

Chairmanship: United Kingdom

592nd PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 28 October 2009

Opened: 10 a.m.

Closed: 11.55 a.m.

2. Chairperson: Mr. I. Cliff
Ms. B. Gare

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

Agenda item 1: SECURITY DIALOGUE

- (a) *Presentation by Mr. Stan Brabant, Head of Policy Unit, Handicap International, on “Cluster Munitions: A Victim’s Perspective”*: Chairperson, Mr. S. Brabant (FSC.NGO/10/09), Norway, Austria, Belgium, Germany (FSC.DEL/197/09 OSCE+), United States of America
- (b) *Presentations by Ms. Vanessa Farr, Senior Adviser on Gender Issues, UNDP Programme of Assistance to the Palestinian People (PAPP) on “The Gendered Impacts of Small Arms and Light Weapons”*; and by Ms. Sarah Masters, Women’s Network Coordinator for the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), on “Being Part of the Process: Women and SALW Control”: Ms. V. Farr (FSC.DEL/194/09) (FSC.DEL/194/09/Add.1), Ms. S. Masters (FSC.NGO/11/09) (FSC.NGO/11/09/Add.1) (FSC.NGO/11/09/Add.2), Sweden-European Union (with the candidate countries Croatia and Turkey; the countries of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate countries Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro and Serbia; the European Free Trade Association countries Liechtenstein and Norway, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Armenia, Moldova and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/198/09/Corr.1), Portugal (Annex 1), Ireland

Agenda item 2: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Financial contributions to projects on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition: Spain (Annex 2)

Agenda item 3: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Organizational matters: Chairperson

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 4 November 2009, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal



592nd Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 598, Agenda item 1(b)

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF PORTUGAL

One month away from the ninth anniversary of the UN Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), Portugal became the latest country to adopt a National Action Plan (NAP) (13 August 2009), joining Austria, Belgium, Cote D'Ivoire, Denmark, Finland, Iceland, Liberia, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Netherlands, Uganda, and the United Kingdom.

This Plan translates Portugal's commitment to the implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSC) on women, peace and security and corresponds to the consolidation of a gender equality dimension into national politics.

The drafting of the Portuguese NAP involved a one-year long participatory process and is the result of a consultation process, which encompassed governmental contributions (namely from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Home Affairs, National Defence, Justice and the Commission for Citizenship and Gender Equality that comprised the drafting task force, although all Ministries were included in the process), together with wide and public consultations with universities, NGOs, media and other relevant civil society sectors and international networks, such as IANSA, which presented very specific recommendations and significantly contributed to the establishment of a consistent and representative action plan.

The responsibility for the implementation of the Action Plan is ascribed to the government and to the national administration, but it is expected an active role and engagement from the civil society.

The NAP is built around the objectives of strengthening women's participation and representation in all efforts to promote peace and security; promoting gender mainstreaming in the sectors of security (peacekeeping missions, security system reform), justice and development aid; and reinforcing protection of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict areas.

It establishes five main strategic objectives, translated into thirty specific objectives, for which implementation, monitoring and evaluation mechanisms are identified and developed. These are:

- (i) To increase women's participation and mainstream gender equality in all phases of peace-building processes and at all levels of decision-making;
- (ii) To promote capacity-building of those involved in peace-building and development aid efforts on gender equality and gender-based violence, as well as other aspects covered by UNSCR 1325 and 1820;
- (iii) To promote and protect women's human rights in conflict areas and post-conflict scenarios, having in consideration the need to:
 - Prevent and eliminate all gender-based violence perpetrated against women and girls;
 - Promote the empowerment of women both political and economic and their participation in all post-conflict activities, regarding peace negotiations and mediation, reconstruction and reintegration – leadership, governance and policy-making bodies, women's organizations;
- (iv) To invest in and disseminate knowledge on issues concerning women, peace and security, including training and awareness raising actions among decision makers and the broader public;
- (v) To promote the active participation of civil society in the implementation of 1325 resolution and National Action Plan.

The NAP attempts to contribute to a greater participation of women in the decision-making processes and their effective involvement in all the peacekeeping and peace-building efforts.

In addition, the National Action Plan highlights the need for the eradication of women's human rights violations in armed conflict situations, including sexual violence, a gender-based aggression that tends to be aggravated during conflicts and situations of vulnerability.

Portugal has already been endeavouring efforts to address many of the concerns and to implement most of the measures that are proposed by the resolution, through the adoption of national legislation and several initiatives carried out by different entities amongst the public administration: in fact, several dimensions highlighted by the 1325 resolution are widely established in national policies concerning gender equality, such as the National Plan to Combat Trafficking in Human Beings, the 3rd National Plan for Gender Equality, the 3rd National Plan to Combat Domestic Violence or the Plan for Immigrant Integration.

The Portuguese participation in humanitarian and peace-building missions demonstrates the relevance that the Portuguese state attributes to the role of women in the areas of security and defence, as well as to the fundamental role that women have had in the resolution of sensible issues, such as the support to victims of sexual violence and gender-based discrimination, contributing to an enhanced protection of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict situations.

The NAP translates Portugal's concern with regard to the vulnerability of women and girls in post-conflict situations, together with a commitment to develop measures that answer the needs of women in these situations. Internationally, particularly at the bilateral level, this can translate into promoting and assisting the development of adequate policies, strategies and legislation to prevent armed violence, including domestic armed violence, as well as to integrate systematically in development programmes and projects a gender dimension and to train development actors in this field; into enforcing existing measures in terms of security sector reform and DDR programmes.

Furthermore, the Portuguese Government interprets this resolution as extending beyond armed conflicts and humanitarian aid to include the promotion of policy coherence at a national level concerning issues such as disarmament and weapons control, public security and the elimination of gender-based violence.

Finally, Portugal highlights that women and girls are relevant and capable actors of change and development and considers it fundamental to overcome the traditional perspective of these actors as vulnerable victims in need of protection. It is thus fundamental to implement measures that guarantee that this perspective is taken into all stages of peace-building processes by the international and local actors involved.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/598

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Annex 2

ENGLISH

Original: SPANISH

592nd Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 598, Agenda item 2

STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF SPAIN

Mr. Chairperson,

I should like to inform the Forum about Spain's contribution to the following OSCE projects concerned with small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition:

- Belarus: Improvement of SALW stockpile management and security of 15 storage sites, phase II: 100,000 euros
- Moldova: Destruction of cluster bombs, R60 rockets and missiles: 80,000 euros
- Montenegro: Demilitarization of (SALW) conventional ammunition: 100,000 euros

Mr. Chairperson,

I would ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the meeting.