



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

PC.DEC/1412
18 August 2021

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1331st Plenary Meeting
PC Journal No. 1331, Agenda item 2

DECISION No. 1412
AGENDA AND ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF THE
2021 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE (ASRC)

The Permanent Council,

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

Taking into account the recommendation of the Forum for Security Co-operation,

Decides to organize the 2021 Annual Security Review Conference on 31 August and 1 September in accordance with the agenda and organizational modalities contained in the annexes to this decision.

2021 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE

Vienna, 31 August and 1 September 2021

Back to basics: our commitments, our security, our OSCE

Tuesday, 31 August 2021

10 a.m.–12 noon	Opening session
12 noon	Lunch break
1–3 p.m.	Special session I: Ensuring security and stability in the OSCE region in light of developments with respect to Ukraine
3–3.30 p.m.	Break
3.30–5.30 p.m.	Working session I: Conflicts and crises in the OSCE area – building security and confidence
5.30–6.30 p.m.	Break
6.30–8.30 p.m.	Special session II: The Structured Dialogue

Wednesday, 1 September 2021

10 a.m.–12 noon	Working session II: Transnational threats – current and future trends in the OSCE area and beyond
12 noon–1 p.m.	Lunch break
1–3 p.m.	Working session III: Conventional arms control and CSBMs – challenges and opportunities
3–3.30 p.m.	Break
3.30–5.30 p.m.	Working session IV: Early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation – lessons learned and the way ahead 10th anniversary
5.30–6 p.m.	Closing session

ORGANIZATIONAL MODALITIES OF THE 2021 ANNUAL SECURITY REVIEW CONFERENCE

Vienna, 31 August and 1 September 2021

Background

The Tenth Meeting of the OSCE Ministerial Council, at Porto, by adopting its Decision No. 3 dated 7 December 2002, established the Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC) to provide a framework for enhancing security dialogue and for reviewing the security work undertaken by the OSCE and its participating States, as well as an opportunity to exchange views on issues related to arms control and confidence- and security-building measures, and to promote the exchange of information and co-operation with relevant international and regional organizations and institutions.

Organization

A representative of the Chairperson-in-Office will chair the opening and closing sessions. The Secretariat will issue a journal of the Conference.

Each working session will have a moderator and a rapporteur, as will each special session. The Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) will serve as co-ordinator for the preparation of the working sessions.

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) will contribute to the Conference in accordance with its procedures, mandate and competences. In particular, the third working session will be chaired by the Chairperson of the FSC.

The ASRC will be subject to the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE. The guidelines for organizing OSCE meetings (Permanent Council Decision No. 762) will also be taken into account.

Interpretation from and into all six working languages of the OSCE will be provided at the opening, special, working and closing sessions.

The OSCE Chairmanship-in-Office (Sweden) will prepare the work of this year's ASRC, in close co-ordination with the FSC Chairperson and the OSCE Secretariat.

Following the Conference, the Chairperson-in-Office will distribute a comprehensive report of the Conference's proceedings.

The Communication and Media Relations Section (COMMS) will inform the press, as appropriate, and will work in close co-ordination with the Chairmanship.

Participation

The participating States are encouraged to be represented at a high level, by senior officials from capitals who are responsible for security-related policy in the OSCE area.

The OSCE institutions will participate in the Conference, as will the Secretary General and the CPC. The OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Partners for Co-operation are also invited to participate.

The Chairmanship may also invite heads of OSCE field operations to participate in the Conference. Heads of field operations or other high-ranking OSCE officials may also be invited to serve as keynote speakers or moderators.

The international organizations that may be invited are the security-related organizations mentioned in Permanent Council Decision No. 951 of 29 July 2010.

Consideration will be given to the possibility of inviting security-related scientific institutes, think tanks of international standing and NGOs to send keynote speakers or moderators, or to be represented as members of national delegations.

General guidelines for participants

The work of the ASRC will be conducted in eight sessions. The opening session is intended to set the stage for substantive, focused and interactive discussions during the special and working sessions. The opening session will include welcoming remarks by the Chairmanship-in-Office. The Chairmanship will explore the possibility of inviting high-level special guests to address the Conference.

Each working session and the special sessions will focus on a specific subject, introduced by keynote speakers, whose addresses will be followed by a discussion of relevant topics in accordance with the agenda.

The aim is interactive and free-flowing discussion.

In order to further enhance the effectiveness of security activities across all three dimensions of the OSCE, it is expected that each of the sessions will also address aspects of co-operation with international and regional organizations.

To encourage interactive discussion, interventions by delegations at the opening, special and working sessions should be as concise as possible, not exceeding five minutes in length. Moderators will be asked to enforce these time limits strictly. Prior circulation of statements and interventions will enhance the possibility of free-flowing discussion.

In accordance with the information circular regarding organizational aspects of the Conference sent out by the OSCE Secretariat, participants should inform the OSCE Secretariat of the composition of their delegations to the ASRC by 27 August 2021.

Participating States and other participants in the Conference are invited to submit any written contributions by 27 August 2021.

Written contributions should be submitted to Conference Services, which will then distribute them. Inputs to be circulated may also include, if appropriate, contributions by OSCE institutions and other international organizations.

Guidelines for keynote speakers

Keynote speakers should address the subject of their respective session, setting the scene for the subsequent discussion among delegations by raising appropriate thematic questions and suggesting potential recommendations for the work of the OSCE.

Presentations should be brief and concise and remain within the limit of 10 minutes per keynote speaker.

Keynote speakers should be present during the entire session at which they are speaking, and should stand ready to engage in the debate following their presentation.

Keynote speakers should provide a written contribution and their curriculum vitae to the CPC by 27 August 2021. Within their presentations, keynote speakers should touch upon the highlights (or core elements) of their written contribution.

Guidelines for moderators and rapporteurs

Moderators chairing the special and working sessions should facilitate and foster the debate among delegations. Moderators should facilitate the discussion by introducing items strictly related to the subject of the session they are chairing.

Following the Conference, the written reports provided by rapporteurs should address issues raised during the special and working sessions, covering suggestions elaborated during the sessions, and other relevant information. Personal views will not be accepted as part of the reports.

Moderators and rapporteurs should identify and summarize specific recommendations advanced during their respective session.

Guidelines for the participation of other international organizations

International and regional organizations may participate in all special and working sessions. They are kindly invited to focus on aspects of co-operation with the OSCE within the scope of the relevant session.

International and regional organizations should provide the participants of the ASRC with factual and relevant information on their work by sending such information to Conference Services by 27 August 2021.

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Attachment

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**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 Armenia:

“Madam Chairperson,

In connection with the adoption of the Permanent Council decisions on the dates, agenda and organizational modalities of the Annual Security Review Conference (ASRC), the delegation of Armenia would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

The position of Armenia on the draft decisions on the dates and on the agenda and organizational modalities of the 2021 ASRC was presented in detail during the discussions in the Preparatory Committee, in the letter addressed to the Chairperson of the Permanent Council distributed on 29 June under reference number PC.DEL/1029/21, as well as on 30 June 2021 at the 981st meeting of the Forum for Security Co-operation.

We once again reiterate that as the key annual security event of the OSCE the ASRC should address and discuss major security challenges to the peace and security in the OSCE area of responsibility. The 2002 Porto Ministerial Council decision clearly prescribes to hold the ASRC annually being mindful of the danger conflicts in various regions in the OSCE area pose to all participating States.

It is alarming that the current security situation in the OSCE area created by an illegal use of force which resulted in thousands of losses, mass displacement and enormous destruction is being sidelined from the agenda of the ASRC. Such a deviation from the mandate of this Organization and purpose of the ASRC is indeed unprecedented.

At the same time, bearing in mind the efforts by the Swedish OSCE Chairmanship and in a spirit of compromise, the delegation of Armenia demonstrated utmost flexibility and a constructive stance to help overcome the stalemate and reach consensus on the main annual security event of the OSCE with an understanding that security challenges emanating from the use of force within the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict will be thoroughly discussed and assessed in the Organization.

We expect that the constructive stance by Armenia will be duly appreciated and relevant conclusions will be drawn for the preparations of the 2022 Annual Security Review Conference.

With this in mind Armenia joined the consensus on the decisions on the dates and on the agenda and organizational modalities of the 2021 Annual Security Review Conference.

I kindly ask that this interpretative statement be attached to the decision on the agenda and organizational modalities of the 2021 Annual Security Review Conference, as well as to the journal of the day.

Thank you.”