



**General Committee on
Political Affairs and Security
(First Committee)**

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

Helsinki +40

Interim Report for the 2014 Winter Meeting

Vienna, 13-14 February 2014

Prepared by the OSCE PA International Secretariat



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Background

The Turkish Grand National Assembly hosted the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly's 22nd Annual Session in Istanbul from 29 June to 3 July 2013 under the theme *Helsinki +40*. The session's theme underlined the Assembly's support for the OSCE Ministerial Council decision in Dublin to launch a set of objectives aimed at strengthening the OSCE towards 2015, the 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act.

The debates and votes of the Assembly during the session culminated in passage of the 2013 Istanbul Declaration to help shape OSCE and national policy. In the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security, the Assembly adopted a wide-ranging resolution covering matters including arms control, protracted conflicts, reform of the OSCE and the Helsinki +40 process.

This Interim Report was prepared by the OSCE PA International Secretariat to provide information on actions taken in the politico-security dimension over the past six months by the OSCE, including Institutions and field presences, and other members of the international community, in relation to the OSCE PA's recommendations in the Istanbul Declaration.

A Final Report will be issued in advance of the OSCE PA's 23rd Annual Session, to be held in Baku from 28 June to 2 July 2014 under the theme *Helsinki +40: Towards Human Security for All*.

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Helsinki +40 Process

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

Considering the Helsinki +40 process as an opportunity for the OSCE to reaffirm, at the highest levels, the relevance of its founding principles pertaining to international law and the UN Charter and to more actively ensure participating States' full and equal implementation of these principles, the OSCE PA called in Istanbul for the OSCE Permanent Council to incorporate the Assembly's input and ideas into the Helsinki +40 process. The Assembly further called for clarifying the goals of the Helsinki +40 process and for increasing its transparency.

II. OSCE Initiatives

In view of the upcoming 40th anniversary of the Helsinki Final Act, the Ukrainian Chairmanship established an open-ended Helsinki +40 Working Group, and within this framework, a series of food-for-thought papers were regularly issued with a view toward moving the discussions forward on the Helsinki +40 process. Topics of these food-for-thought papers have included: "Achieving Progress in Resolution of Protracted Conflicts"; "Strategic Approach to the OSCE Economic and Environmental Dimension-the Way Forward"; "Implementation of the OSCE Commitments, in particular those belonging to Human Dimension"; "Improving the Working Methods and Practices"; and "Enhancing the Effectiveness of OSCE Activities on the Ground".

These papers were distributed in Vienna and made available on the OSCE's internal website DelWeb, but were not published on the public OSCE website.

In 2013 the OSCE Ambassadors met regularly in Vienna to discuss eight thematic areas in relation to the Helsinki +40 process, covering all three OSCE dimensions and cross-dimensional issues:

1. Fostering military transparency by revitalizing and modernizing conventional arms control and confidence and security building regimes;
2. Further enhancing OSCE capacities in addressing transnational threats;
3. Further strengthening OSCE capacities across the conflict cycle;
4. Striving for tangible progress towards the settlement of protracted conflicts in a peaceful and negotiated manner;
5. Enhancing the strategic orientation of the economic and environmental dimension;
6. Strengthening the human dimension;
7. Enhancing the effectiveness and efficiency of the OSCE;

8. Increasing interaction with the Partners for Co-operation and with international and regional organizations.¹

The Declaration on Furthering the Helsinki +40 Process was agreed to at the December 2013 OSCE Ministerial Council in Kyiv. Participants noted the positive spirit of discussions in 2013 and reconfirmed their engagement and strong commitment to moving the process further in 2014-2015 under the Swiss and Serbian OSCE Chairmanships.²

Within the framework of the Informal Helsinki +40 Working Group, the Ukrainian Chairmanship once again encouraged continued discussions concerning the resolution of protracted conflicts. The circulated food-for-thought paper advocated a focus on strengthening the OSCE conflict resolution toolbox and outlined several potential areas in which the engagement of participating States in facilitating conflict resolution could be enhanced.

During the discussions, a number of delegations expressed their satisfaction with the results of past efforts to strengthen OSCE capacity with regard to the conflict cycle, including the implementation of the Ministerial Council Decision 3/11 on “Elements of the conflict cycle, related to enhancing the OSCE’s capabilities in early warning, early action, dialogue facilitation and mediation support, post-conflict rehabilitation”. In the same vein, a number of these delegations suggested that the toolbox be expanded so as to include a range of specific tools of an institutional nature, among them the Conflict Prevention and Crisis Management Fund, OSCE Conciliation Commission and the Court for Conciliation and Arbitration.

Along with such comprehensive formal measures, delegates also reiterated the significance of ‘track two’ initiatives and stressed the need to strengthen engagement with civil society, business representatives and the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in conflict resolution, as well as track two actors themselves.³

III. OSCE PA Initiatives

On 30 January, the OSCE PA officially launched its Helsinki +40 Project, an initiative that will bring together security and human rights experts, politicians, academia, civil society and the public to evaluate the OSCE’s past and chart concrete lines of action for the future. Consisting of three seminars at top think-tanks in the United States, Russia and Sweden over the next two

¹ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Chairmanship, “Helsinki +40 Process”, <http://www.osce.org/cio/110043>

² Ibid.

³ Informal Helsinki + 40 Working Group, “Achieving Progress in Resolution of Protracted Conflict”, Chairmanship perception paper, Vienna 13 December 2013, CIO.GAL/188/13

years, the Project will culminate in a final colloquium on the site of the signing of the OSCE's founding document, the Helsinki Final Act of 1975.⁴

The German Marshall Fund of the United States (GMF) will host the first leg of the Helsinki +40 Project in Washington in early summer 2014; the Russian International Affairs Council (RIAC) will host the second leg in Moscow in autumn 2014; and the International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) will host the third leg of the Project in Stockholm in early spring 2015. The Project's final colloquium will be held in Helsinki in July 2015, in conjunction with the 24th Annual Session of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly.

Each seminar will produce discussion papers and articles that will be incorporated in a Final Report and presented at the 2015 Annual Session. The Project's leaders include former OSCE PA President Joao Soares (Portugal); Chair of the OSCE PA Committee on Transparency and Reform of the OSCE François-Xavier de Donnea (Belgium); and OSCE Special Co-ordinator for the Helsinki +40 Process Ilkka Kanerva (Finland).

The Project will be co-ordinated by the leadership of the participating think-tanks and experts at the OSCE PA International Secretariat in Copenhagen, led by PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver.⁵

Arms Control

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

Underlining the need to proceed with the ongoing negotiations to update and modernize the 1999 Vienna Document, the PA in Istanbul reiterated the need for further updating the Vienna Document in order to increase transparency and predictability. In particular, the Assembly emphasized the need for lowering the thresholds at which States are obliged to inform each other of their military exercises, increasing opportunities for verification activity, modernizing and updating the exchange of military information, strengthening risk reduction mechanisms and enlarging the scope of confidence- and security-building measures.

II. OSCE Initiatives

Background on the Vienna Document

Originally adopted in 1990, the Vienna Document built on the 1975 Helsinki Final Act's provisions for early notification of military exercises involving 25,000 military personnel. The Vienna Document envisaged greater information exchanges concerning verification of force

⁴ OSCE PA Press Release: "OSCE Parliamentary Assembly launches Helsinki +40 Project", 30 January 2014. <http://www.oscepa.org/news-a-media/press-releases/1499-osce-parliamentary-assembly-launches-helsinki-40-project>

⁵ Ibid.

structures and major weapon holdings, supported by an annual implementation assessment meeting and a risk reduction mechanism. The adoption of the Vienna Document constituted a milestone in confidence- and security-building regimes and has subsequently strengthened transparency and predictability, as well as early warning and crisis prevention throughout the OSCE region.

The document was updated in 1992 to include 15 new OSCE participating States; in 1994 to provide additional parameters for prior notification and observation; in 1999 to introduce two additional chapters on regional measures and defence planning; and most recently in 2011. Further modifications are widely seen as necessary for adapting the document to the technological and geopolitical changes of the last decade.

1999 Vienna Document

In accordance with the 2011 Vienna Document, the revision and updating of its forerunner takes place every five years at a special FSC meeting. Discussions regarding the various provisions contained within the document are ongoing and delegations consistently stress the importance of the document's overhaul during FSC meetings. On 17 July 2013, the FSC adopted Vienna Document Plus decision No. 4/13 on the duration of air base visits. These were limited to a maximum of 24 hours, allowing for a better balance between domestic developments and relations with neighbouring States.⁶

In all there are 22 proposals and draft decisions covering five chapters of the 2011 Vienna Document, all of which are currently being discussed in the FSC.⁷

Small Arms and Light Weapons

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

In Istanbul, the PA expressed support for FSC decisions to provide assistance with collection and destruction and improving stockpile management and security, and encouraged participating States to further request OSCE assistance on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and ammunition.

II. OSCE Initiatives

In 2013 the FSC continued its efforts to combat the proliferation of illicit SALW and to prevent destabilizing accumulations. While the Forum's main focus remained on the full implementation of all agreed SALW-related commitments – including the use of the OSCE Plan of Action on

⁶ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Ministerial Council, Kyiv 2013, FSC Chairperson's progress report: "Efforts in the field of arms control agreements and confidence-and security-building measures", 29 November 2013, <http://www.osce.org/mc/109071>

⁷ Ibid.

SALW – it reviewed these in light of other global instruments such as the UN Programme of Action on SALW, the International Tracing Instrument and the UN Firearms Protocol and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).⁸

Annual SALW information exchanges remained stable during 2013. By 15 November 2013, 28 participating States had provided information in accordance with the new format.

In September 2013, a CPC consultant presented a “Comprehensive study of SALW-related commitments of the OSCE against international SALW agreements”.⁹ The study provided an overview of the current situation as well as concrete proposals for the future deliberations of participating States.¹⁰ The idea to conduct such a study was proposed during a meeting of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW (IGOF) in February 2013 and is in line with Ministerial Council Decision 6/11, which obliges the FSC to “ensure coherence and complementarity with the UN framework on SALW”.¹¹

The FSC discussed a food-for-thought paper on Regular and Periodic Implementation Assessment and Review Procedure of CAT and SALW/SCA. The Paper proposes the assessment of implementation, based on the annual exchange of the information, which is due at the end of June each year.¹²

Another food-for-thought paper on the topic of “SALW Export Control System - a Review of the OSCE Commitments” was introduced within the framework of the Informal Group of Friends on SALW.¹³ The Paper encourages further discussion of the subject. The work of the Informal Group resumed in 2013 in the form of seven meetings involving more than 30 participating States.¹⁴

⁸ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Ministerial Council, Kyiv 2013, FSC Chairperson's progress report: “the continuing implementation of the OSCE

Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons”, 29 November 2013, <http://www.osce.org/mc/109071>

⁹ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Conflict Prevention Center, “Comparative study of SALW-related commitments of the OSCE against international SALW agreements”, Vienna, 11 September 2013, FSC.GAL/90/13

¹⁰ European Union, OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation Nr 728 Vienna, “EU statement on SALW”, 25 September 2013, FSC.DEL/152/13/Corr.1

¹¹ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Ministerial Council, “DECISION No. 6/11 SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION”, 7 December 2011, <http://www.osce.org/mc/86090>

¹² Delegations of Austria, Switzerland, Germany, France, Ireland, Cyprus, United Kingdom, “Food For Thought Paper on Regular and Periodic Implementation Assessment and Review Procedure of CAT and SALW/SCA, 14 November 2013, FSC.DEL/140/13/Corr.4

¹³ Permanent Mission of Spain to the OSCE, “Food for Thought Paper: “SALW Export Control System - a Review of the OSCE Commitments”, Vienna 21 October 2013, FSC.DEL/166/13

¹⁴ FSC Chairperson's progress report: The continuing implementation of the OSCE document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, p. 10. MC.GAL/2/13, <http://www.osce.org/mc/109071>

An essential component of the FSC's efforts is its responsibility to address requests from participating States for assistance in tackling the securing, management and destruction of SALW stockpiles.

Following the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding on the Implementation of the SALW and SCA Programme on 2 August 2013 in Kyrgyzstan between the OSCE and the Kyrgyzstani Government, a number of breakthroughs were achieved. These included the destruction of relevant materials, the creation of national SALW demilitarization capacities and the enhancement of the national regulatory framework for SALW management. At the end of August 2013, a PSSM course was conducted for Kyrgyz Ministry of Defence executives. 19 officials were given instruction in the OSCE's best practices for effective management of SALW and conventional ammunition.¹⁵

On 9 October 2013, the OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Council of Ministers of Bosnia and Herzegovina signed a co-operation agreement in the fields of defence and security. This agreement provided a legal framework for the SECUP BiH (Project for Security Upgrade of Ammunition and Weapons Storage Sites in Bosnia and Herzegovina) that was officially launched on the same day.¹⁶ The Project activities over 2013-2015 will result in an upgrading of security infrastructure at two weapons storage sites (Rabic and Teufik Buza) and two ammunition storage sites (Krupa and Kula 1) of the Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina. The concomitant upgrading of security at these storage sites and an improvement in national standards for physical security and stockpile management is also expected, in line with the OSCE Best Practices on SALW and CA.¹⁷

On 14 November 2013, the FSC support section observed the destruction of 51 MANPADS Strela 2 missiles and 97 anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs).

From 6 to 14 November 2013, the OSCE and the U.S. Government provided technical experts to assist in EOD training for Kyrgyz combat engineers and an explosive ordinance disposal team, and to monitor the destruction operations.¹⁸

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ FSC Chairmanship's Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition Lieutenant Colonel Mark Barlow, Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the OSCE, "FSC Chair's Coordinator's statement to the participating States at the 730th Plenary Meeting of the Forum for Security Cooperation on 16 October 2013", FSC.DEL/163/13

¹⁷ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Ministerial Council Kyiv 2013, "LETTER FROM THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE FORUM FOR SECURITY CO-OPERATION TO THE MINISTER FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF UKRAINE, CHAIRPERSON OF THE TWENTIETH MEETING OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL", 29 November 2013, <http://www.osce.org/mc/109071>

¹⁸ FSC Chairmanship's Co-ordinator for Projects on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition Lieutenant Colonel Mark Barlow, Permanent Mission of the United States of America to the OSCE, "FSC Chair's Coordinator's statement to the participating States at the 735th Plenary Meeting of the Forum for Security Cooperation on 20 NOV 2013", <https://delweb.osce.org>, FSC.DEL/185/13

On 17 December 2013 Montenegro adopted a new “Strategy for the Control and reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Plan of Action 2013-2018”.¹⁹ The Government of Montenegro refers to the OSCE as a key strategic partner and emphasizes its commitments to the relevant OSCE Documents, the OSCE Document on SALW among them.

There are a number of projects which have been largely completed, not least the destruction of the remaining 19 air-to-air missiles, stored in Georgia since 1992. The project was completed in June 2013 with the assistance of the OSCE implementing partners in Georgia.

The OSCE Office in Tajikistan continued to support the Government of Tajikistan in ensuring the safe and secure storage of SALW; support which took the form of instruction in SALW security and stockpile management for the country's relevant law enforcement agencies.

Overall, dealing with requests from the participating States remains one of the most important areas of implementation in relation to the OSCE Document on SCA.

OSCE Ministerial Council

At the 2013 Ministerial Council in Kyiv, a Decision regarding Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition was adopted. The Council recognized the importance of OSCE measures aimed at combating the illicit trafficking of SALW in all aspects. The Council also took note of the active role taken by the OSCE in this area and welcomed the Forum's in the months following the 2011 Ministerial Council. The Decision also tasked the FSC with strengthening its efforts in ensuring full implementation of existing measures and commitments set out in the OSCE Document on SALW.²⁰

Arms Trade Treaty

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

In Istanbul, the PA welcomed the United Nations General Assembly's adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty, an international accord to bring transparency to the arms industry and ensure respect for international humanitarian law in the international arms trade. The PA called on parliaments of OSCE participating States to take measures necessary to ratify the Treaty so that it can enter into force.

II. International Initiatives

¹⁹ Permanent Mission of Montenegro to the UN, OSCE and other International Organizations in Vienna, “STRATEGY FOR THE CONTROL AND REDUCTION OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION AND ACTION PLAN FOR THE PERIOD 2013-2018”, 17 December 2013, <https://delweb.osce.org>, FSC.EMI/463/13

²⁰ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Ministerial Council Kyiv 2013, “DECISION No. 8/13 SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION”, 6 December 2013, <https://delweb.osce.org>, MC.DEC/8/13

As of 5 February 2014, 116 countries have signed the treaty, including 41 OSCE participating States. Nine UN Member States have ratified it, including one OSCE participating State – Iceland.²¹ The ATT has not yet entered into force.

Nuclear Disarmament

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

The OSCE PA welcomed the Open-Ended Working Group established by the United Nations General Assembly to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, and the decision of the Inter-Parliamentary Union to focus in 2013-2014 on “Towards a nuclear-weapons-free world: the contribution of parliaments”. The PA further called on OSCE participating States and OSCE parliamentarians to make use of these two opportunities to advance multilateral negotiations to achieve a nuclear-weapons-free world.

II. OSCE and International Initiatives

OSCE Ministerial Council

On 6 December 2013 the Ministerial Council welcomed the decision of the Forum for Security Co-operation No. 7/13 of 4 December 2013 on the Update of the OSCE Principles Governing Non-Proliferation.²²

The FSC decision reiterated previous OSCE commitments on non-proliferation, including the Declaration in the Helsinki Document of 10 July 1992, the Ministerial Declaration on Non-Proliferation adopted in 2009 in Athens, and the 1993 Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on Their Destruction (CWC).²³

United Nations General Assembly developments

The UNGA's Open-ended Working Group multilateral nuclear disarmament released its report on 3 September. Several approaches on how to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations to achieve and maintain a nuclear-weapons-free world were discussed:

- An action plan for a nuclear-weapons-free and non-violent world to attain the goal of nuclear disarmament in a universal, time bound, non-discriminatory, phased and verifiable manner;

²¹ List of the States, which signed the ATT, <http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/t/att/deposit/asc>

²² MC.DOC/5/2013

²³ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Forum for Security Co-operation, “DECISION No. 7/13 UPDATE OF THE OSCE PRINCIPLES GOVERNING NON-PROLIFERATION”, 4 December 2013, FSC.DEC/7/13

- The step-by-step approach of mutually reinforcing and progressive steps leading to the full and complete elimination of nuclear weapons;
- A comprehensive approach for a phased program outlining the complete elimination of nuclear weapons within a specified time framework (including a nuclear weapons convention) to prohibit their possession, development, production, acquisition, testing, stockpiling, transfer, use or threat of use, and to provide for their destruction;
- A legally binding framework committing all States to a world without nuclear weapons, comprising mutually reinforcing components, implemented in an unconditional manner and backed by clearly defined timelines and benchmarks;
- A “building block” approach; a set of mutually reinforcing unilateral, bilateral, and multilateral elements which do not imply conditionality and do not rely on a specific timeline.²⁴

The Working Group discussed political measures and legal instruments to be considered in order to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations in such a way that distinguished between measures required to achieve a nuclear weapons-free world and measures subsequently required to *maintain* a nuclear weapons-free world.²⁵

Concerning the role of international law in advancing multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations, the Group discussed options to fill the legal gaps, including within the current international legal framework, through a multilateral legal instrument, or several instruments complementing those already in existence. The idea of undertaking a study of the evolution of international law relevant to achieving and maintaining a nuclear weapons-free world was put forward (including areas of international humanitarian law, human rights law and environmental law, as well as with reference to the legal domain of the International Criminal Court).²⁶

Moreover, the Group reviewed the role of nuclear weapons in the 21st century within a broader security context. The humanitarian impact of nuclear weapons was put forward as a cross-cutting issue that affects all elements of the disarmament agenda. The Group questioned whether nuclear weapons meet the needs of 21st century security and discussed devaluing nuclear weapons and questioning the effect of deterrence posturing. Proposals were made with regard to reducing the prominence of nuclear weapons in existing security doctrines.²⁷

The Group also discussed the role of States and other actors in taking forward the negotiations on nuclear disarmament. It was noted that while this responsibility is shared and collective for all

²⁴ UN, “Report of the Open-ended Working Group to develop proposals to take forward multilateral nuclear disarmament negotiations for the achievement and maintenance of a world without nuclear weapons”, 3 September 2013. p. 6-7.

[http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/\(httpAssets\)/4FAE74F4CDAC78A2C1257BDB00543192/\\$file/A_AC.281_2+Final+Report+Original+English.pdf](http://www.unog.ch/80256EDD006B8954/(httpAssets)/4FAE74F4CDAC78A2C1257BDB00543192/$file/A_AC.281_2+Final+Report+Original+English.pdf)

²⁵ Ibid, p. 7-9.

²⁶ Ibid, p. 10-11.

²⁷ Ibid, p. 9-10.

States, non-nuclear weapon States and nuclear weapon States have differentiated roles and functions. The role of international organizations, parliamentarians, civil society and academia as actors in this process was also discussed.²⁸

Inter-Parliamentary Union developments

During the 129th Assembly of the Inter-Parliamentary Union in Geneva on 7-9 September, a panel discussion entitled “Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: the Contribution of Parliaments” was held in Geneva by the Standing Committee on Peace and International Security. The panel discussion was the first step in the preparation of a resolution on the subject matter chosen at the 128th IPU Assembly in Quito. The panel’s purpose was to present background papers prepared by the two co-Rapporteurs (Blaine Calkins of Canada and Yolanda Ferrer Gomez of Cuba) and to gather the initial impressions of IPU Member Parliaments on the topic. The outcome of the discussion and the inputs made by Member Parliaments will help the co-rapporteurs prepare a draft resolution that will be debated and adopted at the 130th IPU Assembly in 2014.²⁹

In the background paper submitted by Blaine Calkins, it was asserted that given that almost all States are committed to the eventual elimination of nuclear weapons through the NPT, two types of actions need to be undertaken; namely, to ensure the implementation of the treaty and to push for its universalization among all States. In these endeavours, parliamentarians were described as having a key role. They can, among other things, *“hold governments to account and ensure compliance with commitments and responsibilities under the NPT; convince governments to accept new commitments, mechanisms and responsibilities as required; and mobilize public opinion and civil society to demand faster and deeper action”*.³⁰

Protracted Conflicts

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

In Istanbul, the PA called for intensifying political efforts towards generating a peaceful and viable solution to the unresolved conflicts, and urged the OSCE Chairmanship and parties to the conflicts to redouble efforts to find solutions to the tragic protracted conflicts in the Caucasus and the Republic of Moldova. The PA further called on participating parties to ensure the beginning of the process of de-occupation of the territories of Georgia and recommended

²⁸ Ibid, p. 11.

²⁹ 129th IPU Assembly, “Panel discussion: Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: the contribution of parliaments. Concept Paper”, September 2013, p. 1. <http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/129/1cmt-panel.pdf>

³⁰ 129th IPU Assembly, “Panel discussion: Towards a nuclear-weapon-free world: the contribution of parliaments. Background Paper submitted by Mr. Blaine Calkins (Canada), co-Rapporteur”, September 2013, p. 4. <http://www.ipu.org/conf-e/129/1Cmt-dr-rpt2.pdf>

agreeing on mechanisms for the safe and dignified return of all internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Abkhazia and the Tskhinvali region.

II. OSCE Initiatives

Minsk Group

On 14 June 2013 the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Ukrainian Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhara, received the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, who briefed Kozhara on the current situation around the negotiations on the Basic Principles of the settlement, as well as outcomes of earlier meetings with the foreign ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia. During the meeting they also discussed the visit of the Chairperson-in-Office to Azerbaijan and Armenia.³¹

Within the framework of the G8 Summit, which was held in Enniskillen (United Kingdom) on 18 June 2013, the presidents of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair Countries Barack Obama, President of the United States of America, Vladimir Putin, President of the Russian Federation, and Francois Hollande, President of the French Republic issued a joint statement on the Nagorno-Karabakh Conflict, in which they reiterated their commitments to reach a lasting and peaceful settlement. They also strongly urged the leaders to recommit to the Helsinki principles.

During additional meetings in June and July the Co-Chairs of the Minsk Group met with the Armenian Foreign Minister Edward Nalbandian and Azerbaijani Foreign Minister Elmar Mammadyarov to further develop ideas for a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict.³² September saw the continuation of meetings addressing the substance of the peace process.³³

In the beginning of November 2013, Ambassadors Igor Popov (Russian Federation), Jacques Faure (France), James Warlick (United States) and Andrzej Kasprzyk (Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office) traveled to the region to help to negotiate a peaceful resolution of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict. They met with Azerbaijani President Ilham Aliyev on 4 November in Baku as well as with Armenian President Serzh Sargsyan in Yerevan on 5 November to continue the talks. They also met with the foreign and defence Ministers of both countries.³⁴

³¹Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, PRESS RELEASE, "OSCE Chairperson meets with OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chairs", 14 June 2013, <https://delweb.osce.org/SEC.PR/194/13>

³²Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Press Release, "Press Release by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group", <http://www.osce.org/mg/103570>

³³Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Press Release, "Press Release by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group and the Foreign Ministers of Armenia and Azerbaijan", NEW YORK, 27 September, <http://www.osce.org/mg/105978>

³⁴Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Press Release, "Press Release by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group", 5 November 2013, <http://www.osce.org/mg/107855>

On 19 November 2013 The Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group welcomed President Aliyev and President Sargsyan to Vienna to advance discussions on the peaceful settlement of the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict, accompanied by their Foreign Ministers. This was the first meeting of the Presidents since their January 2012 summit in Sochi. The presidents agreed to continue advance the peace process.³⁵

OSCE Ministerial Council

In Kyiv on 5 December 2013, during the OSCE Ministerial Council, the Heads of Delegation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair countries (Foreign Minister of the Russian Federation Sergei Lavrov, Minister for European Affairs of France Thierry Repentin, Assistant Secretary of State for European and Eurasian Affairs Victoria Nuland) met with the Foreign Minister of Azerbaijan Elmar Mammadyarov and Foreign Minister of Armenia Edward Nalbandian and agreed to continue to work together towards a just and peaceful resolution of the conflict. The Heads of Delegations welcomed the recent resumption of high-level dialogue between the presidents of the two countries.³⁶

Geneva International Discussions on the Conflict in Georgia

The 24th round of Geneva Discussions took place on 26 June 2013. The discussions were held in two working group sessions. The first working session focused on security and stability in the Abkhazia region and Tskhinvali region of Georgia. The second working group dealt with the issues related to the return of IDPs and refugees to their original place of residence.

During the sessions of the first working group the participants addressed one of the main items on the agenda pertaining to the non-use of force. The experts group continued to work on the draft Statement on the non-use of force presented by the Co-Chairs. With a number of participants reiterating divergent positions, an agreement could not be reached on that occasion.

During the session of the second working group, the Georgian participants echoed their commitment to a humanitarian, people-centered approach in a way that practically addressed the persistent violation of human rights. In the same working group, the completion of water projects

³⁵ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Press Release, Press Release by the Co-Chairs of the OSCE Minsk Group, VIENNA, 19 November 2013, <http://www.osce.org/mg/108551>

³⁶ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Press Release, Joint Statement by Heads of Delegation of the OSCE Minsk Group Co-Chair Countries and the Foreign Ministers of Azerbaijan and Armenia, KYIV, 5 December 2013, <http://www.osce.org/mg/109210>

prompted a positive evaluation which led to emphasis being placed on the sustenance of confidence building mechanisms more generally.³⁷

The 25th round of Geneva Discussions took place on 5-6 November 2013. OSCE Chairmanship Special Representative for Conflicts Ambassador Andrii Deshchytsia called for constructive engagement from all sides in order to achieve progress. Deshchytsia also noted while the security situation on the ground has remained generally calm, the ongoing installation of fences along the administrative boundary line is of concern, an issue which remained high on the agenda of the discussions. He encouraged a focus on practical solutions which take into account the hardship of the local population.

European Union Special Representative Philippe Lefort confirmed that the security issues and the humanitarian situation on the ground still at the top of the agenda for the talks. "The non-use of force and guaranteed security arrangements have been central to our talks. Despite some differences, participants have engaged constructively in drafting a joint statement of all participants on the non-use of force," he said, adding that they are set to continue in the coming rounds.

UN representative Antti Turunen highlighted that the discussions remained the only platform through which to bring all stakeholders together.³⁸

The 26th round of Geneva Talks took place on 17-18 December 2013. Parties continued their work on the text of the joint statement on non-use of force. Davit Zalkaliani, Deputy Foreign Minister of Georgia, said that the talks were held in "business like-environment".³⁹ The next round of Geneva talks will be held on 25-26 March 2014.

The Swiss Chairmanship for the 2014 year has outlined the facilitation of dialogue and confidence-building in the Southern Caucasus as one of the priorities on its agenda. Switzerland plans to conduct projects and build confidence through fostering exchange programs between young people, as well as specified professional groups – journalists, artists, disaster relief workers, seismologists, etc.⁴⁰

Transdnistria settlement process

³⁷ EMBASSY OF GEORGIA TO THE REPUBLIC OF AUSTRIA PERMANENT MISSION OF GEORGIA TO THE OSCE AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN VIENNA, "Statement of the Delegation of Georgia regarding the 24th round of the Geneva International Discussions", OSCE Permanent Council Nr 959, Vienna, July 4, 2013, <https://delweb.osce.org/PC.DEL/633/13>

³⁸ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Press Release, "Engagement and resolve required to achieve concrete results, Co-Chairs of Geneva International Discussions tell OSCE Permanent Council", VIENNA, 14 November 2013, <http://www.osce.org/pc/108312>

³⁹ Twenty Sixth Round of Geneva Talks, Civil.ge, 19 December 2013, <http://civil.ge/eng/article.php?id=26802>

⁴⁰ <https://www.osce.org/mc/109266?download=true>

On 16-17 July 2013 the official negotiations on the Transdniestrian settlement process were chaired by the OSCE Chairperson's Special Representative for conflicts Ambassador Andrii Deshchytsia in Vienna. Participants included the Moldovan and Transdniestrian Chief Negotiators Eugen Carpov and Nina Shtanski, as well as representatives of the mediators and observers. Among other issues, the sides discussed freedom of movement, the environment and co-operation between law enforcement structures. Ambassador Deshchytsia noted that it was important to maintain regular dialogue at all levels between the rounds of 5+2 talks in order to progress with the agenda.

On 23 September Moldovan Prime Minister Iurie Leanca and Transdniestrian leader Yevgeniy Shevchuk met in Tiraspol to resume the direct dialogue on the settlement process. The high-level meeting resulted in the extension of the Protocol Decision "On the Principles of Resuming Full-Fledged Freight Railroad Communication via the Territory of Transdniestria" until 1 January 2015. On 24 September the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office, Minister for Foreign Affairs of Ukraine Leonid Kozhara, welcomed the agreement and expressed hope for further progress in the dialogue.⁴¹

In preparation for the fourth ordinary round of 5+2 format talks, the Special Representative of the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office for Conflicts, Ambassador Andrii Deshchytsia, and head of the OSCE Mission to Moldova Jennifer Brush held a meeting with Transdniestrian leader Yevgeniy Shevchuk and Transdniestrian Chief Negotiator Nina Shtanski in Tiraspol on 26 September. They met later that day in Chisinau with the Moldovan Chief Negotiator Eugen Carpov. The sides discussed preparations for the Brussels ordinary round of talks, as well as the settlement process in general. On 27 September Ambassador Deshchytsia met with Natalia Gherman, the Moldovan Minister of Foreign Affairs and European Integration.⁴²

The fourth round of 5+2 talks in the Transdniestrian settlement process was chaired by the OSCE Chair's Special Representative for Conflicts Ambassador Andrii Deshchytsia in Brussels. The talks extensively focused on issues of freedom of movement.⁴³

It was with the support of Germany that the OSCE Mission to Moldova organized the conference of 30 October in Landshut, Germany, which focused on confidence-building measures in the Transdniestrian settlement process. In his opening remarks, the OSCE Chairperson-in-Office,

⁴¹ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Chairmanship, "OSCE Chairperson-in-Office welcomes results of meeting between leaders of Chisinau and Tiraspol", NEW YORK, 24 September 2013, <http://www.osce.org/cio/105506>

⁴² Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Chairmanship, CHISINAU, 26 September 2013, <http://www.osce.org/cio/105701>

⁴³ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Chairmanship, "Brussels round of Transdniestrian settlement talks focuses on freedom of movement", BRUSSELS, 3 October 2013, <http://www.osce.org/cio/106614>

Ukrainian Foreign Minister Leonid Kozhara, praised the readiness demonstrated by the sides to work towards a mutually acceptable and viable settlement of the Transdnistrian conflict.⁴⁴

The fifth ordinary round of 5+2 talks under the Ukrainian Chairmanship was held in Kyiv on 25-26 November, and concluded with protocol decisions on freedom of movement, pensions and social assistance for people who have changed their place of residence, and for the reconstruction of waste processing facilities. Special representative of the Chair for conflicts Ambassador Andrii Deshchytsia said he valued the praise received from political representatives on all sides, as well as mediators and observers in the 5+2 process, in response to the Chairmanship's efforts during the year.⁴⁵

Central Asia

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

In the Istanbul Declaration the OSCE PA called on the OSCE to “increase efforts to train border guards and law enforcement agents in Central Asia to secure borders and prevent terrorism, drug trafficking and extremism”, and recommended that “the OSCE give greater attention to cross-border co-operation in general as a tool in the conflict cycle”.

II. OSCE Field Activities

In January 2014, a delegation of OSCE parliamentarians on a study visit to Tajikistan met administrators and course participants from the OSCE Border Management College during visit to the OSCE Office in Tajikistan and completed a field trip to Khoja Obigarm to observe an OSCE-financed winter training session for border officers. The PA delegation consisted of six parliamentarians from Sweden, including Deputy Head of the Swedish Delegation to the OSCE PA Kent Harstedt, and three parliamentarians from Denmark, including Head of the Danish Delegation to the OSCE PA Peter Juel Jensen. Ake Peterson, Sweden's ambassador to Tajikistan, accompanied the delegation.⁴⁶

Since the Istanbul Annual Session, the OSCE field operations in the region and other OSCE structures have carried out several projects in the sphere of training border guards and law enforcement agents in Central Asia, as well as in the area of cross-border security co-operation.

⁴⁴ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Chairmanship, “OSCE Chair, in Germany, opens conference on confidence-building, meets Moldovan and Transdnistrian leaders”, LANDSHUT, Germany, 30 October 2013, <http://www.osce.org/cio/107639>

⁴⁵ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Chairmanship, “OSCE Chairperson-in-Office welcomes continued dynamics in 5+2 negotiations, calls for more trust”, KYIV, 25 November 2013, <http://www.osce.org/cio/108908>

⁴⁶ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe Parliamentary Assembly (OSCEPA), Press Releases, “OSCE Parliamentarians meet Tajik President, civil society on study visit”, Copenhagen 22 January 2014, <http://www.oscepa.org/news-a-media/press-releases/1483-osce-parliamentarians-meet-tajik-president-civil-society-on-study-visit>

OSCE Centre in Ashgabat

In July the Head of Centre in Ashgabat and the Political-Military Dimension Officer discussed the Centre's activities for 2013 and mutual co-operation initiatives with the representatives of the Border Services of Turkmenistan. In the same month, the Centre, in co-operation with the OSCE Secretariat in Vienna and ODIHR, organized a training course on Investigation and Prosecution of Suspected Trafficking Offenses, and Conviction and Punishment of Trafficking Offenders for Law Enforcement Agencies, the Judiciary and Defence Lawyers.⁴⁷

In July-August the Centre supported the participation of two representatives of the Ministry of Interior and State Service in the OSCE Conference "Prevention of Illicit Drug Trade on the Internet" in Vienna, as well as of two officers from the Ministry of Defense in the Exchange Visit Programme for OSCE participating States in Central Asia and the OSCE Partner for Co-operation Afghanistan organized and hosted by the OSCE Office in Tajikistan.⁴⁸

In September the Centre organized two practical training courses on maritime border management and security in the Caspian coastal town of Turkmenbashi and in Ashgabat.⁴⁹

In October, Turkmenistan hosted the 11th meeting of the Central Asia Border Security (CABSI), co-organized by the Austrian Ministry of the Interior, the EU and UNDP. The discussions helped to prepare the development of the Border Management in Central Asia (BOMCA) Programme Phase 9 (2014-2017), including the prospect of a new partnership consortium. Both the work in Central Asia and the impact of BOMCA and the Border Management for Northern Afghanistan (BOMNAF) – particularly after the 2014 Afghanistan drawdown – were discussed. Ambassador Ivo Petrov participated in the CABSI meeting and reported on OSCE border management activities in Central Asia.⁵⁰

OSCE Centre in Astana

In October the Centre supported the participation of Kazakhstan's Prosecutor General's Office and National Security Committee representatives at the conference on priority issues for international co-operation in the fight against terrorism, organized by the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship in Kyiv with the support of the OSCE Transnational Threats Department.

On 22 October Ambassador Natalia Zarudna met with the management of the Kazakh National Security Committee's Anti-terrorism Centre. The two sides discussed possible areas of co-operation, in particular related to the fight against violent extremism and terrorism, and agreed to co-organize events on countering the use of the internet for terroristic purposes with emphasis on the International Convention for the Suppression of Terrorist Bombing.⁵¹

⁴⁷ SEC.FR_0317_13_Rev.1_-_Activity_Report,_1-31_July_2013

⁴⁸ SEC.FR_0353_13_-_Activity_Report,_1-31_August_2013

⁴⁹ SEC.FR_0395_13_-_Activity_Report,_1-30_September_2013

⁵⁰ SEC.FR_0445_13_-_Activity_Report,_1-31_October_2013

⁵¹ SEC.FR_0449_13_-_Activity_Report_10_13,_1_-31_October_2013

In November in Almaty, the Centre took part in the regional workshop “Dialogue with Religious Leaders and Institutions in Support of their Role in Prevention and Resolution of Conflicts and Countering Extremism in Central Asia” co-organized by the UN Regional Centre for Preventive Diplomacy for Central Asia and the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force. The event was aimed at building the capacities of over 25 religious leaders and representatives of Central Asian governmental institutions to implement the Joint Action Plan for the Implementation of the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Strategy, adopted in 2011 as the framework for counter-terrorism activities in the region. The OSCE/ODIHR and Transnational Threats Department/Action against Terrorism Unit actively contributed to the Joint Action Plan drafting process.

On 26 November in Astana, the Centre, jointly with the Union of Criminologists of Kazakhstan and the Legal Counsel under the Nur Otan Party, organized an international conference on countering terrorism. Parliamentarians, high-level representatives of government agencies, academics and leaders of religious communities analyzed the factors underlying violent extremism and radicalization that lead to terrorism and the ways in which this threat can be effectively addressed this on a regional level.⁵²

OSCE Centre in Bishkek

In July the Centre in Bishkek supported the Command Post Exercise “Ilbirs Throw-2013,” organized by the Ilbirs Special Forces of the Kyrgyz Ministry of Defence. The simulation exercise took place in Osh Province (Chon-Alay District) and was designed to strengthen the operational capacity of the Ministry of Defense Special forces to respond to illegal cross-border incursion by armed groups.⁵³

In September, with the support of the Centre, border experts from the Russian international airports Domodedovo and Sheremetievo as well as representatives from the Russian Border Service visited the Kyrgyz airports of Osh, Manas and Issyk-Kul, as well as the State Border Service Training Centre. Experts from both countries exchanged information on border crimes, violations, and modern techniques used by criminals.⁵⁴

In October the Centre in Bishkek, in close co-operation with the Anti-Terrorism Centre of the State Committee for National Security of the Kyrgyz Republic (SCNS), organized the Command Post Exercise “Naryn-Antiterror-2013” at the At-Bashy hydro-power station. On 24-25 October the Second Expert Meeting of Anti-Terrorism Centres was organized at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek with the participation of government officials and representatives of the Anti-Terrorism Centres of neighbouring countries.⁵⁵

⁵² SEC.FR_0493_13_-_Activity_Report_11_13,_1_-_30_November_2013

⁵³ SEC.FR_0325_13_-_Activity_Report_No._205,_1-31_July_2013

⁵⁴ SEC.FR_0402_13_-_Activity_Report_No._207,_1-30_September_2013

⁵⁵ SEC.FR_0453_13_-_Activity_Report_No._208,_1-31_October_2013

In November, the Centre hosted a delegation of Afghan police officers. The study tour included meetings with high officials from government agencies. The training took place at the OSCE-supported Community Policing Training Centre in Osh and included the following security topics: community policing, border police management, transnational organized crime, domestic violence, drugs, countering terrorism and adherence to human rights during detention. In the same month, the Centre sponsored the visit of experts from the Turkish National Police/Anti-Terrorism Academy to the Kyrgyz Republic. Based on the results of the assessment visit, Turkish experts proposed a programme of anti-terrorism training to the Centre and the Kyrgyzstan's anti-terrorism agencies for 2014 and 2015.

On 25-29 November the Centre financed the visit of a French expert of the National French Gendarmerie to Bishkek. This was done with the intention of conducting an expert analytical needs assessment of the Internal Troops of the Kyrgyz Ministry of Interior with regards to its ability to combat terrorism. The Centre will plan its activities for 2014 in line with the resulting recommendations.⁵⁶

OSCE Office in Tajikistan

In July-September the Office organized two Patrol Leadership Courses for Afghan and Tajik officers. In August nine junior and mid-rank Afghan Border Police officers completed the fourth Patrol Leadership Course in 2013 for Afghan Border Police. In the same month the Office launched a one month bi-national Patrol Leadership Course for a joint group of 25 officers from the Tajik Border Troops and Afghan Border Police. Moreover, the Office organized a week-long workshop on forged travel documents and combating illegal border crossings for 22 officers from the Tajik Border Troops and Afghan Border Police in August.

On 15-25 July the Border Management Staff College (BMSC), in partnership with the EU-funded and UNDP-implemented BOMNAF, conducted a training course on international border management standards and methods for 24 Afghan and Tajik border officers. Participants acquired both a theoretical and practical insight into anti-trafficking, terrorism and border extremism, in addition to risk analysis, "green" border surveillance and modern technologies used in border management.⁵⁷

The courses at the BMSC in August-September included Afghan Customs Training in co-operation with the Austrian Ministry of Finance, a pilot course on Border Security and Management for Women Leaders of Today and Tomorrow, as well as Afghan Border Police Training in co-operation with BOMNAF-UNDP and Anti-Corruption Training conducted by BMSC in Vienna.⁵⁸

⁵⁶ SEC.FR_0492_13_-_Activity_Report_No._209,_1-30_November_2013

⁵⁷ SEC.FR_0321_13_-_Activity_Report,_01-31_July_2013

⁵⁸ SEC.FR_0349_13_-_Activity_Report,_01-31_August_2013

During September-October, the BMSC conducted its 9th Staff Course for 26 border officials from 18 countries. Mid- and senior-level officers representing border and customs agencies from Afghanistan, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Estonia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Georgia, Greece, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Mongolia, Montenegro, Poland, the Russian Federation, Slovakia, Tajikistan, Tunisia and Ukraine attended.⁵⁹

On 3 October the Office completed a three-week Patrol Management and Analysis Course that included advice on transnational organized crime and narcotics for 12 Afghan and 12 Tajik border guards. In the same month the Office supported the participation of representatives of national agencies involved in border security in the annual CABSI meeting in Ashgabat, along with the participation of an MFA representative at the National Focal Points Workshop on the use of technologies in border security and management in Lisbon.

In November, 20 Afghan and Tajik border officers completed an OSCE 'training-of-trainers' course under the Patrol Programming and Leadership Project.⁶⁰ On 5 November, the BMSC organized a final conference marking the completion of the project 'Strengthening the Customs Administration of Afghanistan'. 180 Customs Officers from Afghanistan and 75 Customs Officers from Tajikistan participated in 15 workshops during the project implementation period. The conference assessed the results of the project and identified prospective future co-operation between the BMSC and the Austrian Finance Ministry; representatives of the Austrian and Afghan customs services expressed their interest in furthering capacity-building initiatives.

From 11 to 22 November, 22 analysts from law enforcement agencies in Afghanistan, Kyrgyzstan, Pakistan and Tajikistan took part in a training course at the BMSC to improve their research skills. The course was organized in partnership with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and focused on using digital tools for analytical work relating to drug and crime data. In the same month, the BMSC, in cooperation with the World Customs Organization (WCO), coordinated the training of 17 mid- and senior-level border officers from Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan in the identification and seizure of chemical precursors with the potential to be used by terrorists, insurgents and criminals to create explosives.⁶¹

The Office, in co-operation with the TNTD/SPMU, facilitated bilateral meetings in November between five Afghan law enforcement officers from different government agencies working on drug control.

At the beginning of December, the OSCE BMSC organized the Cross-Border Research Conference on evolving transnational threats and border security. The BMSC will host the

⁵⁹ SEC.FR_0447_13_-_Activity_Report,_01-31_October_2013

⁶⁰ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Press Release, "Afghan and Tajik border officers complete OSCE training-of-trainers course", DUSHANBE, 29 November 2013, <http://www.osce.org/tajikistan/109060>.

⁶¹ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Press Release, "Afghan border police and Tajik border guards complete OSCE Patrol Management and Analysis course", DUSHANBE 4 October 2013, <http://www.osce.org/tajikistan/106680>

conference again in 2014.⁶² On 6 December, 25 officers from the border, customs and interior agencies of Tajikistan completed a two-week training-of-trainers course focusing on modern teaching methodology and on preparing and delivering training in an interactive, learner-centered manner.⁶³ A three-day regional workshop aimed at sharing practices in international co-operation for investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism-related cases concluded in Dushanbe on 12 December 2013. The event was organized by UNODC in co-operation with the OSCE Office and with support of the OSCE Secretariat's Transnational Threats Department (Action against Terrorism Unit). It brought together 35 participants from the Central Asia region.⁶⁴

OSCE Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan

In July-October 2013 the Project Co-ordinator, in co-operation with the SPMU/TNT, facilitated the participation of 3 representatives from the National Center for Drug Control and the National Security Service (NSS) in the Conference on Preventing and Combating Illicit Drug Trade on the Internet held in Vienna, as well as the participation of 2 representatives from the NSS and the Interior Ministry in the Conference on Priorities for International Co-operation in the Fight against Terrorism, organized by the Ukrainian OSCE Chairmanship in Kyiv, and with the support of the OSCE Transnational Threats Department.⁶⁵

Within the framework of a joint project with the National Center on Drug Control (NCDC), the Project Co-ordinator facilitated a study visit to Austria for the delegation of Uzbekistan in November. During the visit, the delegation studied best practices and obtained relevant practical knowledge in drug trafficking based on the experience of Austria.⁶⁶

Deepening Contact and Co-operation with Afghanistan

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

Expressing concern about the possible security implications for Central Asia in light of the upcoming withdrawal of the International Security Assistance Force (ISAF) from Afghanistan, the PA called on the OSCE to increase efforts to train border guards and law enforcement agents in Central Asia to secure borders and prevent terrorism, drug trafficking and extremism, and

⁶² Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Press Release, "OSCE-organized conference on transnational threats and border security takes place in Dushanbe", DUSHANBE, 2 December 2013 <http://www.osce.org/tajikistan/109116>

⁶³ OSCE Office in Tajikistan, "Tajik border troops, customs and Interior Ministry officers complete OSCE training-of-trainers course", <http://www.osce.org/tajikistan/109357>

⁶⁴ OSCE Office in Tajikistan, "OSCE supports workshop in Tajikistan on investigation, prosecution and adjudication of terrorism cases", <http://www.osce.org/tajikistan/109441>;

⁶⁵ SEC.FR_0327_13_-_Activity_Report,_1-31_July_2013; SEC.FR_0454_13_-_Activity_Report,_1-31_October_2013

⁶⁶ Activity_Report_1-30_November_2013

recommended that the OSCE give greater attention to cross-border co-operation in general as a tool in the conflict cycle.

The Assembly further urged participating States and partner States to increase their contributions to co-operation projects in Afghanistan and to support field operations in Central Asia, both in their work in the three dimensions and in the promotion of OSCE values, standards and commitments.

II. OSCE Initiatives

The OSCE's engagement with Afghanistan, as outlined in the relevant Ministerial Council Decisions and the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration, is based on the understanding that security in the OSCE region is inextricably linked to surrounding countries. In 2007 participating States decided to increase OSCE engagement with the partner state of Afghanistan. They resolved to strengthen this engagement at the 2011 Ministerial Council in Vilnius.⁶⁷

On 9 October 2013, during joint meeting of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation and the Permanent Council, challenges to the security and stability of Afghanistan post-2014 were discussed. Ambassador Yury Fedotov, Executive Director of the United Nations office on Drugs and Crime and a key speaker at the event, stated that illicit drugs are one of the major post-2014 problems that must be urgently addressed.⁶⁸

During the meeting, the delegations noted the Ukrainian and Swiss Chairmanships' steady focus on Afghanistan, including at sessions during the 2013 ASRC and the Secretary General's Security Days. The Swiss delegation referred to several successful projects; namely, the OSCE Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, the OSCE Academy in Bishkek and the Patrol Programming and Leadership Project taking place along the Afghan-Tajik Border.

Along with other international actors in the region, the OSCE has an important role to play within the Istanbul Process at the 'Heart of Asia', and co-operation is crucial in the implementation of confidence building measures in the region.⁶⁹

In October 2013 ODIHR received an invitation from the Afghan Independent Election Commission to support the forthcoming Presidential and Provincial Council elections. In the words of Ihor Prokopchuk of Ukraine, the Chairperson of the OSCE Permanent Council, the

⁶⁷ The OSCE Magazine: Security Community, Issue 4, 2013, p. 14.

⁶⁸ OSCE Permanent Council, Press Release, "Challenges linked to Afghanistan after 2014 in focus of OSCE meeting in Vienna", Vienna 9 October 2013, <http://www.osce.org/pc/106844>

⁶⁹ Swiss Statement, 52nd Joint Meeting of the Forum for Security Co-Operation and the Permanent Council, "Challenges linked to Afghanistan after 2014", Vienna, 9 October 2013, <https://delweb.osce.org>, FSC-PC.DEL/3/13

decision to assist with the elections contributes to the international community's efforts to foster democracy and greater stability in the country.⁷⁰

III. OSCE PA Initiatives

H.E Mohammad Alam Ezedyar, First Deputy Speaker of the Parliament of Afghanistan, addressed the OSCE PA Mediterranean Forum in Budva, Montenegro in October 2013. During his address First Deputy Speaker encouraged greater cooperation in fight against terrorism.⁷¹

Reform of the OSCE

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

In Istanbul, the PA urged the OSCE Secretary General to fulfill the 2004 OSCE Gender Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, which includes increased representation of women as heads and deputy heads of OSCE field operations as well as in the leadership of OSCE institutions.

II. OSCE Initiatives

Fulfillment of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality

According to the latest Secretary General's Annual Evaluation Report on the Implementation of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender equality from November 2013, 34 per cent of women hold senior management positions, which is the highest percentage for the OSCE thus far. At the same time, women continue to constitute 46 per cent of all staff – the same percentage as in 2012. Overall, the report concluded that although the OSCE has made some commendable advances in gender mainstreaming its policies, structures and programmes, there remain areas where progress has been lacking.

The overall percentage of women in the OSCE staff in all categories and across all structures has not changed since the two previous reporting periods. Nevertheless, by May 2013, the percentage of women holding senior management positions had increased by four per cent.⁷²

Mediterranean Engagement

I. OSCE PA Recommendations

⁷⁰ Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, Chairmanship, "OSCE to send team to Afghanistan to assist on April 2014 elections", VIENNA, 24 October 2013, <http://www.osce.org/cio/107459>

⁷¹ Mediterranean Forum address

⁷² The Secretary General's Annual Evaluation Report on the Implementation of the 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, 28 November 2013, SEC.DOC/2/13/Corr.1

The Istanbul Declaration stressed that the security of the OSCE area is linked to that of the Mediterranean, and requested that the OSCE increase engagement with its Mediterranean partners, including by envisaging the possibility of extending the partnership to those Mediterranean countries which observe its principles. The Parliamentary Assembly should play a more prominent role in this area, noted the Declaration, and should renew and strengthen the Mediterranean Forum.

II. OSCE PA Initiatives

Parliamentarians from across the OSCE area gathered on 13-15 October for the OSCE PA's Autumn Meeting in Budva, which included the Assembly's annual Mediterranean Forum.

President Ranko Krivokapic opened the Mediterranean Forum with a call for parliamentarians to ensure that the OSCE Helsinki +40 process incorporates a strong Mediterranean component, and urged all parliamentarians from the Mediterranean to add their voice to the process. Also addressing the Mediterranean Forum was Jean-Claude Mignon, President of PACE, who stressed the need for co-operation and parliamentary dialogue on both sides of the Mediterranean to meet the region's challenges.⁷³

⁷³ OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, "2013 Autumn Meeting in Budva", <http://www.oscepa.org/meetings/fall-meetings/2013-budva>