, held on 13 and 14 October 2020, and of the OSCE Meeting to Review the Implementation of OSCE Assistance Projects in the Field of SALW and SCA, held on 5 and 6 October 2021, and related activities undertaken by the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), including the FSC's ongoing efforts to improve the implementation of the commitments and to review and update the OSCE Best Practice Guides on SALW and SCA. We welcome efforts undertaken with regard to combating illicit trafficking in SALW and SCA and the launch, in 2021, of a thematic review of the assistance mechanism under the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA with the overall aim of improving the mechanism's implementation and adapting it to current needs.

We reiterate our commitment to:

- Continue our efforts to further promote full and effective implementation of the commitments set out in the OSCE Document on SALW, the OSCE Document on SCA, and related Ministerial Council and Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) decisions;
- Facilitate ongoing efforts aimed at supporting participating States' efforts to combat illicit trafficking in SALW and SCA by promoting effective management of all aspects of the SALW life cycle by government security forces in all phases of the conflict cycle, and develop and implement effective and tailored OSCE assistance projects in this field;
- Continue to promote the exchange of views and information and the sharing of best practices among the participating States on a voluntary basis and if relevant to the FSC's mandate, in order to address the impact of the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW and associated ammunition on women and children and create equal opportunities for women's participation in policy-making, planning and implementation processes aimed at combating illicit trafficking in SALW, and likewise for their meaningful participation in OSCE assistance projects in the field of SALW and SCA;

- Further promote the voluntary application of the OSCE Best Practice Guides on SALW and SCA during the implementation of OSCE assistance projects and in national capacity-building;
- Explore ways to enhance outreach to the OSCE Partners for Co-operation on SALW- and SCA-related issues in line with relevant United Nations Security Council resolutions and OSCE commitments;
- Continue, within the FSC Security Dialogues, to engage in discussions on topical security issues related to SALW and SCA.

We encourage the OSCE Partners for Co-operation voluntarily to support the work in this field and join the discussion.

We would like to express our deep regret that like in 2020 also this year no consensus could be reached on a Ministerial Council decision on SALW and SCA.

In closing, we would like to express our sincere appreciation and thanks to the Austrian FSC Chairmanship for its efforts undertaken to reach a compromise.

I would be grateful if you could attach this statement to the journal of the meeting.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Stockholm 2021**

MC(28).JOUR
2–3 December 2021
Annex 9

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Eighth Meeting
MC(28) Journal, Agenda item 8

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ICELAND
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF BULGARIA, CANADA,
THE CZECH REPUBLIC, ESTONIA, FINLAND, IRELAND, LATVIA,
LITHUANIA, NORWAY, POLAND, ROMANIA, SLOVAKIA,
UKRAINE, THE UNITED KINGDOM AND THE
UNITED STATES OF AMERICA)**

This statement is delivered on behalf of Bulgaria, Canada, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Finland, Iceland, Ireland, Latvia, Lithuania, Norway, Poland, Romania, Slovakia, Ukraine, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

We reaffirm our full support for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognized borders.

Thirteen years since the Russian Federation's military invasion of Georgia, we remain deeply concerned over the continued occupation of parts of the territory of Georgia and underline the need for the peaceful resolution of the conflict based on full respect for the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act and international law.

We welcome Georgia's compliance with the European Union-mediated 12 August 2008 ceasefire agreement. We call upon Russia to fulfil immediately its clear obligation under the ceasefire agreement to withdraw its forces to pre-conflict positions, as well as its commitments to allow unfettered access for the delivery of humanitarian assistance and not to impede creation of international security arrangements on the ground. We call upon Russia to reverse its recognition of the so-called independence of Georgia's Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions.

We reiterate our deep concern over Russia's military exercises and ongoing military presence in Georgia's Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions.

We condemn Russia's steps which appear intended to unilaterally establish the Georgia-Russia State border on the segments of the occupied territories and incorporate a part of Aibgha village of Georgia into Krasnodar Krai. We urge Russia to reverse this process. We are also concerned with ongoing work in implementation of the "programme" on creation of a common socio-economic space between the Russian Federation and the Abkhazia region

of Georgia as well as the so-called agreement on dual citizenship with the South Ossetia region of Georgia, as another step toward *de facto* annexation. We condemn the holding of the 2021 Russian State Duma elections in Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions of Georgia and illegal opening of polling stations, as a blatant violation of Georgia's sovereignty.

We note the January 2021 judgment of the European Court of Human Rights in the case concerning the armed conflict between Georgia and the Russian Federation in August 2008 and its consequences, including its findings that Russia has exercised effective control over Georgia's regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia following the 12 August 2008 ceasefire agreement, including through its military presence. The Court also ruled that Russia, in violation of the European Convention on Human Rights, tortured Georgian prisoners of war; arbitrarily detained and killed Georgian civilians, and was responsible for their inhuman and degrading treatment; prevented the return of ethnic Georgians to their homes; and failed to conduct investigations into killings of civilians. We call on Russia to fully comply with the judgment, including by allowing internally displaced persons (IDPs) to return to their homes in safety and dignity.

We are concerned over the ethnic discrimination against Georgians residing in Georgia's Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions and abuses, including severe restrictions on rights related to freedom of movement, education, residence and property, particularly in connection with the destruction of the houses of IDPs. We call on those in control to enable full and unhindered access by international human rights organizations to the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. We condemn the decision to replace instruction in Georgian language with Russian in schools of the ethnic-Georgian-inhabited Gali district of the Abkhazia region.

We are particularly concerned over the ongoing installation of barbed wire fences and other artificial barriers along the administrative boundary lines of Georgia's Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions, and by the closure of so-called administrative boundary line crossing points in the South Ossetia region of Georgia for over two years. Isolation and continuous restrictions on freedom of movement have destabilized the situation on the ground and severely impacted the security, safety, well-being, and humanitarian conditions of civilians in conflict-affected areas, particularly in the Akhagori district, where reports suggest the local population suffers from shortages of medicine and food, and is denied access to pensions and essentials, including the free healthcare services available in Georgian Government controlled territory. This creates a risk for further depopulation of the Akhagori district.

We remain deeply concerned by ongoing arbitrary detentions around the administrative boundary lines and call for the immediate and unconditional release of Irakli Bebuia and all those under arbitrary detention.

We condemn the killing of the Georgian citizens Archil Tatumashvili, Giga Otkhordia, and Davit Basharuli, and urge Russia to remove any obstacles to bringing the perpetrators to justice. In this context, we reiterate our support for Georgia's preventive steps aimed at eradicating impunity and note the Otkhordia-Tatumashvili List adopted by the Government of Georgia.

We take positive note of the establishment of a humanitarian corridor across the administrative boundary line in the Abkhazia region, which has saved lives during the

COVID-19 pandemic. We also take positive note of the reopening of the so-called “crossing point” at the Enguri bridge this year. We urge full resumption of all administrative boundary line crossings in both the Abkhazia and the South Ossetia regions, and hope this step will help ease the socio-economic impacts of COVID-19.

We support the Geneva International Discussions as an important format to address the security, human rights, and humanitarian challenges stemming from the unresolved Russia-Georgia conflict. We were pleased that the Geneva International Discussions were able to hold four meetings in the past year, despite the challenges of the global pandemic. We underline the necessity of progress on the core issues of the discussions, including on the non-use of force, establishing international security arrangements in Georgia’s Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions and ensuring the safe, dignified, and voluntary return of IDPs and refugees in accordance with international law. We strongly support applying the women, peace and security agenda in the Geneva International Discussions in order to facilitate inclusive and sustainable peace and security on the ground.

We express our support for the Incident Prevention and Response Mechanisms (IPRMs) in Ergneti and Gali and emphasize the important role they can have in preventing the escalation of the conflict and in helping protect the safety and security of people on the ground. We express our great concern over the lengthy suspension of the Gali IPRM and urge its resumption without further delay or pre-conditions, in line with the ground rules.

We reaffirm our unwavering support for the European Union Monitoring Mission (EUMM) and call upon Russia to allow the EUMM to implement its mandate in full, including by enabling the EUMM’s access on both sides of the administrative boundary lines.

We welcome the decision of the Government of Georgia to launch a multi-stakeholder process for developing a comprehensive “State strategy for de-occupation and peaceful conflict resolution,” as well as the launch of the strategic review of the reconciliation and engagement policy. We support the Georgian Government’s “A Step to a Better Future” peace initiative, aimed at improving the humanitarian and socio-economic conditions of people residing in Georgia’s Abkhazia and South Ossetia regions and at fostering confidence-building among divided communities. We urge active work on reconciliation and engagement programmes and stand ready to support them.

We encourage the OSCE’s engagement in the process of finding a peaceful resolution to the conflict in Georgia. We regret the closure of the OSCE Mission to Georgia in 2009 and encourage the OSCE participating States to decide on the reopening of the OSCE cross-dimensional mission in Georgia, including a monitoring capacity able to operate unhindered across the administrative boundary lines. The reopening of the mission would strengthen considerably the OSCE’s engagement in the Geneva International Discussions and IPRMs, and in implementation of confidence-building measures.

The Group of Friends of Georgia will continue to raise awareness of the conflict and of developments on the ground, hold Russia accountable for its obligations and commitments, and advocate for the conflict’s peaceful resolution.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Stockholm 2021**

MC(28).JOUR
2–3 December 2021
Annex 10

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Eighth Meeting
MC(28) Journal, Agenda item 8

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Madam Chairperson,

Let me begin by thanking Sweden for their warm hospitality during this year's Ministerial Council meeting. My delegation would also like to make a national closing statement, in addition to the joint statements that have included Canada.

As Minister Joly said yesterday, multilateralism and dialogue are critically important in today's world, and we must continue to work together towards our collective security and stability. Regrettably, we see that the OSCE is not working together in the ways that it must. While we are leaving Stockholm with an important decision related to climate change, there were numerous important decisions being negotiated where we could not reach agreement, despite good faith compromises by many, because of the objections of a few or of just one. We saw that maximalist positions prevailed, and that the scope for good faith consensus-building shrank ever further. In fact, the positions in the negotiations reflected what we have seen throughout this year, as the consensus principle continues to be warped, ever further away from its intended purposes, from finding common ground to being abused as a unilateral veto. This is not sustainable and, if we want the Organization to fulfil its mandate, we cannot continue down this path.

We must not allow this to happen, because there are too many serious issues and conflicts in our region that the OSCE is best placed to address: those in and around Ukraine, in Belarus, in Nagorno-Karabakh, in Transdniestria, Moldova, and in Georgia. In all these areas, the OSCE has the tools to improve the situation, but they must be used in good faith. Some disingenuously argue that the challenges in making use of the OSCE's tools are evidence of the need for reform within the Organization. This is a spurious assertion. The OSCE provides us with a fantastic array of tools to prevent conflict and build security, but we are failing to make use of them. The challenges that we face are not a failure of the OSCE as an institution; they are a reflection that some States are not abiding by their Helsinki Final Act principles and OSCE commitments. A return to compliance with these principles and commitments, most importantly respect for sovereignty and territorial integrity within internationally recognized borders, is imperative.

We must also allow the Secretariat and the autonomous institutions, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the Representative on Freedom of the Media, and

the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the ability to carry out their mandates to support all us OSCE participating States in fulfilling our commitments. As Secretary General Schmid stated, the Organization can do more if empowered to do so. We must not let narrow interests prevent the potential good work of the OSCE, as we saw in the 2021 budget.

In these times of elevated tensions, the importance of our shared *acquis* of confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) cannot be understated. The transparency provided by our CSBMs, in particular the Vienna Document, remains the fundamental underpinning of our risk reduction toolbox. When fully implemented, in both letter and spirit, they represent a clear path to de-escalation and the easing of tensions. Recent events have demonstrated the urgent need for modernization of the Vienna Document to ensure that it is equipped to meet our modern challenges. But political will is also required to ensure its reciprocal benefits are realized for all.

We look forward to working with Poland as OSCE Chairmanship in the coming year, and with North Macedonia in 2023. We welcome the decision this week that Finland will chair the Organization in 2025, as befitting the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, and we have full confidence in our Finnish friends to ably chair this Organization. We are, however, deeply troubled that Estonia's offer to chair the Organization in 2024 is being delayed due to the objection of Russia and Belarus due to purely bilateral disagreements.

Madam Chairperson,

In closing, Canada would like to sincerely thank you and the entire Swedish Chairmanship for your efforts this year. It has not been an easy year, but you have approached your duty as Chairperson-in-Office with resolve, determination, dignity, and a well-needed dose of creativity, and for that you have our very sincere thanks.

I would ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day. Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Stockholm 2021**

MC(28).JOUR
2–3 December 2021
Annex 11

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

Second day of the Twenty-Eighth Meeting
MC(28) Journal, Agenda item 8

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF ARMENIA, BELARUS, KAZAKHSTAN,
KYRGYZSTAN AND TAJIKISTAN)**

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Armenia, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, the Russian Federation and Tajikistan, are deeply concerned about the terrorist attacks that have taken place in the OSCE area and beyond; we offer our heartfelt condolences to the victims' families and also to the people and governments that have been targeted. We express our serious concern over the growing use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, including the live-streaming of terrorist attacks.

We emphasize that terrorism in all its forms and manifestations constitutes one of the most serious threats to international peace and security, and that any acts of terrorism are criminal and unjustifiable regardless of their motivations, whenever and by whomsoever committed.

We reiterate our commitment to remaining united in the global fight against terrorism, while recognizing the central and co-ordinating role of the United Nations in this regard. We reaffirm that States should play the key role in preventing and combating terrorism in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. We reiterate our commitment to the full implementation of the United Nations Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy while fully respecting human rights, fundamental freedoms and the rule of law.

The OSCE has amassed a robust set of political commitments on combating terrorism, notably those contained in Ministerial Council Decision No. 3/04 on combating the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes, Ministerial Council Decision No. 7/06 on countering the use of the Internet for terrorist purposes and Ministerial Council Decision No. 5/07 on public-private partnerships in countering terrorism.

We welcome the United Nations Security Council document entitled "Comprehensive international framework to counter terrorist narratives" (S/2017/375, annex) and call upon the participating States to follow the guidelines and best practices contained therein.

To improve the effectiveness of relevant efforts, it is essential to have strategies in place for preventing and combating terrorism, including partnerships between stakeholders at all levels, notably co-ordination among public authorities and co-operation between States, international and regional organizations, the private sector, civil society, academia and the media.

The work on enhancing advanced methods and tools for combating terrorism must be continued. In this regard, we acknowledge the importance of decryption as an effective tool that can be used by the law enforcement authorities to counter terrorism. We note the initiatives by the Member States of the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO), which can contribute to efforts to combat terrorism and to continued co-operation among the participating States.

We note with concern that terrorists craft ideas based on the misinterpretation and misrepresentation of religion to justify violence that are used to recruit new supporters and foreign terrorist fighters and mobilize resources, in particular by exploiting information and communication technologies, not least through the Internet and social media.

We express our concern over the spread – via the Internet, among other means – of hate speech and ideas inciting violence and feeding terrorism. It is essential to step up efforts to foster information literacy, particularly among young people, so as to prevent and counter hate propaganda and terrorist narratives.

We note that the COVID-19 pandemic constitutes an unprecedented global challenge for all the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, and that it is having an impact on common security in the OSCE area, not least in the context of terrorist threats.

We are convinced that the OSCE executive structures should continue to support the participating States in the implementation of their international obligations related to preventing and combating terrorism.

The CSTO Member States are in favour of developing co-operation with the OSCE on questions of mutual interest with a view to strengthening the international anti-terrorist front.

Thank you for your attention.

I request that this statement be attached to the journal of today's meeting of the Ministerial Council.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Stockholm 2021**

MC(28).JOUR
2–3 December 2021
Annex 12

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Eighth Meeting
MC(28) Journal, Agenda item 8

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF BELGIUM
(ALSO ON BEHALF OF ALBANIA, ANDORRA,
ARMENIA, AUSTRIA, BELGIUM, BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA,
BULGARIA, CANADA, CROATIA, CYPRUS, THE CZECH REPUBLIC,
DENMARK, ESTONIA, FINLAND, FRANCE, GEORGIA, GERMANY,
GREECE, HUNGARY, ICELAND, IRELAND, ITALY, KAZAKHSTAN,
KYRGYZSTAN, LATVIA, LIECHTENSTEIN, LITHUANIA,
LUXEMBOURG, MALTA, MOLDOVA, MONACO, MONGOLIA,
MONTENEGRO, THE NETHERLANDS, NORTH MACEDONIA,
NORWAY, POLAND, PORTUGAL, ROMANIA, SAN MARINO,
SERBIA, SLOVAKIA, SLOVENIA, SPAIN, SWEDEN, SWITZERLAND,
TAJIKISTAN, TURKEY, TURKMENISTAN, UKRAINE,
THE UNITED KINGDOM, THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA
AND UZBEKISTAN)**

I have the honour to make this statement on behalf of the following 53 participating States: Albania, Andorra, Armenia, Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Canada, Croatia, Cyprus, the Czech Republic, Denmark, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Latvia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Moldova, Monaco, Mongolia, Montenegro, the Netherlands, North Macedonia, Norway, Poland, Portugal, Romania, San Marino, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Tajikistan, Turkey, Turkmenistan, Ukraine, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and Uzbekistan, as well as the European Union.

We reiterate our commitment to the women, peace and security agenda as a cornerstone in achieving comprehensive and sustainable peace and security in the OSCE area, and strongly believe that the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, including at all levels of decision-making and leadership, in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security, as well as the promotion of women's and girls' safety from violence in conflict and crises, are fundamental for building strong, resilient, democratic and peaceful societies.

We acknowledge the key role of the OSCE, as a regional security organization under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, in implementing different United Nations Security Council resolutions in its region, including the full and effective implementation of the women, peace and security agenda. The OSCE's unique concept of comprehensive security covers several elements of the women, peace and security agenda and provides a very suitable setting for full and effective implementation of the women, peace and security commitments on a range of levels, from the political to the very practical.

Although gaps remain to be bridged, we recognize the work done and progress made regarding the women, peace and security agenda since the adoption of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and its subsequent resolutions, including through the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, and remain devoted to our commitment to enhance co-ordination of efforts at national, subregional, and regional levels in order to promote and strengthen the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda in the OSCE area.

We recall our commitment to the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security, of which an integrated gender perspective is an integral part, in addressing current as well as new threats and challenges in the OSCE area. We reaffirm the OSCE's commitment to gender mainstreaming, with the goal of achieving gender equality, full and effective implementation of the women, peace and security agenda, and of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality.

We reaffirm the importance of a whole-of-OSCE approach in implementing the women, peace and security agenda. The Secretariat and OSCE executive structures, the field operations, the autonomous institutions, the Chairmanship and OSCE Parliamentary Assembly all have a vital role in ensuring its realization, as do participating States and partners.

An important and strong instrument in this regard is the OSCE toolkit on "Inclusion of women and effective peace processes". With this in mind, we would welcome an assessment of the impact and use of the OSCE toolkit to date, in order to further strengthen our efforts based on these results and continue to foster the inclusion and empowerment of women in peaceful resolution of conflicts, as it is one of the most effective way to achieve stability and sustainable peace.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Stockholm 2021**

MC(28).JOUR
2–3 December 2021
Annex 13

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Eighth Meeting
MC(28) Journal, Agenda item 9(a)

**STATEMENT BY
THE CHAIRPERSON (ALSO ON BEHALF OF ALBANIA,
POLAND AND NORTH MACEDONIA)**

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Albania, Sweden, Poland, and North Macedonia, as the previous, current, incoming, and future Chairpersons-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), reaffirm our strong commitment to the European security order as enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, including sovereign equality, refraining from the threat or use of force, respect for territorial integrity, and the freedom of States to choose their own security arrangements, as well as respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms. Respect for these principles and commitments must be restored.

In 1975, the Helsinki Final Act set forth the basic principles guiding State relations, underpinned by the Charter of the United Nations and international law, to build peace, security, justice, and co-operation in Europe. Since then, we have succeeded in deepening and strengthening our commitments through multiple decisions and declarations, with the Charter of Paris for a New Europe and subsequent documents. The OSCE *acquis* reflects the OSCE comprehensive security concept, in which the political and military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions of security are addressed as an integral whole. This concept is indispensable and key to building and maintaining peace and security in our area.

We express grave concern about the ongoing crises and conflicts in the OSCE area. They constitute the most serious challenges to our common security and have often resulted from flagrant violations of our principles and commitments. There is an urgent need for peaceful and sustainable conflict resolution, in line with international law and OSCE principles and commitments, and for accountability for violations and abuses. We underline that international humanitarian law must be respected.

The conflict with respect to Ukraine remains the most blatant example of violations of our commonly agreed principles and of international law and the most serious challenge to security and stability in Europe. It is unacceptable that armed violence in eastern Ukraine continues to cause casualties and human suffering. The restrictions imposed on hundreds of thousands of civilians prevent their access to basic services and limit prospects for future integration. We are deeply concerned about the ongoing tensions in the region, and the lack of progress towards a sustainable political solution to the conflict in line with OSCE principles and commitments and with full respect of the sovereignty, territorial integrity,

unity, and independence of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders. We continue to support the ongoing, active efforts undertaken in the Normandy format and the Trilateral Contact Group towards the full implementation of the Minsk agreements, and commend the valuable engagement of the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine, which should be provided with unrestricted and unconditional access to ensure its impartial monitoring and reporting of the security situation.

We similarly reiterate our support for the sovereignty and territorial integrity of Georgia within its internationally recognized borders. We underline our concern about the continuing deterioration of the human rights situation in the Georgian regions of Abkhazia and South Ossetia. Our support for the Geneva International Discussions in unwavering, and we are grateful to its participants for ensuring that discussions continue in a regular and constructive manner. The OSCE is committed to continuing its leadership of this format, together with the European Union and the United Nations. It is important the Geneva International Discussions make progress on core issues of non-use of violence and international security arrangements, as well as the return of internally displaced persons and refugees, as mandated by the six-point ceasefire agreement of 2008. We call for the commitments made in that agreement to be implemented immediately and in full.

We remain concerned with outstanding issues related to or resulting from the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. Although over one year has passed since the end of widespread military hostilities, the ceasefire remains fragile. We are convinced of the need for additional de-escalatory measures and a substantive and sustained negotiation process. There is an urgent need to make progress on humanitarian issues – including, *inter alia*, detainees, demining, missing persons, the voluntary return of displaced persons, and the protection of historic and cultural sites – as well as to allow unrestricted access for international humanitarian organizations. To this end, we express our full support for the efforts made under the auspices of the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group and the Personal Representative of the Chairperson-in-Office. Substantive negotiations and confidence-building must be continued in good faith in order to reach a comprehensive, peaceful, and lasting settlement.

We are convinced also of the merits of regional co-operation between Armenia, Azerbaijan, and Georgia. Beyond the need to alleviate tension and ensure peace in the region, co-operation between the three countries will enhance economic prosperity and development in the South Caucasus. We are committed to supporting this vision in order to enable the three countries to identify and address issues of common interest.

The OSCE continues to facilitate the Transdniestrian settlement process, which is of central importance for regional security. We welcome the OSCE Ministerial Statement on the Negotiations on the Transdniestrian Settlement Process in the “5+2” Format and underline the need to continue the result-oriented settlement process in 2022. We encourage further confidence-building measures that would improve the lives of people living on both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River. We reiterate our strong resolve to attain a comprehensive, peaceful and sustainable settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders with a special status for Transnistria that fully guarantees the human, political, economic and social rights of its population.

We remain deeply concerned about developments in Belarus affecting regional security and stability and causing severe human consequences, including the recent instrumentalization of migrants and refugees. We are also deeply worried about continued reports of grave human rights violations, including against journalists and other media actors, as well as the continued crackdown on civil society and persons belonging to national minorities. We repeat our call for the immediate and unconditional release of all those arbitrarily detained, and for a complete and transparent investigation into all allegations of human rights violations, including excessive use of force against peaceful protestors and dissenting voices and widespread detentions and arbitrary arrests, and to hold those responsible accountable. We reiterate the need for an inclusive, open, and constructive national dialogue. We regret that the offer by the previous and current Chairpersons-in-Office to support and facilitate communication and co-operation in Belarus was not yet accepted. We welcome that the Moscow and Vienna mechanisms have been activated with regard to the fraudulent presidential elections in 2020 and developments thereafter and urge all participating States to respect and use the tools of this Organization. We call on Belarus to fully implement OSCE commitments and principles, and international human rights law. The OSCE stands ready to support Belarus in this regard.

We commemorate the 10th anniversary of the Vilnius decision on elements of the conflict cycle and welcome efforts to further strengthen the OSCE's capabilities in addressing the conflict cycle. We reaffirm the obligation of the participating States to settle disputes among them by peaceful means in such a manner as not to endanger international peace and security, and justice. In this regard, we encourage participating States to utilize the OSCE Court of Conciliation and Arbitration to settle their disputes peacefully.

We recall that human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, and the rule of law are at the core of the comprehensive concept of security. They are prerequisites for peace and inextricably linked to security between States. We regret the continued democratic backsliding, violations of human rights, and the erosion of the rule of law, which have been further exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic. We reaffirm categorically and irrevocably that the commitments undertaken in the field of the human dimension are matters of direct and legitimate concern to all participating States and do not belong exclusively to the internal affairs of the State concerned. We deeply regret that we could not reach consensus on holding this year's Human Dimension Implementation Meeting despite long and intensive negotiations. We underline that this is without prejudice for coming years. We call on all participating States to fully comply with OSCE principles and commitments and international human rights law.

We emphasize the crucial role of civil society, including human rights defenders, and free, independent, and pluralistic media for our comprehensive security. Civil society and independent media are essential to a free and open society and accountable systems of government and are of particular importance in safeguarding human rights and fundamental freedoms, democracy, including genuinely democratic and pluralistic elections, and the rule of law. This role is indispensable and has been recognized and affirmed on several occasions.

Conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) remain vital for our common security. The effectiveness of arms control and CSBMs is reliant on political will. We call on all OSCE participating States to fully adhere to their arms control commitments and obligations. We underline the need for CSBMs to reduce military

risks and increase military stability, predictability, mutual trust, and transparency. We stress the need to fully implement the Vienna Document and to commit to its modernization. The Treaty on Open Skies also remains an important functioning CSBM. We underline the importance of the Forum for Security Co-operation as a decision-making body and reaffirm the value of the Structured Dialogue as a transparent, inclusive process owned and driven by participating States, and without a predetermined outcome; the Structured Dialogue shall explore how the negative developments concerning the conventional arms control and CSBM architecture in Europe can be reversed in order to create an environment conducive to reinvigorating conventional arms control and CSBMs in Europe.

Transnational threats and challenges to security and stability are growing in complexity. We recognize the continued importance of co-operation and dialogue between the OSCE executive structures, OSCE participating States, civil society, and the private sector to prevent and counter transnational threats, such as organized crime in all its forms and manifestations, through an inclusive and gender-responsive approach. We reaffirm that all measures taken must be in full respect of OSCE commitments and principles and international law, including international human rights law.

Economic and environmental co-operation remains a key component to strengthening security, peace, and prosperity in the OSCE area. Women's economic empowerment and gender equality are essential to security, stability, and sustainable development in the OSCE area. We acknowledge the need to effectively address climate-related security risks and reaffirm the OSCE's role in preventing and countering environmental security challenges, including those related to climate change and environmental degradation. In addition, corruption remains a systematic hindrance to economic growth, sustainable development, and democratic processes and we reaffirm our commitments to combat it and to strengthen good governance.

We recall the important role that youth play in contributing to the promotion of democracy, human rights and fundamental freedoms, and the rule of law, and encourage all participating States to promote the role of youth in decision-making, leadership and democratic institutions.

We recognize that in order to advance the comprehensive concept of security it is of fundamental importance to ensure the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in all spheres of society, and throughout the conflict cycle, including in humanitarian response efforts. The women, peace and security agenda is a corner stone in achieving comprehensive and sustainable peace and security in the OSCE area and we remain committed to the full and effective implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and its subsequent resolutions. Gender-equal societies, where human rights are fully enjoyed by all, are more secure with better prospects for development and thus we stress the need to implement our OSCE commitments to promote gender equality and gender mainstreaming across all OSCE activities.

We value the contribution of all OSCE executive structures to strengthen comprehensive security across the region. The OSCE's autonomous institutions are at the core of the OSCE's work. The Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, the High Commissioner on National Minorities, and the Representative on Freedom of the Media are all vital in assisting participating States to uphold and implement OSCE commitments

and principles. The OSCE's unique field operations are crucial contributors to peace and security. We underline the important role of the special and personal representatives of the Chairperson-in-Office and thank them for their valuable support and contributions to comprehensive security. Moreover, we appreciate the work of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in advancing comprehensive security, and we value the continued co-operation between the OSCE, the United Nations, the Council of Europe, the European Union, and all relevant stakeholders in fostering peace and security in our area.

We acknowledge that peace and security in the OSCE area is linked to that of our adjacent regions. In this context, we express deep concern about recent developments in Afghanistan and stand ready to support the OSCE in addressing the consequences that these have on our region. We appreciate the rich exchange and good relations with our Asian and Mediterranean Partners of Co-operation.

We regret that the OSCE is not realizing its full potential and recognize the need to improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the Organization. We therefore regret that the "omnibus decisions" on the dates and venues of the OSCE's flagship conferences and meetings, and on the Unified Budget cycle, which would have allowed the Organization to focus on its core tasks and assist participating States in upholding our commitments, were not adopted by the Ministerial Council. We look forward to continued discussions on these important issues.

2025 will mark the 50th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act. As we approach this milestone, we call on all participating States to put into practice the OSCE principles and commitments we freely adopted. The European security order and the OSCE *acquis* provide the basis for building peace, democracy, security, and stability in our region. It is up to us, the participating States, to go back to basics, and to demonstrate by our actions that we are resolved to strengthen our common security.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Stockholm 2021**

MC(28).JOUR
2–3 December 2021
Annex 14

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Second day of the Twenty-Eighth Meeting
MC(28) Journal, Agenda item 9(b)

**STATEMENT BY
THE CHAIRPERSON (ALSO ON BEHALF OF ALBANIA,
POLAND AND NORTH MACEDONIA)**

We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of Albania, Sweden, Poland, and North Macedonia, representing the previous, current, incoming, and future Chairpersons-in-Office of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), remain deeply concerned about the conflict with respect to Ukraine, which constitute the most serious challenge to the European security order and a blatant example of violations of our commonly agreed principles and commitments and of international law.

Together with nearly all participating States, we would have preferred to see consensus emerge on a ministerial declaration on the OSCE's efforts towards peace with respect to Ukraine. This could have served as an important impetus for the conflict settlement process. Unfortunately, it was impossible to achieve consensus on the text since one participating State did not engage in discussions on substance. We welcome the strong support expressed during the negotiations for the sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity of Ukraine within its internationally recognized borders, including the Autonomous Republic of Crimea and the city of Sevastopol.

We remain fully committed to upholding the Charter of the United Nations, the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, and the OSCE principles and commitments to which we have all agreed, in our efforts towards a peaceful and sustainable resolution of the conflict, in line with international law. We reaffirm the importance of achieving full and comprehensive implementation of the Minsk agreements in their entirety (the Protocol of 5 September 2014, the Memorandum of 19 September 2014, and the Package of Measures for the Implementation of the Minsk agreements of 12 February 2015).

The conflict is now in its eighth year. It is unacceptable that daily armed violence is allowed to continue, causing casualties and suffering among the civilian population in eastern Ukraine. We call for immediate adherence to the comprehensive, sustainable, and unlimited ceasefire in line with commitments, to prevent further casualties and build the confidence necessary for progress in other areas.

We are deeply concerned about ongoing tensions in the region and underline the importance of implementing confidence- and security-building measures to promote military stability, predictability, mutual trust, and transparency between participating States. In

particular, we stress the necessity to act in accordance with and to fulfil all commitments under the Vienna Document adopted by all participating States.

We recall the need to protect civilians, and that international humanitarian and human rights law must be respected. We emphasize the urgency of ensuring safe access, delivery, storage, and distribution of humanitarian assistance to those in need, on the basis of an international mechanism, as foreseen under the Package of Measures. We also stress the need to address the serious socio-economic implications of the conflict.

We underline the importance of protecting human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the rights of persons belonging to national minorities, within Ukraine's internationally recognized borders.

We are deeply concerned that the right to freedom of movement of hundreds of thousands of civilians has been significantly restricted with dire consequences for the human rights situation, for people-to-people contacts, and for access to basic services. Apart from the direct effects, the prolonged separation of communities negatively affects social cohesion and prospects for future reintegration. With all entry-exit checkpoints across the line of contact in government-controlled areas open, the opening of all corresponding checkpoints in non-government-controlled areas, including those near Zolote and Shchastia, is long overdue. Political considerations cannot continue to overshadow humanitarian needs. We call for all crossing points to be made fully operational on a daily basis, and for all restrictions on crossings to be lifted. Steps must be taken to ensure civilians can enjoy their human rights wherever they reside in Ukraine.

We regret that no mutual release and exchange of conflict-related detainees have taken place since April 2020. We call for the release and exchange of all hostages and unlawfully detained persons, based on the principle of "all for all", starting with "all identified for all identified" as foreseen in the Common Agreed Conclusions of the Normandy Four summit of 9 December 2019. We call for the international organizations, including the International Committee of the Red Cross, to be granted full and unconditional access to all detained persons.

We reiterate our full support for the efforts undertaken in the "Normandy format" and call on the sides to fully implement the Common Agreed Conclusions of the summit meeting held in Paris on 9 December 2019. We recall that the Minsk agreements continue to be the basis of the work of the Normandy format, whose member States are committed to their full implementation. It is our hope that we will see the continuation of the Normandy format efforts at the highest level to discuss the political and security conditions, *inter alia* for the organization of the local elections, as agreed in Paris.

We recognize the crucial role of the Trilateral Contact Group (TCG), consisting of the representatives of Ukraine, the Russian Federation, and the OSCE, in facilitating the implementation of the Minsk agreements. We welcome the appointment of Ambassador Mikko Kinnunen as Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office in Ukraine and in the TCG, and reiterate our support for him and for the co-ordinators of the working groups. Lack of progress in the TCG and on the ground is not due to a lack of effort on their behalf, but because of a lack of political will. We strongly encourage constructive engagement where each issue is looked at on its own merits, beginning with the finalization

and implementation of the decisions on the identified additional areas for demining and for disengagement of forces and hardware. We also call upon the sides to proceed with other aspects of the Common Agreed Conclusions of the Paris Normandy summit, regarding the immediate measures to stabilize the situation in the conflict area.

We welcome the strong continued support for the essential work of the OSCE Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) expressed by participating States. The Mission contributes to reducing tensions and fostering peace, stability, and security, to monitoring and supporting the implementation of all OSCE principles and commitments, as well as facilitating the implementation of the Minsk agreements. We express our sincere appreciation for the dedication shown by the brave women and men working for the Mission.

The SMM's unrestricted and unconditional access is essential to ensure effective monitoring and reporting on the security situation. We strongly reaffirm that the SMM is mandated to have safe and secure access throughout Ukraine, including across the line of contact and in non-government-controlled areas close to the international border. We stress that there can be no justification for any form of interference with the Mission's work and that the SMM must be provided with the necessary conditions to implement its mandate. We regret that the Mission has recently been increasingly constrained, overwhelmingly in non-government-controlled areas, including by unprecedented levels of signal interference with its unmanned aerial vehicles. We condemn any threat to the safety and security of the SMM staff and the targeting of SMM assets. These incidents should be prevented, and remedial action should be taken.

Effective and comprehensive monitoring of the Ukrainian-Russian State border remains essential to improve the security situation and find a sustainable political solution to the conflict. We call for enhanced transparency in the areas adjacent to the Ukrainian-Russian State border, through permanent monitoring and verification by the OSCE in line with the Minsk Protocol, until the reinstatement of full control of the State border by the Government of Ukraine throughout the conflict area as envisaged in the Package of Measures.

We deeply regret that no consensus could be reached on the extension of the mandate of the OSCE Observer Mission at the Russian Checkpoints Gukovo and Donetsk beyond 30 September 2021. We express our sincere gratitude to the women and men of the Observer Mission, which since its deployment in 2014 contributed to confidence-building and increased transparency on the Russian-Ukrainian border.

We welcome the SMM's plans to open forward patrol bases in the non-government-controlled areas close to the border with the Russian Federation. This would significantly improve the Mission's capability to monitor the situation. We regret that the political and security context so far precluded their opening, and urge the necessary conditions be provided to make that possible.

Taking into account the particular impact of the conflict on women and girls, and the many contributions made by women to peace and security, we recognize the need to further implement the women, peace and security agenda and to ensure the meaningful participation of women in all conflict resolution efforts.

We express our gratitude to the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine and to the relevant OSCE executive structures, including the High Commissioner on National Minorities, the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights, and the Representative on Freedom of the Media; as well as to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly for their contributions to the efforts in addressing the conflict.

We underline the OSCE's valuable efforts regarding developments with respect to Ukraine, which demonstrate its added value as a regional arrangement for the maintenance of international peace and security in accordance with Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Stockholm 2021**

MC(28).JOUR
2–3 December 2021
Annex 15

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Eighth Meeting
MC(28) Journal, Agenda item 9(c)

**LETTER FROM
THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FORUM FOR SECURITY
CO-OPERATION TO THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF
SWEDEN, CHAIRPERSON OF THE TWENTY-EIGHTH MEETING OF
THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL OF THE OSCE**

As Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), it is my pleasure to inform you about the Forum's activities in 2021.

In preparing this letter, I have consulted with the previous 2021 FSC Chairmanships, namely, the United States of America and Armenia. During 2021, the FSC Chairmanships worked in close co-operation to ensure continuity and efficiency in the implementation of the Forum's annual work programme.

Several initiatives undertaken by participating States led to the adoption of six decisions, all designed to support the implementation of existing politico-military commitments.

This year has continued to present extraordinary challenges, as dealing with COVID-19 and has continuously tested the FSC's conduct of work. In their responses to the crisis, the FSC Chairmanships, in close co-ordination with the Chairmanship of the Permanent Council and the OSCE Secretariat, have maintained continuity in the FSC's work while following the host country's preventive measures and prioritizing our duty of care for delegates and Secretariat staff. By closely following the evolving developments of the COVID-19 situation, the FSC Chairmanships provided guidance on modalities of the FSC's work. With the invaluable support of the OSCE Secretariat, all scheduled FSC meetings and those of the working groups, as well as a range of informal meetings were conducted either in a blended format or remotely via teleconference. While recalling politico-military commitments and their relevance in times of crisis, the FSC Chairmanships continuously highlighted the importance of co-operation and unity amongst participating States. Indeed, following the summer recess, many participating States resumed verification activities, fostering confidence- and security-building through the conduct of Vienna Document 2011 inspections and contact visits.

Under the FSC Chairmanship of the United States of America, the ninth High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar (HLMDS) took place online in February 2021. Held periodically

in accordance with the Vienna Document 2011, this event provided an important opportunity for high-level military personnel to meet, exchange strategic assessments on doctrine and discuss trends in the first dimension and cross-dimensional risks and challenges, thus contributing to strengthening the common security of all OSCE participating States.

The thirty-first Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting (AIAM) took place in March 2021, also during the FSC Chairmanship of the United States of America. Led by Mongolia and Montenegro, this meeting provided an opportunity for delegations to raise and discuss various issues related to the present and future implementation of agreed confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs). The discussions at the AIAM resulted in a number of suggestions on how the current CSBMs could be implemented more effectively or improved in the future.

To facilitate the discussion on Vienna Document 2011 modernization, the United States of America's FSC Chairmanship held a Security Dialogue on this important topic. The United States of America's FSC Chairmanship also dedicated a Security Dialogue to the topic of confidence-building amid strategic ambiguity. The Armenian FSC Chairmanship organized Security Dialogues on modern warfare and emerging technologies, arms control and CSBMs, and transparency in military exercises and activities. Under the auspices of the Austrian FSC Chairmanship, three Security Dialogues were held on the 1996 OSCE Framework for Arms Control: past, present and future of conventional arms control, followed by a side event in September 2021, contributing to the thematic focus on conventional arms control with academic experts presenting their respective studies. Furthermore, a special FSC meeting on the Vienna Document reissuance (paragraph 152) was held under the Austrian FSC Chairmanship in October 2021.

The FSC also contributed to the 2021 Annual Security Review Conference within its mandate, providing inputs to relevant sessions and focusing on politico-military elements, including challenges and opportunities related to conventional arms control and CSBMs.

The situation in and around Ukraine continued to be a dominant topic of discussion in the Forum. In April 2021, the Vienna Document 2011, Chapter III, on "Risk reduction", specifically the mechanism for consultation and co-operation as regards unusual military activities, was invoked to discuss security concerns. Following consultations to discuss the matter in question, a special joint meeting of the FSC and the Permanent Council was convened, during which the situation was assessed. The delegations in attendance focused on measures to stabilize the situation and halt activities giving rise to concern.

The goal-oriented discussions during the security dialogues indicated the FSC's importance as a platform for dialogue, addressing security issues of common interest and concern.

There were a variety of active discussions, on the following themes: normative and project-related aspects in the field of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA); the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security and international humanitarian law; regional security issues and co-operation; implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1540 (2004); the Vienna Document 2011 on CSBMs; the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda; matters related to countering terrorism; conventional arms control and CSBMs; as well as

doctrine and military-to-military contacts. In total, the three 2021 FSC Chairmanships organized a total of 20 Security Dialogues.

Four Security Dialogues and many informal meetings were devoted to SALW and SCA, as tasked by the relevant OSCE documents and various relevant FSC and Ministerial Council decisions. Under the FSC Chairmanship of the United States of America, two Security Dialogues were held on SALW, one related to man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS) and another on explosive hazards in Central Asia.

Furthermore, a new initiative regarding the application of the assistance mechanism under the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA, aimed at improving the effectiveness and outcomes of SALW and SCA projects, has been initiated. The Austrian FSC Chairmanship dedicated a Security Dialogue to ongoing initiatives in this field and organized a demonstration of practical aspects of implementation the assistance mechanism under the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA with a focus on protecting the civilian population and mitigating the risk of environmental damage. Under Armenia's FSC Chairmanship, a dialogue was held on SALW and SCA practical assistance mechanisms. The OSCE Meeting to Review the Implementation of OSCE Assistance Projects in the Field of SALW and SCA was held under the Austrian FSC Chairmanship in October 2021.

Throughout the year, the comprehensive review and update of the OSCE Best Practice Guides (BPGs) on SALW and conventional ammunition continued, with a number of updated drafts submitted for consideration by FSC Working Group A. An updated Best Practice Guide on National Procedures for the Destruction of SALW was adopted in June 2021 providing general guidelines and procedures for the destruction of SALW from the time of identification for destruction until the final disposal of scrap material.

The work on reviewing and updating the BPGs and new initiatives goes hand in hand with, and is complementary to, the important activities being carried out under the OSCE's assistance projects on SALW and SCA. These projects support the participating States in fulfilling their commitments under the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA. The OSCE assistance projects address a wide range of security and safety risks stemming from, *inter alia*, the presence of conventional ammunition, explosive material, detonating devices and highly toxic rocket fuel components; degraded physical infrastructure and poor stockpile management and security practices; the presence of explosive remnants of war and landmines; and illicit trafficking in SALW.

The OSCE currently works on 20 SALW- and SCA-related assistance projects worth over 40 million euros. Several projects are aimed at ensuring the secure and safe management of stockpiles of SALW and conventional ammunition through infrastructure, material, equipment upgrades at storage sites and chemical analysis laboratories for ammunition surveillance, as well as capacity-building efforts aimed at combating illicit trafficking in SALW. Most recently, thanks to OSCE efforts, the remainder of the melange rocket fuel component was removed from Kyrgyzstan, eliminating a major threat to human and environmental security.

Facilitating the implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the Armenian FSC Chairmanship held a Security Dialogue on compliance with international humanitarian law, whereas the Austrian FSC Chairmanship organized a

dialogue on the Code of Conduct, with a particular emphasis on the integration of women in armed forces. Furthermore, the tenth Annual Discussion on the Implementation of the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security was held online in June 2021 under the Armenian FSC Chairmanship. This meeting provided a valuable opportunity for participating States to exchange views on ways of further improving the Code's implementation. In October, a visit on the Code of Conduct was organized in Sweden, focused on actions taken within the Swedish armed forces to safeguard the full and equal participation of women in uniform.

Two Security Dialogues were held with a view to promoting regional stability and comprehensive and co-operative security. The United States of America's FSC Chairmanship convened a security dialogue on NATO's enhanced Forward Presence. The FSC Chairmanship of Armenia held a Security Dialogue on regional security co-operation within the Collective Security Treaty Organization (CSTO).

Another topic addressed during the year was the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction and United Nations Security Council resolution 1540. One Security Dialogue under the Armenian FSC Chairmanship discussed the co-ordination of activities and explored ways of enhancing collaboration between the UNSCR 1540 Committee and the OSCE.

The FSC Chairmanships devoted a total of two Security Dialogues and one joint meeting of the FSC and the Permanent Council focusing on the topic of gender equality. During the United States of America's Chairmanship a joint meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation and Permanent Council on implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 was held. The Armenian FSC Chairmanship held a Security Dialogue on full, equal and meaningful participation of women in security and armed forces. Later in the year, the Austrian FSC Chairmanship chose to discuss the Code of Conduct, with a particular emphasis on the integration of women in armed forces. Moreover, the Austrian FSC Chairmanship mainstreamed gender issues in all of its Security Dialogues.

In 2021, on average 27 per cent women and 73 per cent men participated in the FSC-related meetings (FSC plenaries, the HLMDs, the AIAM, the Code of Conduct Regional Seminar, and the OSCE Meeting to Review the Implementation of OSCE Assistance Projects in the Field of SALW and SCA). Further, the meetings of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW and SCA were attended on average by 75 per cent men and 25 per cent women. The participation at the SALW and SCA expert meetings was 64 per cent men and 36 per cent women, which was the highest women participation at SALW- and SCA-related meetings.

All three FSC Chairmanships co-operated closely with the Swedish OSCE Chairmanship and the Permanent Council on cross-dimensional issues of relevance to both bodies in line with the OSCE's concept of comprehensive and indivisible security. To this end, three joint meetings of the Forum for Security Co-operation and Permanent Council were held on the topics of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325, countering terrorism, and on the Structured Dialogue.

As a final note, the FSC Chairmanships commend the work of the Conflict Prevention Centre in developing e-learning modules covering FSC-related topics, which are aimed at systematizing the transfer of knowledge on, *inter alia*, the FSC, Vienna Document 2011 on

CSBMs, SALW and SCA, conventional arms control, and the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. This excellent resource is available for delegates of participating States in Vienna, national focal points in their capitals, and staff of verification centres.

In conclusion, over the past year the FSC continued to serve as an important platform for dialogue and decision-making in the first dimension, providing participating States with a forum to discuss a wide range of politico-military issues. Despite COVID-19, the FSC proved successful in continuing taking measures to adapt to the current situation and maintaining its rigorous work programme under demanding circumstances.



Second day of the Twenty-Eighth Meeting
MC(28) Journal, Agenda item 7

MINISTERIAL STATEMENT ON THE NEGOTIATIONS ON THE TRANSDNIESTRIAN SETTLEMENT PROCESS IN THE “5+2” FORMAT

The Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe:

1. Recall the past ministerial statements on the work of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdniestrian Settlement in the “5+2” format;
2. Reiterate their strong resolve to attain a comprehensive, peaceful and sustainable settlement of the Transdniestrian conflict based on the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the Republic of Moldova within its internationally recognized borders with a special status for Transdniestria that fully guarantees the human, political, economic and social rights of its population;
3. Underline the need to continue the result-oriented settlement process reaffirmed by the Hamburg, Vienna, Milan, Bratislava and Tirana ministerial statements and call upon the Sides to engage accordingly in the negotiation process in 2022 when Poland will be chairing the OSCE;
4. Urge the Sides to further consolidate the achievements reached since the Vienna Ministerial meeting on priority issues and to work towards the full and continuous implementation of all agreements expressed in the protocols of the “5+2” meetings in Rome 2018, Vienna 2017 and Berlin 2016 thus contributing to building a solid basis for further advancing the settlement process;
5. Underline the need for further accelerated implementation of the provisions of the Protocol Decision of 24 April 2018 “On the participation of vehicles from Transdniestria that do not carry out commercial activities in the international road traffic”, as well as for active work on other issues related to transport, in observance of the Vienna Convention on Road Traffic of 1968;
6. Encourage the Sides to develop joint proposals on further confidence-building measures, based on the progress achieved in the implementation of the “Berlin-plus package”, and to intensify their dialogue on and efforts with regard to the protection of human rights and fundamental freedoms, in view of continuing relevant serious concerns,

including in individual cases and in areas directly affecting the daily lives of the local population;

7. Applaud the interaction between the Sides in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic, including with regard to the provision of 263,000 doses of vaccines and other assistance to Transdnistria, and encourage them to continue on this path and to intensify their interaction on other humanitarian issues for the benefit of the inhabitants on both banks of the Dniester/Nistru River;

8. Note the increasing number of meetings and Working Groups between the Sides in 2021. Call upon them to continue to work at all levels of the negotiation process in a rhythmical manner to achieve tangible progress on all three baskets of the agreed agenda for the negotiation process: socio-economic issues, general legal and humanitarian issues and human rights, and a comprehensive settlement, including institutional, political and security issues, in accordance with the internationally agreed principles as referred to in paragraph 2;

9. Underline the importance of the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdnistrian Settlement in the “5+2” format as the only mechanism to achieve a comprehensive and sustainable settlement, reaffirm the important role the OSCE plays in supporting this process; note with concern that the last meeting of the Permanent Conference took place in 2019 and welcome in this regard the commitment of all concerned to hold a result-oriented meeting in this format as soon as possible;

10. Applaud the unified and active approach by the mediators and observers of the OSCE, the Russian Federation, Ukraine, the European Union and the United States of America in the Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiation Process for the Transdnistrian Settlement in the “5+2” format and encourage them to continue to co-ordinate their efforts and to make full use of their collective potential to promote progress in all dimensions towards achieving a comprehensive resolution of the Transdnistrian conflict.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council**

MC.DEC/1/21
18 August 2021

Original: ENGLISH

**DECISION No. 1/21
2021 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE (ASRC)**

The Ministerial Council,

Recalling Porto Ministerial Council Decision No. 3 on the Annual Security Review Conference,

Affirming the necessity to hold the 2021 Annual Security Review Conference,

Noting that consensus could not be reached on holding the 2021 Annual Security Review Conference before the summer recess,

Taking into account the recommendation of the Forum for Security Co-operation as contained in document FSC.DEL/292/21/Rev.1 as of 28 July 2021,

Taking into consideration the recommendation of the Permanent Council,

Decides that the 2021 Annual Security Review Conference will be held after the OSCE summer recess.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council**

MC.DEC/2/21
30 November 2021

Original: ENGLISH

**DECISION No. 2/21
OSCE CHAIRMANSHIP IN THE YEAR 2025**

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that Finland will exercise the function of the OSCE Chairmanship in the year 2025.

MC.DEC/2/21
30 November 2021
Attachment

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

**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 Russian Federation:

“In joining the consensus regarding the OSCE Ministerial Council decision on Finland’s Chairmanship of the OSCE in the year 2025, it is our understanding that Finland will adhere closely to all the provisions of the 2002 Porto Ministerial Council Decision No. 8 on the role of the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office, ensuring that it does not deviate in its actions from the positions agreed by all the participating States.

Public statements issued by the OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office on behalf of the Organization should be in line with OSCE Permanent Council Decision No. 485 of 28 June 2002.

In its work, the Chairmanship-in-Office should take into account the whole spectrum of opinions of participating States.

I request that this statement be attached to the adopted OSCE Ministerial Council decision and included in the journal of today’s meeting.”



Second day of the Twenty-Eighth Meeting
MC(28) Journal, Agenda item 7

**DECISION No. 3/21
STRENGTHENING CO-OPERATION TO ADDRESS THE
CHALLENGES CAUSED BY CLIMATE CHANGE**

The Ministerial Council,

Taking account of the increasing challenges of climate change for the economy and environment in the OSCE area, recalling the importance of co-operation in the OSCE's Economic and Environmental Dimension, bearing in mind the OSCE's comprehensive concept of security, and reaffirming the relevant commitments contained in the 1975 Helsinki Final Act, the 2003 OSCE Strategy Document for the Economic and Environmental Dimension, the 2007 Madrid Declaration on Environment and Security, the 2013 Ministerial Council Decision on Improving the Environmental Footprint of Energy-Related Activities in the OSCE region, and the 2014 Ministerial Council Decision on Enhancing Disaster Risk Reduction,

Acknowledging that climate change is a global challenge to achieving the objectives of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals, and that addressing this challenge requires the widest possible international co-operation, as well as at the regional level,

Recognizing that the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Paris Agreement are the primary international and intergovernmental mechanisms and fora for negotiating, developing and strengthening the global response to climate change,

Taking note of the reports of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, which underline the many unprecedented and irreversible changes that have occurred in the climate system in all regions of the world, and emphasizing the need for effective climate action to reduce the risks and negative consequences of climate change,

Reaffirming that the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations, has a complementary role to play, within its mandate, in addressing the challenge of climate change within the OSCE area, notably by facilitating collective and co-operative responses,

Emphasizing that the effects of climate change can exacerbate economic challenges and environmental degradation, which may negatively affect prosperity, stability and security in the OSCE area,

Acknowledging the importance of environmental restoration as one tool for climate change mitigation and adaptation, and underlining the contribution of the improvement of degraded forests, as well as the importance of sustainable management and restoration of forests,

Recognizing the importance of participating States integrating climate considerations into relevant national or domestic strategy, planning, documents and processes, in order to mitigate and build resilience against the impacts of climate change,

Convinced that effective co-operation by the OSCE participating States on an equitable, mutually beneficial, and non-discriminatory basis, taking into account different national circumstances and capabilities in addressing the challenges caused by climate change and the promotion of early warning, can be useful in building mutual confidence and promoting good neighbourly relations and thereby contribute to stability, resilience, and prosperity in the OSCE area,

Being aware that the use of renewable energy sources, low-carbon and clean energy technologies and energy efficiency measures contribute to the adaptation to and mitigation of climate change,

Acknowledging that the adaptation to, and mitigation of, the impacts of climate change are important to achieve sustainable economic growth, and underlining the need to advance co-operation through joint research and investments, and the development and integration of new technologies in the field of climate change mitigation and adaptation, including clean energy and low greenhouse gas emissions technologies,

Emphasizing the importance of the effective involvement of women in decision-making processes in the field of climate change, and the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, and also of girls where appropriate, in related programmes and activities, and mindful of reporting indicating that women and girls are overrepresented among those groups with less resilience to the adverse impacts of climate change and taking into account their needs in this regard,

Acknowledging the importance of educating, training and raising awareness among children and youth in the fields of environmental protection and climate change,

Affirming the importance of co-operation with relevant regional and international organizations in addressing the impacts of climate change, where appropriate,

Taking note of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's debates on the security implications of climate change, and being mindful of the role of parliamentarians in shaping relevant national legislation and supporting the implementation of climate-related commitments,

1. Encourages the participating States to identify, raise awareness of, mitigate and adapt to climate-related challenges and to intensify their dialogue and co-operation in this regard with a view to minimizing the economic, social and environmental impacts of climate change;

2. Encourages participating States to integrate climate considerations into national or domestic strategy, planning, documents and processes, in order to mitigate and build resilience against the impacts of climate change;
3. Calls upon the participating States to give due consideration to potential synergies between prevention, mitigation of, and adaptation to the possible negative impacts of climate change, including through the development and utilization of early-warning mechanisms;
4. Encourages the participating States to make use of the OSCE as an additional platform for facilitating the exchange of information and best practices, notably in relation to the adaptation to, and mitigation of, climate change, the development of relevant technologies and innovation;
5. Encourages the participating States to co-operate, where appropriate, to build greater resilience to climate change and to take relevant mitigation and adaptation measures, including, *inter alia*, through joint research and investment, climate-related analysis, disaster risk reduction and management, and the increased use of clean and renewable energy sources;
6. Encourages participating States to address the short- and long-term impacts of environmental degradation, as well as its restoration;
7. Encourages the participating States to adopt an approach to COVID-19 recovery that takes climate change into account;
8. Calls upon the participating States to promote the effective participation of women in decision-making processes on climate change prevention, mitigation and adaptation, and also of girls where appropriate, in related programmes and activities;
9. Encourages the participating States to pursue a multi-stakeholder approach to tackling climate change by actively engaging the private sector, academia, civil society and all other relevant stakeholders, including women's and youth organizations;
10. Tasks the relevant OSCE executive structures, in particular the Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities and the OSCE field operations within their mandates and available resources, with assisting participating States upon their request in implementing the provisions of this decision, in co-operation with other relevant regional and international organizations, where appropriate;
11. Encourages the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement the provisions of this decision.

MC.DEC/3/21
3 December 2021
Attachment

Original: ENGLISH

**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:

“Madam Chairperson,

In connection with the adoption of this decision on strengthening co-operation to address the challenges caused by climate change, Canada would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure:

We have joined consensus on this decision due to the serious importance we attach to addressing the challenges caused by climate change, and their link to our comprehensive security. We are disappointed, however, by the weak language concerning the disproportionate impact of climate change on women. This impact is undeniable and has been reaffirmed both through United Nations bodies and most recently at the 26th Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. Canada underscores the necessity of taking a gender-responsive approach to addressing the risks climate change poses to women, as well as to marginalized groups and people in vulnerable situations.

Canada requests that this statement be attached to the decision and reflected in the journal of the day. Thank you.”



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Ministerial Council
Stockholm 2021**

MC.DEC/4/21
3 December 2021

Original: ENGLISH

Second day of the Twenty-Eighth Meeting
MC(28) Journal, Agenda item 7

**DECISION No. 4/21
TIME AND PLACE OF THE NEXT MEETING OF THE OSCE
MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

The Ministerial Council,

Decides that the Twenty-Ninth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council will be held in Łódź on 1 and 2 December 2022.