



Follow-Up on Recommendations in the OSCE PA's Oslo Declaration

**General Committee on
Political Affairs and Security**

Final Report for the 2011 Annual Session

Prepared by the International Secretariat

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Note on sources: In December 2010, the International Secretariat circulated a questionnaire to OSCE PA Delegations, asking for information on the implementation of OSCE PA recommendations in the Oslo Declaration. This report offers citations of the responses provided by parliaments, which are available in electronic format from the OSCE PA International Secretariat. The International Secretariat wishes to thank the Delegations that provided answers, as well as the OSCE Secretary General for information provided on behalf of the OSCE.

Introduction

Around 250 parliamentarians from 43 OSCE participating States met in Oslo from 6 to 10 July 2010 to assess developments and challenges relating to security and co-operation, focusing on the general theme of *Rule of Law: Combating Transnational Crime and Corruption*. In addition to addressing the politico-military dimension of the theme, the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security passed resolutions dealing with, *inter alia*, strengthening the 1999 Vienna Document, nuclear security, Moldova and Afghanistan. Another resolution debated and adopted in plenary on the final day of the Annual Session dealt with the situation in Kyrgyzstan.

This Follow-Up Report considers actions taken by the OSCE, including Institutions and Field Operations, over the past year in relation to the OSCE PA's recommendations. Developments within participating States relating to the Oslo Declaration's recommendations are detailed in responses provided by national OSCE PA delegations on a voluntary basis, and are available in electronic format. The Secretariat wishes to extend sincere thanks to those delegations that took the time to respond in the interest of sharing best practices.

While the majority of the recommendations addressed here are found in the OSCE PA's Oslo Declaration of July 2010, key themes from past Declarations have also been considered, to ensure greater continuity and scope. The International Secretariat appreciates the input on their work within these fields provided by the OSCE Secretary General, the Representative on Freedom of the Media and the Director of the Office for Democratic Institutions and Human Rights.

The Astana Summit

In December 2010, Heads of State and Government assembled in Astana in the first OSCE Summit meeting in 11 years, as had been called for by the OSCE parliamentarians in Oslo. The meeting was intended to bring renewed political impetus to the OSCE process. In a commemorative declaration, the leaders of the OSCE participating States reaffirmed their adherence "to all OSCE norms, principles and commitments, starting from the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris, the Charter for European Security and all other OSCE documents to which we have agreed, and our responsibility to implement them fully and in good faith." While no specific new agreements were reached, participating States reiterated their commitment to comprehensive, co-operative, equal and indivisible security, which relates the maintenance of peace to the respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, and links economic and environmental co-operation with peaceful inter-State relations.

The Astana Summit was preceded by an OSCE Review Conference held in Warsaw, Vienna and Astana, which considered implementation of a wide range of OSCE commitments.

Kyrgyzstan

I. Oslo Declaration

Adopted in plenary session, the OSCE PA's Resolution on the Situation in Kyrgyzstan urges the OSCE to help restore calm and order by strengthening the democratic institutions in Kyrgyzstan, encouraging respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, supporting civil society, establishing a framework for dialogue among the ethnic communities, assisting and monitoring police and law enforcement, and promoting confidence-building measures between the authorities in Kyrgyzstan and ethnic communities. It also calls for an international investigation into the causes of violence in southern Kyrgyzstan.

II. Major Developments

Kyrgyzstan Inquiry Commission (KIC) report on the June events in southern Kyrgyzstan

President Roza Otunbaeva formally asked OSCE PA Special Representative for Central Asia Kimmo Kiljunen to “co-ordinate the preparation process for the International Independent Commission for Inquiry” into the June interethnic violence in the southern part of Kyrgyzstan.¹ Kiljunen presented a plan to establish the International Independent Commission of Inquiry to President Otunbaeva² and the Kyrgyz Government agreed to its terms of reference. A Finnish NGO, the Crisis Management Initiative provided organizational support to the KIC,³ with funding from several OSCE states. The Commission opened public offices in Osh and Jalal-Abad cities and ran from October 2010 to January 2011.

At the OSCE PA's Winter Meeting on 24 February, Kiljunen, reported on the organizational proceedings and the results of the Independent Commission of Inquiry on the June 2010 events. Despite a common will of the international community to establish the commission, he said, the work started with delay due to the difficulties of forging consensus on organizational aspects. Working from October 2010 to January 2011 a team of experts conducted around 700 interviews, and collected around 1,000 statements and 5,000 photographs.

Kiljunen stressed that the report aims to provide a narrative objectively providing a picture of the incidents, qualifying crimes in terms of international humanitarian law and identifying the responsibilities of military and security forces, as well as non-state armed actors including both institutional and individual agents. The Special Representative also pointed to the use of systematic gender violence during the tragic events.

Kiljunen also outlined the report's recommendations, which focus on principles of reconciliation, accountability and fighting impunity. He further called upon the international community to follow up on the situation in the country.

¹ OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, “Kiljunen organizing international investigation of violence in Kyrgyzstan”, News from Copenhagen 355, 28 July 2010.

² OSCE Centre in Bishkek, “SEC.FR/0396/10 Spot Report 60/10, Situational Update on Kyrgyzstan”, 23 July 2010.

³ OSCE Centre in Bishkek, “SEC.FR/0453/10 Spot Report 73/10, Situational Update on Kyrgyzstan”, 24 August 2010.

The KIC report was released to the public on 3 May 2011. The document draws a comprehensive and detailed narrative of the June 2010 events and their historical background. It also seeks to analyze the causes leading up to the events and the circumstances surrounding their occurrence. The report's findings are based on extensive research, documentation and testimony, balanced between ethnic Kyrgyz and ethnic Uzbeks.

The report establishes that the June 2010 violence resulted in 470 deaths, of which 74 per cent were ethnic Uzbeks and 25 per cent ethnic Kyrgyz. There was also extensive damage to property, most of which was owned by ethnic Uzbek. The KIC collected allegations of rape and sexual violence from both sides. During the presentation of the report it was stated it does not blame either ethnic community for the violence, instead ascribing responsibility to "political fanaticism" using "ethno-nationalist sentiments."

The KIC recognizes three main political forces involved in the events (the Provisional Government, pro-Bakiev supporters, and ethnic Uzbek political leaders), which were functioning in a post-April 2010 "power vacuum." The report underlines the basic responsibility of any Government to protect all of its citizens, which, it points out, was not fulfilled in southern Kyrgyzstan in June 2010. The Report made key recommendations on steps forward to the authorities in Kyrgyzstan.⁴ The Report and its recommendations received wide support in the OSCE community, but a mixed reaction in Bishkek. The Parliament voted to ban the author from the country. Other political actors, including President Otunbaeva and civil society representatives have publicly spoken out in favor of the report and called for the Parliament to follow up on the Report's recommendations.

The OSCE Police Advisory Group and the Kyrgyzstan Community Security Initiative

On 22 July 2010, representatives of all OSCE participating States including Kyrgyzstan voted in favour of the decision to deploy a Police Advisory Group in the southern part of Kyrgyzstan for a period of four months, which could be further extended under the agreement of the Kyrgyz authorities and the other 55 participating States of the OSCE.⁵ Under this decision, the OSCE Police Advisory Group would have consisted of 52 international advisors from OSCE participating States, whose tasks would have been to monitor the work of territorial units of the Interior Ministry and advise them on methods to restore public order, as well as help reduce interethnic tension. Members of the Group would have not been able to intervene in any way, to hold or arrest people, or to investigate crimes, as they would have not been a peacekeeping force and would have been unarmed.⁶

⁴ Kyrgyzstan Inquiry Commission, "Report of the Independent International Commission of Inquiry into the events in Southern Kyrgyzstan in June 2010", published on 3 May 2011.

⁵ OSCE Permanent Council, "Decision n°947 OSCE Police Advisory Group to Kyrgyzstan", 824th Plenary Meeting, 22 July 2010, <<http://www.osce.org/pc/70950>>

⁶ OSCE Secretariat, "OSCE Police Advisory Group in Kyrgyzstan: Frequently Asked Questions", 4 August 2010, <<http://www.osce.org/secretariat/71046>>.

Following extensive consultations, the initiative was downgraded to a Community Security Initiative, citing unspecified “changed circumstances in the country.”⁷ Under this new project, up to 31 international staff, supported by 27 locally recruited staff, work throughout Kyrgyzstan for a period of one year.

Advice and support is provided to the Interior Ministry's territorial units to uphold the rule of law, and work on matters related to respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms as well as the protection of potentially vulnerable persons, including women. The project facilitates confidence-building between the police and local communities by enhancing and encouraging dialogue and co-operation between the police and the population, as well as between different ethnic communities.⁸

10 October Parliamentary Elections

Following an invitation from the Kyrgyz authorities, an OSCE Election Observation Mission was deployed to observe the parliamentary elections on 10 October 2010.⁹ The OSCE Chairperson-in-Office appointed Morten Hoeglund, Deputy Head of the Norwegian Delegation to the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, to lead the short-term OSCE observer mission. On Election Day, 266 observers were deployed throughout the country, including 246 short-term observers from the OSCE/ODIHR, a nine-member delegation from the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and an 11-member delegation from the European Parliament. In total, observers from 36 OSCE participating States were present in the country.

The parliamentary elections constituted a further consolidation of the democratic process and brought the country closer to meeting its international commitments on democratic elections.¹⁰ The observers pointed out, however, that there is an urgent need for electoral legal reform. Several recommendations were made on amending the framework ahead of the upcoming presidential election.¹¹

Current political situation

Following a constitutional referendum and parliamentary elections, the parliament was able to form a fragile coalition. Maintaining political stability, economic development and building democratic institutions are among the Government's main priorities. Several national investigations followed the tragic events in Osh, and reconciliation remains an important political issue.

⁷ OSCE Permanent Council, “Decision n°961 Community Security Initiative in Kyrgyzstan”, 838th Plenary Meeting, 18 November 2010, <<http://www.osce.org/pc/73656>>.

⁸ OSCE, “OSCE participating States agree to adapt police support to Kyrgyzstan”, 18 November 2010, <<http://www.osce.org/item/47715.html>>.

⁹ OSCE/ODIHR, “Parliamentary Elections”, 10 October 2010, <<http://www.osce.org/odihhr/74647>>.

¹⁰ OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, “Hoeglund ‘impressed’ by political pluralism in Kyrgyzstan's parliamentary elections, News from Copenhagen 361, 13 October 2010.

¹¹ OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, “Kyrgyzstan's vibrant and pluralistic parliamentary elections constitute further consolidation of democracy”, 11 October 2010, <http://www.oscepa.org/index.php?view=article&id=922%3Akyrgyzstans-vibrant-and-pluralistic-parliamentary-elections-constitute-further-consolidation-of-democracy&option=com_content&Itemid=73>.

The revised Constitution of June 2010 calls for a presidential election before the end of 2011, with an October election date seen as likely. The incumbent President is not permitted to stand for re-election.

To enable the election to proceed, a number of electoral laws must be passed. The presidential contenders include the main actors of the April 2010 events, which led to the ousting of president Bakiyev, the authors of the new Constitution to establish a parliamentary system of government, as well as candidates who favour stronger Presidential Government.¹² Nationalism is expected to be an element in the presidential campaign.

Strengthening the Role, Efficiency and Impact of the OSCE PA and its Involvement in the Corfu Process

I. Oslo Declaration

Several resolutions in the Oslo Declaration deal with the role and future of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. The Resolution on Strengthening the Involvement of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in the Corfu Process on Security in Europe aims to streamline the process of reform within the OSCE Institutions and to further involve the OSCE Parliament Assembly, tasking the Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability to strengthen the OSCE's parliamentary dimension in the Corfu Process. It also calls on the Ad Hoc Committee to consider ways to enhance structured and systematic dialogue between the Assembly and the Ministerial Council, specifically proposing the examination of the PA's formal participation in the decision-making process of the OSCE, the adoption of the convention on legal personality and privileges and immunities as well as the adoption of an OSCE constituent document.

Another resolution on the OSCE PA's future priorities calls for the preparation of a ten-year action plan for the OSCE and the OSCE PA in order to further implement and enforce decisions and Declarations and "to strengthen national and government level of understanding of the value of the PA." It pledges to continue to promote gender balance within OSCE PA national delegations, as well as in the OSCE structures, and as a human right in the participating States.

Two further resolutions deal with the efficiency and impact of the OSCE PA. The resolution on Strengthening the Role, Efficiency and Impact of the Parliamentary Assembly calls upon the Parliamentary Assembly's delegations to facilitate the implementation of OSCE principles and commitments in the OSCE participating States and recommends them to actively seek contact with the Governments in the participating States and to establish regular exchanges in order to look into the implementation of the recommendations of the OSCE PA. Finally, the resolution on Promoting and Atmosphere of Trust in the OSCE PA urges parliamentarians to commit themselves to non-confrontational and constructive work and calls on the participating States to co-operate effectively on new challenges and threats.

¹² Report to the Permanent Council by the Head of the OSCE Centre in Bishkek, 20 May 2011.

II. OSCE PA Initiatives

President Petros Efthymiou and Secretary General Spencer Oliver held meetings in Vilnius with the President of Lithuania, Dalia Grybauskaitė and Minister of Foreign Affairs Audronius Azubalis in mid-October. Discussions focused primarily on Lithuania's preparations to take over the OSCE Chairmanship in 2011, with President Efthymiou emphasizing the importance of raising the level of political dialogue in the OSCE, including through high-level participation in the Astana Summit.¹³ During the Summit, President Efthymiou emphasized the important role of the Assembly advocating for OSCE reforms and greater involvement of the PA.¹⁴

The OSCE PA Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability

In September 2010 the Committee held a meeting with the Chairperson of the Permanent Council, the ten ambassadorial Co-ordinators of the Corfu Process and the OSCE Secretary General. The aim of the visit was to provide input into the Corfu Process leading up to the Astana Summit in line with the expanded mandate of the Ad Hoc Committee. The Chair of the Permanent Council Ambassador Kairat Abdrakhmanov thanked the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly for its support to the Chairmanship, which had been crucial especially in reaching an agreement on the summit. The Corfu Co-ordinators supported the OSCE PA initiative to engage in the discussions within the Corfu Process and welcomed further input from the PA.¹⁵ During the visit, the OSCE PA Special Representative on the OSCE Budget Petur Blondal also requested that OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut consider the possibility of having the PA appoint outside independent professional auditors.¹⁶

On the occasion of the Fall Meetings in Palermo, the Committee on Transparency and Accountability met twice and produced a report including previously passed OSCE PA recommendations on all the ten points included in the Corfu Process summary document, which was submitted to the OSCE Chairmanship, the Secretary General and all participating States before the OSCE Summit. With regard to the decision-making procedure, the Committee repeated the proposal to modify the consensus rule for decisions concerning personnel, budget and administration by implementing an approximate consensus of 90 per cent and eliminate the practice of countries blocking consensus anonymously. In order to strengthen transparency in the Organization the Committee called for substantive discussion of OSCE PA recommendations. Additionally, a multi-year financial plan should be adopted to pursue long-term strategies. The

¹³ OSCE PA: "President Efthymiou in Vilnius and Moscow to discuss future OSCE work, 20 October 2010.

¹⁴ OSCE PA: "Address by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Mr. Petros Efthymiou", 1 December 2010, 18 July 2011

¹⁵ OSCE PA News from Copenhagen: "Transparency Committee discusses Corfu Process in Vienna", 8 September 2010, http://www.oscepa.org/images/stories/documents/News%20from%20Copenhagen/2010_327-/News_from_Copenhagen_356.pdf

¹⁶ OSCE PA Press Release: "Transparency Committee discusses OSCE Corfu Process in Vienna", 8 September 2010, http://oscepa.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=905:transparency-committee-discusses-corfu-process-in-vienna&catid=48:Press%20Releases&Itemid=73.

Committee also called for an open competition to select professional auditors, who would receive remuneration from and report directly to the OSCE PA.¹⁷

On 23 May, Members of the Committee met in Vienna to discuss their draft report to the Standing Committee in Belgrade in July. They also had meetings with relevant OSCE Ambassadors and staff on follow-up to the Corfu Process and the Astana Summit. The Committee met with the Romanian and Slovakian Ambassadors who serve as the Chairmanship's Co-ordinator on Post-Conflict Rehabilitation and Early Warning respectively, as well as with the Deputy Representative of the Lithuanian Delegation as a representative of the Chairmanship. Members were briefed on the ongoing discussions in the Permanent Council and the preliminary work in planning draft Ministerial Council decisions for the Vilnius meeting later this year. Members discussed ways to increase the role of the OSCE PA in the work of the OSCE and to enhance the level of transparency and accountability in the Organization, including the non-transparent selection process for the new Secretary General.

In addition, the idea of establishing focal points in all OSCE Institutions for early warning in order to enhance the OSCE's capabilities for quick reaction was examined during a meeting with the Head of the Planning and Analysis Team of Operation Service at the Conflict Prevention Centre.

OSCE PA Special Representative on Gender Issues

Following the retirement of Tone Tingsgaard (Sweden), who served as Special Representative from 2003 to 2010, Dr. Hedy Fry (Canada) was appointed OSCE PA's Special Representative on Gender Issues by President Petros Efthymiou on 19 October. As Special Representative, Dr. Fry will continue Tingsgaard's work in promoting discussion of the gender issue within the OSCE and in particular the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and develop, in co-operation with the Gender Unit at the International Secretariat, a more active gender profile of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.¹⁸

At the 2011 Winter Meeting, in her first address to the Assembly as Special Representative, Dr. Fry described Canada's approach to gender-based analysis and outlined her strategy to promote more female members to the Bureau of the Assembly. She called upon participating States to nominate more women to high level positions within the OSCE and stressed the need to continue dialogue on gender-related topics and promote mainstreaming in the OSCE's work.

III. OSCE Initiatives

Secretary General's Response

¹⁷ OSCE PA Report: "2010 Fall Meetings Palermo 8-11 October 2010", http://www.oscepa.org/images/stories/documents/activities/3.Fall%20Meetings/2010-Palermo/2010_FM_Palermo_Summary_Report.pdf.

¹⁸ OSCE PA Press Release: "Hedy Fry appointed new Special Representative on Gender Issues", 26 October 2010, www.oscepa.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=929:hedy-fry-appointed-new-special-representative-on-gender-issues&catid=48:Press%20Releases&Itemid=73

In response to the PA's request that the OSCE hold regular meetings with the Asian Partners for Co-operation, OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut underlined that OSCE participating States and Asian Partners for Co-operation meet regularly in Vienna in the framework of the Asian Contact Group. The Group met five times in 2010, and six meetings are planned for 2011, the Secretary General indicated.

Astana Summit

Speaking on the opening day of the OSCE's Summit in Astana, President Efthymiou emphasized that the potentials of the OSCE are hindered by an identity crisis, rooted in the absence of a common direction as well as a lack of mutual trust. Nevertheless, the OSCE is indispensable in facing the security challenges in all three dimensions. The Corfu Process, he said, has the potential to rebuild trust among members of the Organization and create a genuine "security community," re-orienting OSCE political actions towards results. President Efthymiou also highlighted the important role of the PA in promoting democratic governance, inter-parliamentary dialogue and thus, in rebuilding trust. He put forward a set of reforms needed in order to strengthen transparency and accountability in the decision-making processes, in the workings of the Permanent Council and in the selection processes for the positions of Secretary General and the ODIHR Director.¹⁹

Chairmanship's Priorities

The 2010 Kazakh OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Kanat Saudabayev, invited the OSCE participating States' Ministers of Foreign Affairs to an informal ministerial meeting on Corfu Process in mid-July. The meeting focused primarily on reviewing the progress that has been achieved in the dialogue on Euro-Atlantic and Eurasian Security within the Corfu Process. It resulted in an agreement on further commitment as follows:

- Increase effort to implement, follow up and update as necessary OSCE commitments;
- Transform the OSCE into a fully-fledged international organization;
- Ensure progress on CSBMs and on restoring the CFE Treaty regime.²⁰

In his first address to the Permanent Council, the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Azubalis, committed to prepare a Framework for Action, which will also take into consideration ideas and proposals put forward by the participating States in the framework of the Corfu Process.²¹ It will mainly aim to improve the programme and budget planning process within the OSCE and to reach an agreement on the OSCE Financial

¹⁹ OSCE PA: "Address by the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, Mr. Petros Efthymiou at the OSCE Summit in Astana December 2010", 1 December 2010.

²⁰ OSCE: "Kazakhstan OSCE Chairmanship's perception paper Outcome of the Almaty Informal Ministerial Meeting 16-17 July 2010"

²¹ OSCE: "Address by the Chairman in Office of the OSCE, Lithuanian Foreign Minister H.E. Audronius Azubalis, at the special meeting of the OSCE Permanent Council", 13 January 2011.

Regulations and possible amendments to the OSCE Staff Regulations, *inter alia*, salary policies and limits to the periods of service and improvement of the secondment system.²²

On 15 March 2011, the Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship launched a series of discussions among the 56 participating States as a follow-up to the Astana Summit.²³ The dialogue, building on the Corfu Process, aims to promote exchanges on topics related to security and co-operation in the OSCE area, such as conflict prevention and resolution; transnational threats; energy and environmental issues; and security and human rights.

Strengthening the 1999 Vienna Document Regime on CSBM Negotiations

I. Oslo Declaration

Recalling the Charter for European Security and the decision of the 2009 OSCE Ministerial Council in Athens, the OSCE PA Oslo Declaration welcomes the new activities of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) in strengthening the 1999 Vienna Document and “calls on participating States to hold vigorous negotiations in the interests of signing in the near future, if possible by the end of 2010, a new version of the Vienna Document.”

Vienna Document Background

Adopted in 1990, the Vienna Document built on the 1975 Helsinki Final Act's provisions on early notification of military exercises involving 25,000 or more military personnel and the 1986 Stockholm Conference's provisions on prior notification and observation of military activities and verification measures. Additionally, it envisaged exchange/verification on force structures and major weapon holdings, a set of military contacts, an annual implementation assessment meeting and a risk reduction mechanism. The adoption of the Vienna Document represented a milestone in confidence- and security-building regimes and has strengthened transparency and predictability as well as early warning and crisis prevention throughout the OSCE region.

It was updated in 1992 to include the 15 new OSCE participating States, in 1994 to provide additional parameters for prior notification and observation, and in 1999 to introduce two chapters on regional measures and defence planning respectively.²⁴ Further modifications are widely considered overdue to adapt the Document to technological and geopolitical changes.

II. OSCE Initiatives

Astana Summit

²² OSCE CiO: “Programme of Lithuania's chairmanship 2011”, 21 January 2011, <http://esbo.urm.lt/index.php?1860759643>.

²³ OSCE: ‘OSCE launches post-Summit discussions’, 03 March 2011, <http://www.osce.org/cio/76108>.

²⁴ OSCE Magazine: ‘OSCE Summit in Changing Times’, Issue Number 4/2010.

At the Astana Summit, participating States welcomed the work of the FSC and acknowledged the importance of conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building regimes as “major instruments for ensuring military stability, predictability and transparency.”²⁵ Further, the FSC was provided a clear task for revitalizing, updating and modernizing the 1999 Vienna Document. Progress achieved will be reviewed at the next OSCE Ministerial Council meeting in Vilnius on 6-7 December 2011.

The CFE Treaty's contribution to the creation of a stable and predictable environment for all participating OSCE states is praised by the Astana Commemorative Declaration though it is noted that the CFE Treaty is not being implemented in its full capacity and that the Agreement on the Adaptation of the CFE Treaty has not yet entered into force.²⁶

2011 OSCE Chairmanship Priorities

The Lithuanian Chairmanship has indicated that a substantial update of the 1999 Vienna Document and the adoption of a programme for action is a realistic goal for 2011. In order to better anticipate and prevent potential crises from emerging the Chairmanship has outlined the following priorities:

- Strengthen the analytical and operational capacity of the OSCE executive structures;
- Promote more systematic collection, collation and analysis of early warning signals from various sources;
- Task the Secretariat to compile and assess lessons previously learned on crisis management.²⁷

Forum for Security Co-operation

In May 2010 the Forum for Security Co-operation was tasked to proceed with the modernization of the 1999 Vienna Document (VD) while maintaining the continued functioning of the existing document until its replacement by an agreed upon modified version, the so-called VD-PLUS. The participating States also agreed to hold a special FSC meeting at least every five years, starting this year.²⁸ Additionally, in September the FSC was tasked more specifically to update Chapter V “Prior Notification of Certain Military Activities” and IX “Compliance and Verification.”²⁹

²⁵ OSCE: ‘Astana Commemorative Declaration towards a Security Community SUM.DOC/1/10’, par. 8, 3 December 2010, <http://www.osce.org/mc/73962>.

²⁶ OSCE: ‘Astana Commemorative Declaration towards a Security Community SUM.DOC/1/10’, par. 8, 3 December 2010, <http://www.osce.org/mc/73962>.

²⁷ OSCE CiO: ‘Programme of Lithuania's chairmanship 2011’, 21 January 2011, <http://esbo.urm.lt/index.php?1860759643>.

²⁸ OSCE FSC: ‘Decision No. 1/10. Establishing a procedure for incorporating relevant FSC decisions into the Vienna Document’, 19 May 2010; ‘Decision No. 12/10 Vienna Document Plus incorporating FSC Decision No. 1/10 into the Vienna Document Chapter XII’, 10 November 2010.

²⁹ OSCE FSC: “Decision No. 7/10. Negotiations on the Vienna Document 1999”, 29 September 2010.

The FSC was able to take five decisions and thus update to some extent Chapter IV "Contacts," Chapter IX "Compliance and Verification" and Chapter XII "Final Provisions." These decisions are related to the update of the VD, the eligibility of airbases for hosting visits, the timing of demonstrations of new types of major weapon and equipment systems, national holidays and the update of the Partners for Co-operation.

More than 20 proposals made by the participating States have been published. Without prejudicing their strategic importance and the result of negotiations, among them a proposal on "Lowering the Thresholds for Prior Notification of Certain Military Activities" in Chapter V as well as a proposal in line with the 2005 Statement by the Chairperson of the FSC on the possibility to notify each year one major military exercise or activity below the thresholds in the absence of any notifiable military exercise or activity in a calendar year.³⁰ Moreover, proposals for new types of confidence-and security- building measures have been considered.

The amended Chapter IV has expanded the timing of demonstrations of new types of major weapon and equipment systems and the criteria for eligibility of air bases for hosting visits under specific and nonbinding circumstances.³¹ For participating States with only one air combat unit reported under paragraph (10) it envisages the possibility to organize the next visit to another military air base that has not been reported under paragraph (10), provided the visit to the only air base during the previous five-year period. Nevertheless, preference shall be given to the only air base as reported under paragraph (10) in case it has been substantially upgraded or modernized.³² Chapter IX has been integrated by the provisions of taking national holidays into account when planning verification activities.³³

Afghanistan, Australia, Mongolia and Thailand have been included in the listing of Asian Partners for Co-operation together with Japan and Republic of Korea. The VD-PLUS is to be transmitted to them as of amended Chapter XII.³⁴

In March 2011, the FSC adopted a decision that aims to prevent surplus, expired or obsolete conventional ammunition from ending up in the hands of criminal or terrorist groups.³⁵ The decision, the first of its kind internationally, recommends destruction as the preferred method of disposal of such ammunition. In addition to preventing illegal trade of the ammunition,

³⁰ OSCE FSC: "VIENNA DOCUMENT 1999 Compilation of FSC Decisions and Chairperson's statements related to the Vienna", 24 November 2010.

Document issued since the adoption of the VD 99.

³¹ OSCE FSC: 'Decision No. 11/10 Vienna Document Plus Timing of a Demonstration of New Types of Major Weapon and Equipment Systems', 10 November 2010, 'Decision No. 15/10 Vienna Document Plus Eligibility of Air Bases for Hosting Visits', 24 November 2010.

³² OSCE FSC: 'Decision No. 15/10 Vienna Document Plus Eligibility Of Air Bases For Hosting Visits', 24 November 2010.

³³ OSCE FSC: 'Decision No. 10/10 Vienna Document Plus Taking National Holidays into account when planning verification activities', 27 October 2010.

³⁴ SCE FSC: 'Decision No. 13/10 Vienna Document Plus Updating The Listing Of Partners For Co-Operation Mentioned In Chapter XII', 10 November 2010.

³⁵ OSCE: 'New OSCE decision to prevent surplus ammunition falling into wrong hands', 23 March 2011, <http://www.osce.org/fsc/76195>.

destruction also eliminates the risk of injuries or fatalities that could be caused by exploding ammunition. The decision states that in cases where participating States choose to export the ammunition instead of destroying it, they must do so in line with the strict OSCE principles governing conventional arms transfers. These principles specify criteria that must be considered before authorizing an export.³⁶

Annual Security Conference (ASRC)

On 29 June - 1 July 2011, the Annual Security Conference was held in Vienna.³⁷ This year's ASRC included sessions on:

- OSCE Partners for Co-Operation;
- Transnational threats and challenges;
- Early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation;
- Revitalizing, updating and modernizing conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures regimes.

Other Events

On 24-25 May 2011, the OSCE High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar, organized by the FSC, was held in Vienna and brought together around 300 senior officials.³⁸ Discussions focused on how changes in military technology and military doctrines since the last seminar, held in 2006, have affected or can affect security in the OSCE area. The OSCE organizes periodic military doctrine seminars as specified in the Vienna Document 1999.

On 7-9 June, a regional seminar on the Vienna Document 1999 was organized by the OSCE Centre in Astana and the Ministry of Defence of Kazakhstan. Participants from Central Asian countries and the Southern Caucasus, as well as Belarus and Germany discussed the confidence- and security-building measures stipulated in the Vienna Document 1999, including inspection procedures, the exchange of best practices and the display of weapons and equipment systems.

Nuclear Security

I. Oslo Declaration

Regarding nuclear security, the Oslo Declaration cautions that weakened and corrupt political and legal structures, especially in areas of unresolved conflicts, create “opportunities for the expansion of transnational threats, including illicit trafficking in nuclear and radiological materials, and their means of delivery, and illicit trafficking in ever more sophisticated weapon technologies.” The Declaration therefore calls upon participating States to enhance co-operation

³⁶ Ibid.

³⁷ OSCE: ‘Annual Security Review Conference’, http://www.osce.org/event/asrc_2011.

³⁸ OSCE FSC: Press Release, ‘Recent conflicts, new threats underline need for adapted military doctrine, Italian official says at OSCE meeting’, 24 May 2011, <http://www.osce.org/fsc/78080>.

in countering the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, as included in the commitments stated in United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 and the Athens OSCE Ministerial Declaration on the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. The Declaration emphasizes that countries that “refuse to abide by their international nuclear non-proliferation obligations must be held accountable.”³⁹

II. OSCE Activities

“The Green Pack”

The educational material, known as the Green Pack, was developed in co-operation with the Regional Environmental Center for Central and Eastern Europe and is designed to foster environmentally friendly attitudes and environmental thinking among young people. The OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Ukraine helped adapt the educational materials to the Ukrainian context at the request of the Ministry of Education and Science, Youth and Sports of Ukraine. A multimedia tool-kit for environmental education in secondary schools in Kyiv was presented on 21 April 2011. The launch coincided with Ukraine's marking of the 25th anniversary of the 1986 Chernobyl nuclear disaster. One of the 22 topics discussed in the Green Pack covered the environmental and health risks associated with nuclear energy, drawing on Ukraine's tragic experience 25 years ago.⁴⁰

Lithuanian President on Resolution of protracted conflicts

Lithuanian President Dalia Grybauskaite addressed the OSCE's Permanent Council at a session held in Vienna on 13 April 2011. Among other issues, President Grybauskaite called on all OSCE participating States to be more open to co-operation on nuclear power safety issues and to perform stress tests on nuclear power plants, saying the tragic events in Japan had proved that security must be increased.⁴¹

III. National Initiatives

More on nuclear security initiatives can be found on p. 10 of Azerbaijan's response, pp. 6-8 of Belarus' response, pp. 3, 4 and 9 of Canada's response, p.2 (in 2 document) of France's response, p. 1 (in the First Committee document) and p. 2 (in the Transnational Crime document) of Greece's response, p. 4 of Liechtenstein's response, p. 1 (in 6 document) of Lithuania's response, p. 5 of Poland's response, p. 10 of Romania's response and p. 4 of Germany's response.

³⁹ OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, 2010, “Resolution on Afghanistan”, Oslo Declaration, p. 27.

⁴⁰ OSCE promotes ‘green’ behaviour through education in Ukraine, 21 April 2011, <<http://www.osce.org/ukraine/77146>>.

⁴¹ Resolution of protracted conflicts crucial for OSCE, Lithuanian President says, 13 April 2011, <<http://www.osce.org/cio/76854>>.

Demarcation and Delimitation of State Borders of the Sovereign States in Eastern Europe

I. Oslo Declaration

Guided by the principles of the sovereignty and territorial integrity of the OSCE participating States, the Oslo Declaration urges participating States to take all necessary measures to complete the procedures of delimitation and demarcation of state borders between neighbouring States. It encourages participating States to create, where appropriate, or strengthen bilateral mechanisms with a view to finding appropriate solutions to these problems and calls upon parliamentarians of participating States to ratify, as appropriate, bilateral documents on delimitation and demarcation of state borders.

II. OSCE Initiatives

Lithuanian Chairmanship's Priorities

Rytis Paulaskas, Director of the OSCE Chairmanship Department in Lithuania's Foreign Ministry recently pointed out that border security and management have been placed high on CiO agenda.⁴² Border officials, diplomats, scientists, cartographers, engineers and other experts gathered to discuss good practices in delimitation and demarcation of borders on 31 May in Vilnius for a two-day OSCE Chairmanship seminar in Vilnius.⁴³ The event, which focused on technical aspects of delimitation and demarcation, aimed to foster a constructive and depoliticized discussion and to provide for information exchange.

III. National Initiatives

More on demarcation and delimitation of state borders can be found on p. 6 of Azerbaijan's response, p. 2 of France's response, p. 1 of Lithuania's response, p. 5 of Poland's response and on pp. 10-11 of Romania's response.

Moldova

I. Oslo Declaration

Recalling previous resolutions, the Oslo Declaration calls for the resumption of the settlement talks in the "5+2" format⁴⁴ with the goal of identifying the special legal status for the Transnistrian region within the internationally recognized borders of the Republic of Moldova, with democratization mentioned as an important tool in achieving this goal. The Resolution on

⁴² OSCE CiO Press Release: 'OSCE Seminar Highlights Good Practices in Border Demarcation', Vilnius, 31 May 2011, <http://www.osce.org/cio/78297>.

⁴³ *Ibid.*

⁴⁴ Moldova, Transnistria – the sides; OSCE, Russia and Ukraine – mediators; EU and the USA – observers.

Moldova also calls upon the sides to “continue their efforts with regard to Confidence and Security Building Measures” and intensify institutional dialogue and people-to-people contacts.

Additionally, it appeals to “the Russian Federation to renew and finalize the process of withdrawal of its troops and munitions” and invited “all participants to undertake consultations with a view to transforming the current peace-keeping mechanism into a multinational civilian mission under the international (OSCE) mandate.”

II. OSCE Initiatives

Lithuanian Chairmanship Priorities

On 13 January, in his first address to the Permanent Council, OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Audronius Azubalis outlined that the Lithuanian Chairmanship will seek, as a matter of priority, the unconditional resumption of formal 5+2 negotiations and development of concrete confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), as well as facilitation of people-to-people contacts.⁴⁵ Efforts for the resolution of existing conflicts will be undertaken in line with previous Chairmanships, by encouraging parties to work within agreed formats, fully respecting OSCE and other commitments and working with the EU and UN.⁴⁶

In addition, the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office on Gender Issues, Wendy Patten, visited in April 2011. Her visit focused on domestic violence and highlighted the importance of serious and sustained efforts by the government of Moldova to address this human rights issue, working in collaboration with civil society actors.⁴⁷ OSCE Work in Moldova

The Head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova regularly meets with interlocutors to discuss perspectives for official settlement negotiations in the 5+2 format.

An informal round of consultations in the 5+2 format was held in Moscow on 21 June. The participants discussed opportunities for the resumption of the official work of the ‘Permanent Conference on Political Issues in the Framework of the Negotiating Process for Transnistrian Settlement’. The meeting was suspended in order to allow participants in the 5+2 format to consult in their respective capitals, and will be continued without preconditions in Moscow at a point in time to be agreed.

To reinforce CSBMs, the OSCE Mission facilitated a Joint Working Group on Transport and Roads and on Railway Transport. Issues related to the transport of goods by railways, the issuing of certificates to Transnistrian freight and passenger transport service providers, the registration of new routes for passenger traffic and the harmonization of timetables were discussed. Furthermore, a Joint Working Group on Economy and Trade met to discuss possibilities for cooperation between the banking sectors of the sides, the Transnistrian 100 per cent tax on

⁴⁵ OSCE CiO: “Programme of Lithuania's chairmanship 2011”, 21 January 2011, <http://esbo.urm.lt/index.php?1860759643>.

⁴⁶ OSCE Delegates Website: “Address by the Chairman-in-Office of the OSCE, Lithuanian Foreign Minister H.E. Audronius Azubalis, to the OSCE Permanent Council”, 13 January 2011.

⁴⁷ OSCE Press Release, ‘OSCE Chairmanship gender representative visits Moldova’, <http://www.osce.org/cio/76669>

Moldovan goods, import and export problems faced by Transnistrian enterprises, privatization issues and the recognition of property rights.

With the support of the OSCE Mission, Moldova's remaining cluster munitions were destroyed on 29 July 2010 at the Bulboaca training ground.⁴⁸ The country was thus able to declare itself free of cluster munitions on the territory under its control before the entry into force of the international Convention of Cluster Munitions on 1 August 2010.⁴⁹ However, there have been no reports of withdrawals of Russian ammunition, troops or equipment from Moldova this year.⁵⁰

OSCE PA Engagement

The OSCE PA's Parliamentary Team on Moldova, mandated to support democratization, as well as to support the discussions around the status of Transnistria, maintains regular contacts with stakeholders in Chisinau and Tiraspol, in close co-ordination with the OSCE Mission to Moldova.

On 6-8 March 2011 an OSCE PA delegation led by Walburga Habsburg Douglas (Sweden) visited Chisinau and Tiraspol for meetings with Speaker of Parliament and Acting President Marian Lupu, Prime Minister Vlad Filat, Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration Iurie Leanca, the Delegation of Moldova to the OSCE PA, negotiators on both sides of the Nistru river, representatives of the Supreme Soviet in Tiraspol as well as key members of the international community. In their meetings, the Team expressed hope for co-operation with representatives from Chisinau and Tiraspol through the OSCE's parliamentary dimension and explored ways to add to the OSCE Mission's work to build trust between all parties in the country. Interlocutors in Chisinau and Tiraspol agreed to participate in an informal parliamentary seminar in October 2011, in Stockholm.⁵¹

Members of the Parliamentary Assembly delegation included Francois-Xavier de Donnea (Belgium), Canan Kalsin (Turkey) and Alf Dubs (UK). The OSCE Mission to Moldova coordinated the visit in co-operation with the parliament of Moldova.

November 2010 Early Parliamentary and June 2011 Local Elections

The Head of Croatia's OSCE PA delegation and Rapporteur of the First Committee, Tonino Picula, led the short-term OSCE observer mission to Moldova and headed the delegation of OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in November 2010. The Mission assessed that the 28 November early parliamentary elections met most OSCE commitments.⁵²

⁴⁸ Ministry of Defence: "Republic of Moldova destroys all arsenal of cluster ammunition", 29 July 2010, www.army.md/?action=show&cat=4&obj=10076, (accessed 3 August 2010)

⁴⁹ OSCE Mission to Moldova: "Activity Report No 7/2010 July 2010", 13 August 2010.

⁵⁰ OSCE Mission to Moldova: "Activity Report No 11/2010 November 2010", 9 December 2010.

⁵¹ OSCE PA News from Copenhagen: "Parliamentary Team supports OSCE work in Moldova", 9 March 2011

⁵² OSCE PA News from Copenhagen: "Picula: Moldovan elections met most international standards", 1 December 2010, http://www.oscepa.org/images/stories/documents/News%20from%20Copenhagen/2010_327-News_from_Copenhagen_368_COR.pdf.

“These elections reflected the will of the people, and were a positive step in Moldova’s democratic development,” said Picula. “We commend the competitive and pluralistic environment of this country, and hope that the political forces will act responsibly in building bridges and bringing Moldova out of this political crisis.”

Following the 28 November early parliamentary elections, the Liberal Democratic Party (PLDM), the Liberal Party (PL), the Democratic Party (PDM) completed talks on the formation of a government coalition in late December.⁵³ The coalition is composed of 59 members. Constitutionally, 61 votes are needed to elect the President. The new Government was announced on 14 January 2011, with Vlad Filat reappointed Prime Minister. Although the Venice Commission stated that the Constitutional Court is the only authorized body to decide on whether a President could be elected with less than the required majority of votes, the Court refrained from replying to a proposal from the Party of Communists (PCRM) on the issue.⁵⁴ The PCRM have withdrawn their proposal. Since the 2010 parliamentary elections, no dates for presidential election have been set.

Local elections were held on 5 June 2011. In their common preliminary statement, the OSCE and the Council of Europe declared that the elections met Moldova’s commitments. The campaign was competitive and voters were offered a genuine choice. However, the observers noted that remaining legal, administrative and regulatory issues need to be further considered in order to ensure continued forward progress.

III. National Initiatives

More regarding Moldova can be found on pp. 10-11 of Romania’s response to the International Secretariat’s questionnaire.

Guantanamo

I. Oslo Declaration

Underlining the difficulties of closing the Guantanamo Bay detention facility that the U.S. Administration is facing, and recalling that the Guantanamo facility still includes nearly 200 people, the Oslo Declaration calls for the permanent closure of Guantanamo and encourages OSCE participating States to receive detainees who have been cleared for release but who are unable to return to their countries for political reasons.

II. Permanent Council Discussion

⁵³ IPN: “PLDM, PDM and PL finish trilateral talks”, 30 December 2010, <http://www.info-prim.md/?x=22&y=35768>.

⁵⁴ The proposal suggested that the President could be elected by three rounds of voting with decreasing majorities, from 61 votes in the first round to an absolute majority in the third.

At the meeting of the Permanent Council on 17 March, the Permanent Representative of the Republic of Belarus to the OSCE in a statement suggested that the expertise of the OSCE and the ODIHR in particular should be called upon in monitoring the military commission trials of the detainees in the Guantanamo Bay detention facility.⁵⁵ In response, the Permanent Representative of the United States welcomed the proposal. “ODIHR would be welcome to observe such proceedings alongside the international organizations and NGOs that are already in attendance,” the Ambassador said.⁵⁶

Afghanistan

I. Oslo Declaration

Regarding Afghanistan, the Oslo Declaration expressed concern over the deteriorating security situation which is “leading a considerable number of Afghan citizens to leave the country, prevents many young people from attending school, limits economic opportunities, and undermines human rights and the rule of law, in addition to fostering corruption.”

The Parliamentary Assembly recommended that OSCE participating States “step up their law enforcement action against the trafficking of narcotics which originates in Afghanistan and reaches Europe via Iran, Turkey, the Balkans or Pakistan, or alternatively via the former Soviet Central Asian republics and the Russian Federation.” Participating States were urged to sign appropriate agreements with non-OSCE countries bordering Afghanistan as a means of enhancing the effectiveness of measures that were adopted to combat illegal flows of people and narcotics.⁵⁷

II. OSCE Activities

OSCE Training Seminars

The OSCE Presence in Albania, the United States’ International Criminal Investigative Training Assistance Program and the Albanian Police Development Centre organized a one-week course for 17 police instructors in Tirana. The course was completed on 25 February 2011 and its aim was to enable the participants to travel to Afghanistan this summer to train Afghan police in basic policing techniques.⁵⁸

A one-month Senior Staff course on border security and management at the OSCE Border Management Staff College (BMSC) was completed in Dushanbe on 25 March 2011. Participants included twenty-nine officers and managers from border, customs and drug control agencies in Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia and Tajikistan. The officials were trained in law

⁵⁵ Statement by Mr. Alyaksandr Sychov, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Belarus to the OSCE at the meeting of the Permanent Council, PC.DEL/250/11, 18 March 2011.

⁵⁶ United States Missions to the OSCE, ‘Response to ODIHR Director Ambassador Janez Lenarčič’, PC.DEL/230/11, 17 March 2011.

⁵⁷ OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, 2010, “Resolution on Afghanistan”, Oslo Declaration, p. 34.

⁵⁸ OSCE, Albanian state police to train colleagues in Afghanistan following course supported by U.S. training programme, OSCE Presence, 25 February, <<http://www.osce.org/albania/75796>>.

enforcement, economic and environmental aspects of border security, as well as human rights issues related to border security and migration.⁵⁹

As a part of a series of five-week training sessions for customs officers from Afghanistan, which started on 29 March and ended on 29 April 2011, the OSCE Centre in Bishkek held joint training for Afghan and Kyrgyz customs officers on 27 April. The training sessions included vehicle and container searches and border operations for Kyrgyz and Afghan customs officers at the customs point Ak-Jol on the Kyrgyz-Kazakh border. Twenty participants from Afghanistan together with customs instructors from the Training Centre of the State Customs Service of Kyrgyzstan as well as customs officers working at Ak-Jol border point attended the course.⁶⁰

The OSCE's Strategic Policing Matters Unit organized a two-week training program in Ankara 1-13 May 2011. The course on investigation techniques to combat drug smuggling was implemented by the Turkish International Academy against Drugs and Organized Crime (TADOC). Its goal was to provide 11 participants, coming from Afghan law-enforcement background, with the necessary knowledge and skills to combat drug trafficking in an effective and ethical manner.⁶¹

Other Events

The fifth and so far largest Task Force Meeting on OSCE and Tajikistan was held in Dushanbe on 22 February 2011. Both sides confirmed their readiness to work in all three dimensions of comprehensive security in Tajikistan, which among other issues includes border management, engagement with Afghanistan, political dialogue, police reform and counter-terrorism.⁶²

The OSCE Gender Section in co-operation with the Lithuanian Ministry of Social Security and Labour, and the University of Vilnius/Gender Studies Centre organized a conference: "Women's Entrepreneurship in the OSCE: Trends and good practices" in Vilnius on 3 and 4 March 2011. The conference brought together experts and businesswomen to explore trends and good practices of women's entrepreneurship in the OSCE area. A regional focus of the conference was women entrepreneurship in the South Caucasus and Central Asia including Afghanistan.⁶³

On 23 May 2011 a side event was organized as part of the 2011 OSCE-Mongolia Conference in Ulaanbaatar. Its goal was to exchange views and discuss the optimal ways of training mid-level diplomats from Afghanistan. It aimed to improve their ability to pursue national interests in

⁵⁹ OSCE trains senior border officers from Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia and Tajikistan, 25 March 2011, <<http://www.osce.org/tajikistan/76208>>.

⁶⁰ OSCE Centre in Bishkek holds joint training for Afghan and Kyrgyz customs officers, 27 April 2011, <<http://www.osce.org/bishkek/77203>>.

⁶¹ OSCE trains Afghan law enforcement officers on counter-narcotics investigation, 13 May 2011, <<http://www.osce.org/spmu/77538>>.

⁶² OSCE-Tajikistan task force outlines comprehensive cross-dimensional co-operation, 22 February 2011, <<http://www.osce.org/tajikistan/75715>>.

⁶³ Women's Entrepreneurship in the OSCE: Trends and good practices, 3 and 4 March 2011, <<http://www.osce.org/secretariat/74385>>.

conjunction with regional and international interests through bilateral and multilateral diplomacy with a comprehensive approach to security.⁶⁴

Addresses and Speeches

In an address to the OSCE's Permanent Council on 31 March, Tajikistan's Foreign Minister Hamrokhon Zarifi stressed the need for active international involvement in economic rehabilitation of Afghanistan. He said that security in Central Asia is inextricably linked with the situation in Afghanistan and noted that the situation in Afghanistan cannot be resolved only through military action, but also through the active involvement of international economic and financial mechanisms and institutions.⁶⁵

In the aftermath of the tragic killing of UN workers and local residents by a mob of protestors who stormed the UN compound in the town of Mazar-e Sharif in northern Afghanistan, the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Lithuanian Foreign Minister Audronius Ažubalis, condemned the violence and offered his condolences to the families of those killed on 1 of April 2011.⁶⁶

III. National Initiatives

More on initiatives regarding Afghanistan can be found on p. 5 of Canada's response, p. 2 of the Czech Republic's response and p. 5 of Germany's response.

Inadmissibility of the Use of National Armed Forces on the Territory of Neighbouring and Contiguous States

I. Oslo Declaration

Acknowledging that unresolved interstate conflicts still exist and rejecting concepts of "dividing lines" or "zones of privileged interests" in relations between OSCE participating States, the OSCE PA expressed its concern over the attempts, everywhere in the world, to legalize the use of military force abroad for the protection of unilaterally fixed national interests, military forces and citizens through the adoption of the relevant national legal acts and without appropriate approval by the international community.

The Parliamentary Assembly urged participating States to comply with norms and principles set forth in the UN Charter and Helsinki Final Act of 1975 and called on them to revise their national legislation relating to the use of force abroad including military doctrines and laws on defence to make corresponding amendments, wherever appropriate, in order to prevent illegal

⁶⁴ Side Event to the 2011 OSCE-Mongolia Conference, 23 May 2011, <<http://www.osce.org/cio/77682>>.

⁶⁵ Tajikistan's Foreign Minister addresses OSCE, reconfirms commitments, calls for political dialogue to solve economic and environmental problems, 31 March 2011, <<http://www.osce.org/pc/76232>>.

⁶⁶ OSCE Chairperson condemns killing of UN workers in Afghanistan, 1 April 2011, <<http://www.osce.org/cio/76342>>.

use of their military forces abroad, particularly in the territory of neighbouring and contiguous States.

II. OSCE Initiatives

Lithuanian Chairmanship's Priorities

The Chairmanship has stated that it intends to work within agreed formats in resolving protracted conflicts in the OSCE area in a peaceful and negotiated manner,⁶⁷ fully respecting the norms, principles and commitments enshrined in the UN Charter, as well as in the Helsinki Final Act and to participate in relevant on-going negotiations. It was agreed that the appointed Special Representative of the Chairman-in-Office, Gedryus Chekuolis, would work on his behalf to promote conflict resolution. On 15 February, at the UN Security Council, CiO Azubalis once again underlined that among the Chairmanship's highest priorities will be seeking progress in the resolution of unresolved conflicts.⁶⁸

In a March 2011 visit to the South Caucasus, CiO Azubalis called on the parties to the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict to strengthen the ceasefire regime and to investigate incidents on the Line of Contact. He also asserted that snipers must be withdrawn on both sides of the Line of Contact in order to avoid further incidents.⁶⁹

The Chairperson also visited Georgia where he emphasized the OSCE's commitment to achieving progress on security and stability issues through the Geneva Discussions and commented on the importance of addressing urgent humanitarian concerns for the benefit of affected communities.⁷⁰

OSCE PA Presidency

In early May 2011, OSCE PA President Petros Efthymiou visited Armenia and Azerbaijan. He stressed that there is no alternative to dialogue for solving the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict and remarked that considering that the conflict takes a real toll on local populations, the conflict cannot be described as 'frozen'.⁷¹ While promoting the role of parliamentary dialogue in conflict resolution, the President reiterated his support of the Minsk Group format as the best way to reach a peaceful solution.

⁶⁷ OSCE : '2011 Lithuanian OSCE Chairmanship Work Programme', CIO.GAL/4/11/Rev.1, 12 January 2011, p. 2, http://www.delegfrance-osce.org/IMG/pdf/ciogal0004r1_cio_work_programme_2011.pdf.

⁶⁸ OSCE/United Nations : 'Co-ordinated UN, OSCE action key to addressing regional security challenges', 15 February 2011, <http://www.osce.org/cio/75590>.

⁶⁹ OSCE: Press Release 'Snipers must be withdrawn to avoid further incidents on the line of contact, says OSCE Chairperson during his visit to Armenia', 18 March 2011, <http://www.osce.org/cio/76156>.

⁷⁰ OSCE: Press Release 'OSCE Committed to Conflict Resolution Efforts Through the Geneva Discussions, Assisting with Democratic Reforms, says OSCE Chairperson on Visit to Georgia', 15 March 2011, <http://www.osce.org/cio/76078>.

⁷¹ OSCE PA: News from Copenhagen, 'Efthymiou encourages parliamentary dialogue on visit to South Caucasus', Number 390, 18 May 2011

Also in May, President Efthymiou went to Moldova where he emphasized the importance of a speedy resumption of the formal 5+2 negotiations. In a visit to Georgia in June, he called for the reestablishment of the OSCE Mission to Georgia and for continuation of dialogue within the Geneva Process. He promoted the idea of strengthening this format for negotiations.⁷²

Minsk Group

On 5 March 2011, a new version of the Basic Principles were discussed and agreed upon in Sochi in a trilateral meeting between the Presidents of Armenia, Azerbaijan and Russia (2+1 framework). The agreement produced the following concrete agreements:

- to expeditiously exchange prisoners of war;
- to strive to solve all contentious issues through peaceful means;
- to investigate possible along the ceasefire line with the participation of the parties under the auspices of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs and with the assistance of the Special Representative of the CiO.

However, numerous violations of the ceasefire agreement on the Line of Contact have repeatedly been and continue to be reported.

The Presidents of the Minsk Group Co-Chair Countries have repeatedly reiterated their commitment to a peaceful resolution of the conflict and have called for a move from the “unacceptable status quo.”⁷³

III. National Initiatives

More on the use of national armed forces can be found on p. 2 of France's national response and on p. 5 of Poland's response.

UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security

I. Oslo Declaration

Regarding the issue of women, peace and security, the Oslo Declaration stressed the importance of “equal participation of women and men and full involvement in all efforts for the maintenance and promotion of peace and security.”⁷⁴ The Declaration also emphasizes the significant contribution of UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace and security,

⁷² OSCE PA Press Release, “President Efthymiou promotes re-establishment of OSCE Mission in Georgia”, 16 June 2011

⁷³ OSCE : Press Release ‘Joint Statement on the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, by the Presidents of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair Countries at the G8 Summit’, 26 May 2011, <http://www.osce.org/mg/78195>.

⁷⁴ OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, 2010, “Resolution on UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security”, *Oslo Declaration*, p. 35.

unanimously adopted on 31 October 2000, and acknowledges the “gender-dimensions of war and peace, and the important role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts, peace negotiations, peace-building, peacekeeping, humanitarian response and in post-conflict reconstruction.”

In this respect, the declaration also welcomes the UNSCR 1889, adopted on 5 October 2009, which reaffirms the provisions of Resolution 1325. The resolution urges participating States to develop National Action Plans to implement UNSCRs on women, peace and security and implement the measures included in UNSCR 1325 in their respective security and defence and external action policies.⁷⁵

The four UN resolutions on women, peace and security

Resolution 1325 (2000) was the first UNSCR to link women to the peace and security agenda. It recognizes that women are disproportionately affected by conflict and calls for their active participation at all levels of decision-making in conflict prevention, conflict resolution, peace processes, post-conflict peacebuilding and governance.

Resolution 1820 (2008) was the first resolution to recognize conflict-related sexual violence as a matter of international peace and security. It calls for armed actors to end the practice of using sexual violence against civilians to achieve political or military ends and to counter impunity for sexual violence and provide effective protection for civilians.

Resolution 1888 (2009) strengthens the implementation of SCR 1820, by assigning leadership and establishing effective support mechanisms. It calls for the appointment of a Special Representative of the Secretary-General to co-ordinate UN efforts to address conflict-related sexual violence, as well as for the rapid deployment of teams of experts and advisors to situations of concern.

Resolution 1889 (2009) addresses obstacles to women's participation in peace processes and peace-building as prescribed in SCR 1325. It calls for the UN Secretary-General to submit to the Security Council a set of indicators that are to be used at the global level in order to track the implementation of UNSCR 1325. It also calls for the strengthening of national and international responses to the needs of women and girls in conflict and post-conflict settings.

II. OSCE Initiatives

OSCE Workshops

A three-day workshop jointly organized by the OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan and Police Academy of Uzbekistan was opened on 16 March 2011 in Tashkent. It brought together 25 representatives from the Police Academy and heads of police units of the Interior Ministry. The aim of the workshop was increasing awareness of international human rights standards and fostering women's participation in law enforcement institutions. Participants had the opportunity

⁷⁵ See OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, 2010, “Resolution on UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security”, *Oslo Declaration*, p. 39.

to discuss the implementation of the National Action Plan on the UN Convention on Eliminating All Forms of Discrimination Against Women in the context of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security.⁷⁶

A workshop focusing on institutional practices related to monitoring, protecting, and promoting women's rights and gender equality, as well as the role played by national human rights institutions in the area of education was organized by ODIHR in Prague on 29 March 2011. The workshop was organized for national human rights institutions from 17 OSCE participating States.⁷⁷

International Women's Day

On the 100th celebration of International Women's Day, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly issued a statement emphasizing the importance of improving gender equality in politics and public policy. OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Petros Efthymiou said that parliaments should play a leading role to ensure that laws, political practices, and economic policies reflect the values of equal opportunity.⁷⁸

III. National Initiatives

More on UN Security Council Resolutions on Women, Peace and Security can be found on pp. 6-7 of Azerbaijan's response, pp. 4-5 of Canada's response, pp. 2-3 (in document 2) of France's response, p. 2 (in the First Committee document) of Greece's response, p. 5 of Iceland's response, p. 5 of Liechtenstein's response, pp. 1-2 (in document 3) of Lithuania's response, p. 6 of Poland's response, p. 13 in Romania's response, pp. 3-4 of Sweden's response, p. 18 of Switzerland's response and p. 5 of Germany's response.

⁷⁶ Women's rights, police capacity building focus of OSCE workshop in Uzbekistan, 16 March 2011, <<http://www.osce.org/uzbekistan/76112>>.

⁷⁷ Workshop on gender equality and women's rights held in Prague, 31 March 2011, <<http://www.osce.org/odihr/76285>>.

⁷⁸ Press release issued by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, 8 March 2011, <<http://www.osce.org/pa/76001>>.