



Follow-Up on Recommendations in the Vilnius Declaration

Annual Session 2010

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

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Note on sources: In September 2009, the International Secretariat circulated a questionnaire to OSCE PA Delegations, asking for information on the implementation of OSCE PA recommendations. Unless otherwise referenced, information in this report can be found in the responses provided by parliaments, which are available 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.

First General Committee on Political Affairs and Security: Resolutions and Recommendations

Introduction

Parliamentarians representing 50 OSCE participating States met in Vilnius from 29 June to 3 July 2009 to assess developments and challenges relating to security and co-operation, focusing on the general theme of *The OSCE: Addressing New Security Challenges*. In particular, the General Committee on Political Affairs and Security (First Committee) passed resolutions regarding strengthening the OSCE, small arms and light weapons, arms control and disarmament, labour migration, and Afghanistan.

This report considers actions taken by the OSCE and its participating States in relation to the OSCE PA's recommendations. With the strong support of parliamentary delegations and the OSCE governmental side, the report is intended to provide a general overview of relevant developments by participating States and the OSCE.

While the majority of the recommendations addressed here are found in the OSCE PA's Vilnius Declaration of July 2009, key themes from past Declarations have also been considered, to ensure greater continuity and scope. The International Secretariat would like to thank the delegations that responded to the OSCE PA International Secretariat's Questionnaire for their support; the information provided by these answers have been an invaluable source in our research. Responses from delegations are available from the International Secretariat, and PA members are encouraged to examine this valuable source of information, in the interests of continuing exchanges of best practice.

The Food Crisis and Security in the OSCE Area

I. Vilnius Declaration, Chapter I

Recognizing that the food crisis is a major challenge for the OSCE area, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly passed a resolution emphasizing that food security must become a top priority on the OSCE agenda. The resolution urges parliaments to adopt food security laws and policies in order to prevent hunger and malnutrition as well as legislation to encourage balanced agricultural use of land to meet both food and energy demands. On the international level, the resolution recommends that States take a co-ordinated and consistent approach and it encourages participation in the World Summit on Food Security (WSFS) organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) in Rome in November 2009.

II. OSCE Initiatives

Kazakh Chairmanship's Priorities

Upon Kazakhstan's assumption of the Chairmanship of the OSCE on 14 January 2010, President Nursultan Nazarbayev stressed that famine is a challenge that calls for maximum efforts by multilateral institutions like the OSCE. He also emphasized that Kazakhstan, as a major exporter of grain and other foodstuffs, is actively promoting the implementation of the United Nations Millennium Development Goals in order to end hunger and ensure food security.¹

Addressing the OSCE Chairmanship Conference on Security Implications of Climate Change in the OSCE Region, which took place in Bucharest on 5-6 October 2009, Mukhtar Tultabayev, Deputy Director of Environmental Policies and Sustainable Development at the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan, stated that Astana had recently begun to implement a system designed to ensure crops against adverse weather conditions and fires.²

17th OSCE Ministerial Council

In his address to the 17th OSCE Ministerial Council on 1-2 December 2009 in Athens, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Hamrokhon Zarifi called upon the OSCE to have more active participation and elaborate mechanisms of early warning pending possible conflict scenarios. He declared that Tajikistan, which is one of the most food insecure

¹ Text of the video address by President Nursultan Nazarbayev on the occasion of Kazakhstan's assumption of the Chairmanship of the OSCE, 14 January 2010, CIO.GAL/4/10.

² Statement by Mr. Mukhtar Tultabayev, Deputy Director of environmental policies and sustainable development at the Ministry of Environmental Protection of the Republic of Kazakhstan, at the OSCE Chairmanship Conference on Security Implications of Climate Change in the OSCE Region, Bucharest, Romania on 5-6 October 2009.

nations in the OSCE area,³ supports the equal and fair right for all to food independence as an indispensable condition of the maintenance of stability, security and well-being.⁴

Representing an OSCE partner State in the 17th OSCE Ministerial Council, the Head of the Delegation of Thailand, Nongnuth Phetcharatana, declared that the ASEAN community will work to ensure food and energy security. She added that food security has been dealt with under the East Asia Rice Reserve, which will ensure the stability of food prices as well as guarantee supplies in the incident of global food shortages.⁵

Food security in the OSCE Programme 2010

The 2010 OSCE Programme Outline indicates that food security is a top priority of the Office for Economic and Environmental Affairs (EEA) of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan and the Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan (PCUz).

The EEA of the OSCE Office in Tajikistan supports the Government in implementing economic reforms, while continuing to support the efforts of civil society to promote the development of small and agricultural businesses, and attract returning migrants to the idea of investing their earnings in starting small businesses. Because Tajikistan remains a largely agrarian society, the focus in 2010 will be on assisting the process of integration of Small Business and Agricultural Resource Centres (SBRAC) into the public service sector through public-private partnerships.⁶

According to the 2010 OSCE Programme outline, the Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan will continue to combat land degradation and will also focus on rural areas by directing its resources to the improvement of agriculture and the diversification of rural economies.⁷

III. World Summit on Food Security

Forty-two OSCE participating States took part in the World Summit on Food Security (WSFS) organized by the FAO in Rome on 16-18 November 2009. The States adopted a Declaration of the WSFS in which they agree to conduct their actions in accordance with five principles for sustainable global food security. According to these principles, governments will invest in country-owned plans aimed at channeling resources to well-designed and results-based programmes and partnerships. They will also foster strategic co-ordination at national, regional and global levels to improve governance, promote better allocation of resources, avoid duplication of efforts and identify response gaps. States will strive for a comprehensive twin-

³ World Food Programme Tajikistan: Overview, <http://www.wfp.org/countries/Tajikistan>

⁴ Address by H.E Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Tajikistan Mr. Hamrokhon Zarifi at the 17th OSCE Ministerial Council Meeting, Athens, 1-2 December 2009, http://www.osce.org/documents/cio/2009/12/41684_en.pdf.

⁵ Statement by H.E. Mrs. Nongnuth Phetcharatana, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of Thailand to the United Nations in Vienna Head of the Delegation of Thailand to the 17th OSCE Ministerial Council 2 December 2009, Athens, Greece, http://www.osce.org/documents/cio/2009/12/41822_en.pdf.

⁶ 2010 OSCE Programme Outline, Office in Tajikistan, p.123.

⁷ 2010 OSCE Programme Outline, Project Co-ordinator in Uzbekistan, p. 120.

track approach for food security which consists of direct action as well as medium and long term programmes for sustainable agriculture and food security. Finally, they will ensure a strong role for the multilateral system as well as sustained and substantial commitment by all partners to investment in agriculture and food security.⁸

On the occasion of the WSFS, the Parliamentary Assembly's First Committee Rapporteur Riccardo Migliori addressed a special Parliamentary Meeting organized by the Italian Parliament and the Inter-Parliamentary Union on 13 November 2009. In his speech, Mr. Migliori informed participants of the OSCE PA's resolution on food security adopted at the 18th Annual Session. "We are robustly demanding that our governments provide the necessary resources to achieve the ambitious Millennium Development Goals by 2015 as well as adopting urgent and secure policy measures," Mr. Migliori said. "Measures can be adopted to halt agricultural price increases in order to foster the balanced use of suitable farmlands, promote a worldwide network of agricultural scientists, and adopt an international recovery strategy to be able to farm enormous expanses of step lands," he said.⁹

IV. National Initiatives / Best Practices

The United Nations' World Food Programme recently praised the Russian Federation for an "innovative" school meals projects run by the Russian Government that will serve as the model for new WFP-co-ordinated programmes in Armenia, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan. The projects in the town of Yaroslavl, 250 km northeast of Moscow, have been designed to promote sustainability and building links with local agriculture.¹⁰

In Poland, municipalities are responsible for providing food assistance to the poorest individuals. They receive significant financial support from the Ministry of Labour and Social Policy through a long-term programme called State Food Assistance. According to "Poland's Energy Policy until 2030" energy needs will be primarily catered through the use of agricultural and agri-food industry byproducts and residues. Adhering to national and EU objectives relating to food and bio-energy production, the Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development considers appropriate to support new farm biofuel projects, and the development of energy crops on fallow land.

In addition, the Agency for Restructuring and Modernization of Agriculture provides loans for the purchase of farmland to persons under 40 years old. It strives to implement farm settlement programme on land owned by the State Treasury; implement investment projects in agriculture, agri-food processing and agricultural services; provide financial assistance to agricultural producers; and create new jobs for the rural population.

Support under the Rural Areas Development Programme 2007-2013 (PROW), partly financed by the EU, includes start up assistance; structural pension; financial support for high-quality food

⁸ World Summit on Food Security, Declaration of the World Summit on Food Security, Rome, 16-18 November 2009, http://www.fao.org/fileadmin/templates/wsfs/Summit/Docs/Final_Declaration/WSFS09_Declaration.pdf.

⁹ OSCE PA website, "Riccardo Migliori speaks on food security at FAO event", http://www.oscepa.org/index.php?view=article&id=745%3Ariccardo-migliori-spoke-on-food-security&option=com_content&Itemid=73.

¹⁰ United Nations World Food Programme News, "Russia Provides Model for School Meals in CIS," 18 March 2010, <http://www.wfp.org/stories/russia-provides-model-school-meals-cis>

production; assistance to agricultural producer groups; support farming in mountainous areas and less favoured areas (LFA); the modernization of farms and utilities in rural areas; farmer non-agricultural business activities, construction or repair of cultural and recreational facilities, restoration of monuments, cultural and recreational facilities and formation of micro-businesses.

In Liechtenstein the balanced use of agricultural land is ensured by means of the Agricultural Law of 2008 which aims to promote environmentally friendly and animal friendly agriculture. In order to maintain soil fertility, the environmental impact is minimized by environmentally friendly forms of production, such as integrated production and organic farming. In parallel with Switzerland, the Ecological Performance Certificate was introduced for environmentally friendly and animal-friendly cultivation. The use of agricultural aids (fertilizers, pesticides) is strictly regulated.

In order to ensure food security Monaco supports the Emergency Humanitarian Aid of the World Food Programme. Monaco contributed 100,000 EUR to the World Food Programme last year, especially to cope with the food crisis in Niger and Madagascar.

The Belgian Fund for Food Security, with a budget of 250 million EUR, focuses on helping chronically insecure areas meet their food needs. The Chamber of Representatives adopted on 19 March 2009 a resolution related to a new general policy to fight against hunger in the context of the current world food crisis.

Norway allocated 24.6 million EUR as humanitarian aid to areas affected by drought and hunger in 2009, mostly to countries on the Horn of Africa. Also that year, the Government provided 38 million EUR to the Emergency Relief Fund of the United Nations. After having addressed the White Paper on Climate, Conflict and Capital in May 2009 the Parliament gave its support the Government's initiative to increase foreign aid related to agriculture in developing countries.

France has proposed a global partnership on agriculture and food security since 2008. In April of that year, the Government set up a high level inter-ministerial working group on food security in developing countries in an attempt to find short-term, medium-term and long-term solutions to the food crisis. In July 2009 France signed the Aquila Declaration on food security and pledged 16.4 billion EUR. France also signed the G20 Pittsburgh Declaration on 25 September 2009 and took part in the World Summit on Food Security held in Rome in November 2009.

France participated in efforts reform the FAO Food Security Committee with the view of promoting policy convergence and a common global strategic framework. Within this framework, it supports the creation of the High Level Panel of Experts (HLPE) and provides 150,000 EUR for its maintenance. The aim is for the HLPE to tackle climate change, price fluctuation, and tax issues. France committed to provide 1.5 billion EUR for the period 2009-2011 for food security within the framework of its aid development programme and hosts the group. At the national level, a draft law on agriculture and fishing modernization has been presented to Parliament.

The United Kingdom launched a new strategy entitled "Food 2030" in January 2010. The strategy aims to develop a sustainable food system. It emphasizes education of consumers,

producers, processors and retailers on food sustainability, and includes requirements for the food system to be low-carbon based and efficient with resources. In order to develop and implement this strategy, the UK Government continues to work with food sector stakeholders. Progress will be monitored using a variety of indicators. The UK is pursuing effective delivery of the commitments made at the WSFS, including the further development of the Global Partnership for Agriculture and Food Security.

The Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs and the Department for International Development are co-sponsoring the Foresight Global Food and Farming Futures Project to look at how a projected global population of nine billion in 2050 can all be fed sustainably and healthily. The findings are due to be launched in November 2010.

Switzerland supported the work of the UN Secretary General's High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis and actively participated in the reform FAO Committee on World Food Security and played a significant role in restructuring the Consultative Group on International Agriculture Research.

Iceland's policy on development co-operation is based on the Millennium Development Goals and other internationally agreed development objectives. The main focus areas are sustainable development, poverty reduction, capacity building, gender equality, and advancement of democracy. Multilateral development co-operation is mostly channelled through United Nations Funds and Programmes, such as UNICEF, UNIFEM, UNFPA, UNHCR, UNDP and UNU, as well as the World Bank.

Slovenia has set food security, food sustainability and permanent preservation of agricultural land's soil fertility as mid-term goals in the Slovenian Agriculture Development Strategy. These goals are also mentioned in the Agriculture Act in addition to agriculture and rural development planning, agricultural policy measures.

Strengthening the OSCE

I. Vilnius Declaration, Resolution on Strengthening the OSCE

Recalling previous recommendations by the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly regarding the need for institutional reform in the OSCE – specifically the resolutions adopted in St. Petersburg (1999), Paris (2001), Edinburgh (2004), Kyiv (2007) and Astana (2008) – the Vilnius Declaration again called for comprehensive reform of the Organization. In particular, the Declaration emphasized the need for the Permanent Council to open its meetings to the press and the public, and for the OSCE to modify the consensus rule for decision-making. The PA also called on the Permanent Council “to recognise its accountability to the citizens of the OSCE participating States and their elected representatives through timely responses and reaction to OSCE PA recommendations.”

The resolution further calls for the OSCE PA “to be given an oversight role in relation to the OSCE budget and for confirmation by the Assembly of the OSCE Secretary General, once nominated, as called for in the 2005 Colloquium Report on the Future of the OSCE.” In addition, the Declaration “urges the engagement of independent, external professional auditors to oversee the disbursement and expenditure of all funds within the OSCE, to report directly to the OSCE Chairmanship Troika and the President of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly, and to make their findings, observations, conclusions and recommendations available to participating States and the Parliamentary Assembly.”

II. Continued Advocacy for Reform by the OSCE PA

Since the passage of the “Strengthening the OSCE” resolution, OSCE PA President Joao Soares has continued to push for institutional reform in the Organization. Addressing the Permanent Council in November, the President said that it “is not in line with the spirit of Helsinki that the Permanent Council conducts its work largely in private, behind closed doors. This democratic deficit remains to be addressed. ... PC meetings need to open up and allow for the presence of the press and the interested public, particularly when it comes to the debates under Current Issues.”¹¹

Mr. Soares also reminded the Permanent Council that the Parliamentary Assembly continues to be a very strong supporter of the OSCE’s field missions. “These missions,” he said, “represent the core of the OSCE’s current work, and they must be maintained and indeed strengthened. I have visited almost all missions – ten of them this year, and I can personally attest to the excellent work that the hard-working, dedicated individuals in these missions do under often difficult circumstances.”¹²

At the Athens Ministerial Council in December, President Soares again pressed for reform in order to increase the legitimacy and political relevance of the OSCE, expressing his hope that “the OSCE can be reinvigorated through a genuine review process at the highest political level.” The decision-making structures in Vienna “are virtually unable to reach agreement, particularly on key political issues,” Mr. Soares said, and “for many years now the Permanent Council has proved unable to come to a single decision that in any substantive way improves upon the existing commitments that we already have.”¹³

Important to the OSCE’s revival would be, according to Mr. Soares, holding an OSCE Summit in 2010, as proposed by Kazakhstan. Such a Summit would be a reminder to our citizens of the “important contribution of the Helsinki Final Act and the Charter of Paris,” he stated.¹⁴

¹¹ “Address by OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President João Soares,” Permanent Council, Vienna, 19 November 2009, http://www.oscepa.org/images/stories/documents/presidential_speeches/2009-Soares-Speech-Permanent-Council-Vienna-191109.pdf

¹² Ibid.

¹³ Opening speech by OSCE Parliamentary Assembly President Joao Soares at the 17th OSCE Ministerial Council in Athens, 1 December 2009, http://www.oscepa.org/images/stories/documents/presidential_speeches/2009-Soares-Speech-Ministerial-Council-Athens.pdf

¹⁴ Ibid.

In April 2010, President Soares extended the mandate of and appointed new leadership to the OSCE PA's Ad Hoc Committee on Transparency and Accountability. Established in 2001, the Ad Hoc Committee was tasked with putting forward recommendations on how to improve the work of the OSCE and to increase its transparency. Its new mandate includes providing input to the OSCE Corfu Process, launched in June 2009 at an informal meeting of OSCE foreign ministers. Other key priorities of the Committee include changing the use of the secret single country veto in the decision-making procedure of the OSCE, to improve the level of feedback from the Governmental side on the Assembly's recommendations and Declarations, and to establish regular contacts between the leadership of the OSCE and its Parliamentary Assembly.¹⁵

The Deputy Speaker of the Finnish Parliament, Johannes Koskinen, has agreed to chair the Committee, which is made up of senior members of the Assembly from 14 different countries. They are: Adil Akhmetov, Kazakhstan; Vilija Abramikiene, Lithuania; Doris Barnett, Germany; Petur Blondal, Iceland; Pia Christmas-Moeller, Denmark; Xavier De Donnea, Belgium; Consiglio Di Nino, Canada; Petros Efthymiou, Greece; Suzana Grubjesic, Serbia; Aleksander Kozlovskiy, Russia; Goran Lenmarker, Sweden; Tony Lloyd, UK; Riccardo Migliori, Italy; and Pawel Poncyljusz, Poland.

III. The 2005 Report of the Washington Colloquium¹⁶ and OSCE Institutional Reform

The Report of the Washington Colloquium is a key document providing important recommendations on how to reform the OSCE. In many of its resolutions, the PA has urged the Permanent Council to put the report on its agenda and to debate its recommendations. On several occasions the report, which at the time had been presented to the OSCE Ambassadors by PA Secretary General Spencer Oliver, has been circulated among the participating States' permanent missions in Vienna.

The Vienna Liaison Office recently distributed a contribution to the ongoing Corfu Process containing all major recommendations from the report and putting them in the context of the current discussions.¹⁷ The Kazakh Chairmanship referred to the report in the documentary put before the OSCE Ambassadors during their last "Corfu Retreat" on 15 May 2010.

Several permanent missions, among them Canada, Germany, Greece, Romania and Switzerland, as well as the EU, have advocated an inclusion of the recommendations in the debates. However, a discussion on the substance of the OSCE PA recommendations has yet to take place. Although

¹⁵ OSCE PA Press Release: "New leadership, expanded mandate for Transparency Committee," 29 April 2010, http://www.oscepa.org/index.php?view=article&id=847%3Anew-leadership-expanded-mandate-for-transparency-committee&option=com_content&Itemid=73

¹⁶ The Colloquium on "The Future of the OSCE" was a joint project of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly and the Swiss Institute for World Affairs held in Washington D.C. on 5-6 June 2005 and included diplomats, politicians, and experts with great experience and knowledge of the OSCE. This Report has been agreed by President of the OSCE PA, Congressman Alcee L. Hastings and the Swiss Foundation Chairman, Ambassador Edouard Brunner, http://www.oscepa.org/images/stories/documents/special_reports/report_on_the_colloquium_on_the_future_of_the_osce.pdf

¹⁷ "Food-for-Thought contribution to the ongoing Corfu discussions" distributed on 7 May 2010 under reference PA.GAL/1/10

discussion has taken place in the Permanent Council on the consensus rule in decision-making this has not been part of a general review of OSCE PA recommendations.

Despite the calls of the OSCE PA, the meetings of the Permanent Council remain closed to the public, and no changes have been made to the decision-making process in Vienna. Although the issue of institutional reform remains high on the agenda of those in leadership positions in the OSCE, the Parliamentary Assembly still has no official role in approving the OSCE budget or in confirming the OSCE Secretary General.

IV. OSCE Secretary General's Response

In response to PA's request to review of the failure of the Organization to effectively implement the 2004 Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality, OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut drew attention to the differentiated review which he publishes in his Annual Report on the Gender Action Plan.

According to Ambassador de Brichambaut, "the Organization continues to strive toward a greater gender balance in higher management positions (P5 and above)." The Secretary General emphasized "the appointment within the past year of three female P5 managers in the Office of the Secretary General." In addition, the Secretariat has issued a policy against sexual harassment and discrimination, as well as recommendations to promote a gender-sensitive working environment.

Regarding the PA's emphasis on the need for timely adoption of the OSCE budget, the Secretary General responded that it is "entirely the responsibility of participating States. For the first time in several years, the Unified Budget for 2010 was adopted prior to the start of the budget year (22 December 2009)". Regarding the need for updating the OSCE Financial regulations, the Secretary General reported that "the participating States through their Advisory Committee on Management and Finance (ACMF) structure remain deadlocked on agreeing updated financial regulations."

In response to PA's recommendation that reliance on secondments for staffing OSCE field operations be reduced and that transparency be enhanced regarding the recruitment process, the Secretary General reported that he had made a focused appeal to the participating States. The document "Preserving the Effectiveness of the Secondment System" (SEC.GAL/27/09/Corr.1 of 2 March 2009) has served as a basis for discussions on the renewed commitment to the secondment system. In the Budget proposal for the year 2010, "conversions of seconded positions to contracted ones were limited, mainly due to financial implications. A gradual and well-planned process of adapting and strengthening the Programmes' staff components may be continued further but will remain directly linked to the availability of resources."

Regarding the PA's recommendation that OSCE professional staff term limits be eliminated in order to attract and keep highly qualified professional staff, "the Secretary General twice in 2009 has proposed to the participating States to consider measures" going in this direction.

V. National Initiatives / Best Practices

In the management area, the United Kingdom is working with the OSCE Secretariat and OSCE participating States to try to achieve more merit-based appointments; more effective staff assessment procedures; improved recruitment procedures so as to increase staff's strategic, programme and people management skills; greater transferability between the OSCE Secretariat, Institutions and Field Missions; a results-based budget which is more focused on areas of OSCE comparative advantage; and improved gender balance, particularly at senior levels and in the Field Missions.

Poland also supports efforts aimed at simplifying staff regulations and recruitment mechanisms, first of all for field missions. Sweden's Ministry of Foreign Affairs and representation at OSCE in Vienna maintains an ongoing exchange of information with the Riksdag OSCE delegation.

The Republic of Slovenia has raised concerns over the financing of voluntary contributions, calling for improved methods regarding the use of voluntary funds. In this field, Slovenia supports the efforts and initiatives of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly. Andorra's Minister of Foreign Affairs supports the improvement of OSCE mechanisms and instruments in the framework of the Corfu Process.

Afghanistan

I. Vilnius Declaration, Resolution on Afghanistan

Regarding Afghanistan, the Vilnius Declaration pledges that the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly "will promote Afghanistan's increasing participation in the activities of the OSCE," and calls on "the Government of Afghanistan, the United Nations Assistance Mission in Afghanistan and the OSCE to redouble efforts to promote the role of women and equal opportunities for women in Afghan society." It expresses support to the OSCE's efforts in assisting Afghanistan with border management training and calls on Afghanistan to ensure free and fair elections. The Resolution also calls for greater co-operation between OSCE and Pakistan as a possible Partner for Co-operation to boost security in the OSCE region

II. Afghan Security Situation

With 520 coalition casualties and 2,412 civilians killed, 2009 was the deadliest year in Afghanistan since military operations began in 2001.¹⁸ Most of the civilian deaths, according to the UN's Assistance Mission in Afghanistan, were the result of Taliban attacks and in January 2010 the UN reminded all sides of Afghanistan's conflict of their obligations under international law to minimize the impact of fighting on civilians.¹⁹ 2010 has continued to see high casualties;

¹⁸ iCasualties.org – Operation Enduring Freedom, <http://www.icasualties.org/OEF/Index.aspx>

¹⁹ "UNAMA calls for safety first, as civilian casualties rise by 14% in 2009," United Nations Assistance in Afghanistan, 13 January 2010, <http://unama.unmissions.org/Default.aspx?tabid=1741&ctl=Details&mid=1882&ItemID=7260>

however, the number of civilian deaths has been lower than in the same period in 2009, according to two Afghan human rights groups.²⁰

In response to the deteriorating security situation, at the December 2009 NATO Ministerial, 25 NATO countries pledged to commit 7,000 additional soldiers, with more to follow. In addition, the United States pledged an extra 30,000. NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen announced that the NATO countries had also agreed on “a new roadmap for this mission” with “substantially more aid money” and “a new policy to support actively the reintegration of Taliban fighters who lay down their arms.”²¹

III. Presidential and Provincial Council Elections

The 20 August 2009 presidential and Provincial Council elections in Afghanistan were marked by allegations of ballot stuffing, intimidation, and other electoral fraud. “The lack of effective measures to prevent irregularities, widespread fraud on election day, and the failure of the Afghan-formed Independent Election Commission (IEC) to respond resolutely and efficiently to malpractices, resulted in a deep lack of confidence in the process,” the OSCE/ODIHR Election Support Team reported.²²

The Afghan Electoral Complaints Commission found “clear and convincing evidence of fraud”²³ at 83 polling stations and ordered that ballots be invalidated, with election stakeholders accusing the IEC of doing too little to prevent the abuses. An investigation conducted by the BBC found evidence of voting cards being offered for sale and bribes being offered to buy votes.²⁴ Citing these “serious deficiencies,” the OSCE/ODIHR questioned “the appropriateness and usefulness of holding elections under the dramatically challenging circumstances prevailing in Afghanistan in August 2009.”²⁵

A second round of voting that was scheduled for 7 November 2009 was scuttled after opposition candidate Abdullah Abdullah announced that he would not be participating in the run-off because his demands for changes in the electoral commission had not been met. On 2 November, officials of the election commission cancelled the run-off and declared Hamid Karzai President of Afghanistan for another five year term.²⁶

²⁰ IRIN: ‘Afghanistan: Dip in civilian deaths in first two months of 2010’, 1 March 2010, www.irinnews.org/Report.aspx?ReportId=88268, (accessed 27 May 2010)

²¹ “Press Conference with NATO Secretary General Anders Fogh Rasmussen after the NATO Foreign Ministers meeting with non-NATO ISAF Contributing Nations,” 4 December 2009, http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/opinions_59872.htm

²² “Islamic Republic of Afghanistan – Presidential and Provincial Council Elections, 20 August 2009,” OSCE/ODIHR Election Support Team Final Report, 8 December 2009

²³ “Afghan vote commission orders first ballots invalidated,” AFP, 10 September 2009, http://www.google.com/hostednews/afp/article/ALeqM5i3xqZSi2U_mgENDm3TK0-yqI7I_g

²⁴ “Afghan election fraud is unearthed,” BBC News, 18 August 2009, <http://news.bbc.co.uk/2/hi/8207315.stm>

²⁵ “Islamic Republic of Afghanistan – Presidential and Provincial Council Elections, 20 August 2009,” OSCE/ODIHR Election Support Team Final Report, 8 December 2009

²⁶ “Out of Race, Karzai Rival Is Harsh Critic of Election,” New York Times, 1 November 2009, <http://www.nytimes.com/2009/11/02/world/asia/02afghan.html>

Afghanistan has parliamentary elections scheduled this year, and if the Government decides to proceed,²⁷ ODIHR has called for a “pro-active and comprehensive approach to fraud prevention and investigation.” Specifically, Afghanistan needs to strengthen the independence, impartiality, transparency, accountability and credibility of election administration, and especially of the IEC. Also, Afghanistan must transform the Electoral Complaints Commission into a permanent body and develop the organizational capacities of domestic observer groups.²⁸ Considering the extent of the reform that is necessary, ODIHR notes that “serious political consideration should be given to the possibility of delaying [the elections] until at least the most basic conditions for democratic elections are more firmly in place.”²⁹

IV. The London Conference

The International Conference on Afghanistan, held in London on 28 January 2010, established concrete goals of transferring the leading security role to the Afghan National Security Forces (ANSF) and increasing the number of officers in the Afghan National Army (ANA) and in the Afghan National Police (ANP). The efforts of the Afghan Government were reinvigorated by developing and implementing a Peace and Reintegration Programme.

Within the framework of development and governance, conference participants are expected to increase the proportion of development aid, provided that the Afghan Government makes progress in further strengthening public management systems and reducing corruption. Other conditions include improving budget and increasing state capacity in refining the development priorities. In addition, they urged the international community to increase support in the training of 12,000 sub-national civil servants in support of provincial and district governors.

The Afghan Government committed to implementing the National Action Plan for Women of Afghanistan and the Law on Elimination of Violence against Women.³⁰

V. OSCE Initiatives

Afghanistan became an OSCE Asian Partner for Co-operation in 2003. Since then, the OSCE has provided assistance to Afghanistan in various areas, ranging from dispatching election support teams (2004, 2005 and 2009) to including Afghan representatives in activities organized by the OSCE’s Field Operations, its Secretariat, Institutions and participating States in the region. As a Partner for Co-operation, and with the support of the UN in Kabul, parliamentarians from Afghanistan regularly observe OSCE PA events.

²⁷ The elections have already been postponed once, and are now scheduled for 18 September 2010.

²⁸ “Islamic Republic of Afghanistan – Presidential and Provincial Council Elections, 20 August 2009,” OSCE/ODIHR Election Support Team Final Report, 8 December 2009

²⁹ Ibid.

³⁰ Afghanistan: The London Conference Communiqué: Afghan Leadership, Regional Cooperation, International Partnership, 28 January 2010

OSCE Field Activities

The OSCE is assisting Tajikistan in improving its border patrols and customs in order to combat trafficking of weapons and drugs through Tajikistan to and from Afghanistan, and to promote co-operation between Tajik and Afghan personnel. In May 2009, the OSCE opened a Border Management Staff College in Dushanbe, which acts as a central institution where officials from all border-related agencies throughout the OSCE area can enhance their knowledge and exchange information on keeping borders open and secure. The project enhances the capacities of border security and management agencies across Central Asia and with Afghanistan.

The OSCE has also launched a Customs Training Facility in Kyrgyzstan to train national and regional customs officers together with Afghan personnel and to combat the spread of illicit drugs from Afghanistan and chemical precursors into Afghanistan. The OSCE has expanded a law enforcement co-operation programme with Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Russia and Turkey to Afghanistan.³¹

In October 2009, the OSCE Borders Team and the OSCE Office in Ashgabat organized a 15-day field training course on border security, which focused on patrolling and covert surveillance skills and techniques. Officials from the State Border Service of Turkmenistan took part in the training, which started at the border crossing point of Imamnazar on the Turkmen-Afghan border.³² The project comprised two training courses for a total of 24 officials from the State Border Service, and was financed by Japan, an OSCE Asian Partner for Co-operation. On 19 April 2010, the Head of the OSCE Centre in Ashgabat, Ambassador Arsim Zekolli, met with the Ambassador of Afghanistan to discuss potential follow-up on last year's co-operation on border management and customs projects.³³

Kazakh Chairmanship's Priorities

As described in the "Path to Europe 2009-2011 State Programme," the Kazakh Ministry of Foreign Affairs states that a part of its broader agenda is the "reconstruction of the OSCE partner-state Afghanistan."³⁴

"Afghanistan occupies a special place in the programme of our Chairmanship," Kazakh Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairman-in-Office Kanat Saudabayev told the U.S. Helsinki Commission on 2 February 2010. "It is clear that the Afghan authorities should begin solving the problems of

³¹ OSCE Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut's speech to the Second Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum in Almaty, 14-15 May 2010

³² "OSCE trains Turkmenistan border officials on Turkmen-Afghan border as part of effort to fight drug trafficking," OSCE Centre in Ashgabat Press Release, 13 October 2009, http://www.osce.org/ashgabat/item_1_40727.html

³³ OSCE Centre in Ashgabat Activity Report, 1-30 April 2010, Vienna, 13 May 2010

³⁴ "Path to Europe 2009-2011 State Program," Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, <http://portal.mfa.kz/portal/page/portal/mfa/en/content/truth/path%20to%20europe>

their country on their own. However, they also need the strong support of the world community,” Mr. Saudabayev said.³⁵

The OSCE is supporting Afghanistan’s efforts to better manage its northern borders, develop cross-border co-operation, and strengthen law-enforcement capabilities, and has placed increased emphasis on drug control issues in Turkmenistan and border issues in Tajikistan, with an emphasis on training of Afghan officials. Kyrgyzstan has also come forward with regional security initiatives with regard to Afghanistan.

As part of the broader stabilization programme, in November 2009 the Foreign Ministers of Kazakhstan and Afghanistan signed an agreement on co-operation in the education sphere. In accordance with this agreement, Kazakhstan will in five years allocate 41 million EUR for training of 1,000 Afghan specialists in the domestic vocational and higher educational establishments. Also, beginning in 2010 Kazakhstan will receive 200 students from Afghanistan for a period of five years for training in various specialties.³⁶

In May 2010, Mr. Saudabayev met with Afghan President Hamid Karzai and Foreign Minister Zalmai Rassoul in Kabul to discuss initiatives to strengthen Afghanistan’s borders with Central Asian States, enhance the country’s law enforcement capacities and promote co-operation in combating drug trafficking. Also meeting with the EU Representative, Ambassador Vygaudas Usackas, Mr. Saudabayev emphasized the need for international organizations to work closely together and find common approaches in addressing problems related to Afghanistan.³⁷

OSCE PA Engagement

On the margins of the Annual Session in Vilnius, PA President Joao Soares held a meeting with representatives of the Afghan Delegation consisting of parliamentarians and senators on 30 June 2009. The main issues of discussion were the security situation in Afghanistan and the upcoming elections. Mr. Soares expressed the OSCE PA’s willingness to join the Bishkek Initiative, which would ensure the OSCE’s participation on a parliamentary level in this discussion platform. The President also reaffirmed his willingness to get involved in election observation in the country, but noted that security issues remained a concern.

Afghanistan was also the subject of the 2010 Winter Meeting’s Special Debate on 19 February 2010. Meeting in joint session, nearly 50 OSCE parliamentarians participated in the Special Debate on Afghanistan. Following an introduction of the topic by President Soares, OSCE PA Vice-President and Head of the Kazakh Delegation Kassym-Jomart Tokayev opened the discussion by outlining his assessment of the situation in Afghanistan and emphasizing that stabilizing the country is one of the main priorities of the Chairmanship. Kazakhstan is actively engaged in the rehabilitation and reconstruction of Afghanistan, he stressed. The Vice-President stressed that European and Asian efforts should be combined to build Afghanistan’s security.

³⁵ OSCE Press Release: “Overcoming the current crisis of confidence is crucial to tackling new threats to security, OSCE Chairperson tells U.S. Helsinki Commission,” 2 February 2010, http://www.osce.org/cio/item_1_42616.html

³⁶ “Kazakhstan to spend \$50 million educating Afghans,” Press Release, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Kazakhstan, 22 November 2009, <http://portal.mfa.kz/portal/page/portal/mfa/en/content/news/nws2009/2009-11-22>

³⁷ OSCE Press Release: “Afghanistan linked to global, regional security, says OSCE Chairperson,” 17 May 2010, http://www.osce.org/cio/item_1_43948.html

Mr. Tokayev also talked about the substantial funding to Afghanistan that Kazakhstan is providing, particularly for education, infrastructure, and agricultural equipment.

The OSCE PA's Special Representative on Afghanistan, Head of the French Delegation Michel Voisin, noted that public opinion in the West is largely skeptical of the new strategy that emerged from the recent London Conference and expressed concern over the 2009 Presidential election. Mr. Voisin lamented that "coalition forces have not been able to provide adequate security, which has led to a crisis of faith." Regarding the improvement of governance and the rule of law, he emphasized that corruption must be fought vigorously and stressed that it is essential to tackle poverty in order to combat drug trafficking.

During the debate delegates called for further involvement in Afghanistan and an enhanced role of the OSCE in the dialogue for reconciliation, maintaining that there is no military solution for Afghanistan. Several delegations insisted that the presence of the troops has become part of the problem instead of the solution and suggested integrating the Taliban in the negotiations. Others stressed the progress achieved since military operations began and considered both civilian and military means as necessary to complete the work undertaken in the country. It was also noted that neighbouring countries such as Pakistan and Iran could play a role in the peace process. Many delegations noted that the January 2010 London Conference provides a workable strategy moving forward.

The situation in Afghanistan was also discussed in Session I of the Second Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum held in Almaty on 14-15 May 2010.

Election Support

At the request of the Permanent Council, the OSCE/ODIHR deployed an Election Support Team of seven experts in July 2009 to assist Afghanistan's authorities and the international community in their efforts to organize the August elections, as well as to prepare a report on the electoral process with recommendations on how to improve the conduct of future elections.³⁸

VI. National Initiatives³⁹ / Best Practices

Norway's efforts in Afghanistan amount 92.4 million EUR per year and have civilian, political and military components. A main priority of the Norwegian support to Afghanistan is to improve the country's own capabilities so that it can take more responsibility for its own security, governance and economic development. Specific funding is given to the education sector, energy sector, and human rights, in particular women's rights.

France emphasizes both diplomatic and military means to secure Afghanistan's future. At the diplomatic level, with the action of Special Representative of the President of the Republic for

³⁸ "OSCE/ODIHR experts to remain in Afghanistan for second round of elections," OSCE Press Release, 21 October 2009, <http://www.osce.org/item/40860.html>

³⁹ Many OSCE participating States have committed substantial numbers of troops to the NATO/ISAF mission in Afghanistan. The most recent figures on ISAF contributions are included as an annex.

Afghanistan and Pakistan M. Thierry Mariani, France has strengthened its co-operation in the fields of education, rural rehabilitation and re-focused its aid programme. This program has been increased to the amount of 40 million EUR in 2009. Also, 150 gendarmes have been tasked with training the Afghan police. The French military secure the areas under its responsibility to facilitate operations of rebuilding infrastructures, civil engineering and aid to the population.

Cyprus underlined that the EU has adopted an Action Plan for Afghanistan targeting the strengthening of state capacities and institutions in order to promote good governance, efficient public administration and enhancement of the rule of the law. In this respect, Cyprus contributed 100,000 EUR to Afghanistan in 2009 in the form of development assistance.

Liechtenstein made a financial contribution in 2009 to the Project ODIHR Election Support Team to Afghanistan. In 2009, Liechtenstein also contributed to a project of the Refugee Education Trust (RET), which supports the education of women in the Afghan Province of Parwan. Furthermore, the Liechtenstein Institute on Self-determination (LISD) launched a multi-disciplinary project on Afghanistan in 2001, which focuses on exploring structures and processes for forming a viable and democratic state while also increasing the prerequisite security within Afghanistan and its region.

The Czech Republic deployment in Afghanistan consists of ten civilian experts and 275 troops. The civilian team consists of experts whose skills range from civil engineering, agriculture, veterinary medicine and security to media. Priorities are being fulfilled by projects in the sectors of security and governance, infrastructure, water sources and irrigation, agriculture, health care, education, women's rights and media.

Iceland has supported reconstruction and development efforts in Afghanistan since 2003. This has included participation in ISAF where Iceland has provided technical assistance and funds, i.e. support to the justice system, gender equality and women's empowerment. Hungary contributes to the ISAF operations with 335 military personnel. The Hungarian Defence Forces contributed to the international efforts aiming to ensure the credibility, security and safety of the presidential elections with an Election Support Platoon. The Hungarian Special Forces Task Unit provided assistance in the field of the fight against terrorism in Wardak province.

Italy takes part in ISAF and European Union Police Mission in Afghanistan and is increasing the Italian military contribution in Afghanistan by 1,000 units by the end of 2010 in order to speed up the process of transferring the responsibility for the security of the country to Afghan authorities. The German Bundestag approved the continued participation of German armed forces in NATO-led ISAF until 13 December 2010 while Belgium stated the need to increase its commitment to the civil dimension of the operation in Afghanistan.

The United Kingdom has played a vital role in Operation Moshtarak, which successfully improved conditions concerning freedom of movement and the local economy in central Helmand. The UK-led Provincial Reconstruction Team assisted the Government of Afghanistan in launching its District Stabilisation Plan in Nad Ali. Military spending is on top of the defence budget with 4.1 billion EUR. Aid to Afghanistan and Pakistan amounts to 1.2 billion EUR over four years.

Turkey is preparing to establish another civilian-led PRT in Jowzjan province in addition to the existing PTR in Wardak. Troop deployment has doubled since the assumption of the Regional Command in Kabul in October 2009. Turkey adopted a Joint Statement together with Afghanistan and Pakistan in January 2010; it contains recommendations for the further development of co-operation in the field of education. The fourth Trilateral Summit among the three countries was hosted in Ankara. The Summit on Friendship and Co-operation held in Istanbul focused on the connection between Afghanistan and its neighbourhood. It committed to contributing 164 million EUR at the Paris Donors' Conference.

Sweden's non-military contributions primarily focus on the build-up and the development of democratic institutions and processes; the education sector; the fostering of better conditions for small enterprises; the situation of women and girls in the country. With regard to the latter, sexual and reproductive health and rights, women's participation and influence, and helping to combat gender-related violence are the main priority objectives.

The Swedish funding to UNIFEM – 6.1 million EUR – includes efforts to establish housing and legal aid for women fleeing from violence inside the family; to provide peace and security training to young women leaders and technical advice to women's ministry and other ministries; to increase Afghan government capacity to work with gender equality at all levels. According to the new strategy for Swedish development assistance to Afghanistan, Swedish aid will increase gradually to about 51 million EUR per year by 2013. In August 2009, Sweden provided 4.1 million EUR to the electoral process in Afghanistan and a number of election observers to the EU's Election Observation Mission.

A newly established Slovenian Operational Mentor and Liaison Team (OMLT) is expected to train a battalion of the Afghan National Army (ANA) next fall. Romania's contribution to ISAF Mission amounts 1,800 troops. Two OMLTs are tasked to train Afghan Security Forces and a third one would be established. Romania contributes to EUPOL Afghanistan.

In April 2010, Poland increased its commitment to the ISAF Mission, bringing its total to 2,600 personnel. With regard to development assistance, Poland is committed to build an efficient judicial system; train civil police; develop crops alternative to opium and poppy plantations; facilitate access to potable water; enforce the health care system and the education. In 2008, the Polish PRT built 30 wells in a refugee camp and refurbished the hospital maternity ward in Ghazni. It supported the education access and quality improvement programme for the Panjshir province. Poland support to multilateral initiatives in Afghanistan by funding the WFP, the Protracted relief and recovery operation, the UNODC projects in Afghanistan and the Afghanistan Reconstruction Trust Fund.

Lithuania approved its Strategy of the Activities of the Republic of Lithuania in the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan for 2009-2013. The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia currently has a total of 163 personnel within the ISAF operation, primarily engaged in the security company in ISAF headquarters in Kabul. Two staff officers are in the ISAF HQs, five staff officers in the OMLTs and six medical personnel in the Joint Medical Surgical team within the Norwegian Provincial Reconstruction Team in Meymanah.

Estonian units are mainly deployed in Helmand province along with the British units. Estonia's support to Afghanistan from 2002-2008 has totalled 960,000 EUR. Estonia is supporting two projects that are helping to launch a first aid training for adults in the Helmand province as well as to set up an additional training system for doctors. Estonia has also started consultations aimed at developing the work of the parliament of the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan.

Canada continues to focus on providing assistance to the Afghan administration's efforts against corruption, providing expertise to Afghan ministries, and training the Afghan National Police to promote law and order in key district of Kandahar. With regard to the education system, Canada provides support to build or rehabilitate school and establish community-based schools.

Canada facilitated a second set of meetings in November 2009 of the Afghanistan-Pakistan Joint Working Group which resulted in the approval of a new list of projects, including the development of drug treatment centres and building the capacity of law enforcement agencies to maintain law and order in the border region. Canada is also contributing to national-level projects aimed at strengthening electoral processes in Afghanistan. These projects are largely focused on improving the political participation of women as voters, candidates or election workers; and civic education.

Small Arms and Light Weapons

I. Vilnius Declaration, Resolution on Small Arms and Light Weapons

The Vilnius Declaration includes a resolution on small arms and light weapons (SALW) calling on participating States to give concrete, substantive follow up to the Ministerial decision on SALW of 5 December 2008 particularly by formulating a series of criteria for export controls on SALW, preparing a normative framework for the marking and tracing of SALW and by making efforts regarding the standardization of SALW end-user certificates within the OSCE area. The resolution also calls on the OSCE participating States to provide information about contact points on SALW and on the stock of ammunition. It calls on participating States, the OSCE and all the Partners for Co-operation to participate and contribute to the fourth biennial Meeting on the Action Programme of the United Nations on SALW in New York on 14-18 June 2010.

II. OSCE Initiatives

Forum for Security Co-operation

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), in its decision No. 7/09 endorsed the publication of "Best practice guide on UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 Export Controls and Transshipment." This guide provides key elements for a legal framework of national export control over nuclear, chemical or biological weapons, reviews decision-making procedures for

implementing export control mechanisms for specific license applications, considers effective enforcement of export controls, and outlines best practices for providing industry with information concerning corporate compliance with export control laws.⁴⁰ The document suggests best practices and will assist participating States in developing national action plans.

The FSC organized a two day event on 22-23 September 2009 to review the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and its supplementary decisions. Ambassador Pablo Macedo, Chair-Designate of the 2010 UN Biennial Meeting of States on Programme of Action on SALW, said that the OSCE commitments on SALW were “an example for the international community.” He encouraged participating States to undertake a “far-reaching, future-oriented and ambitious” review that addresses challenges such as legally binding instruments on SALW and dealing with munitions, controlling national and private exchanges of armaments to prevent diversions into the illicit market and regulating possession of arms by civilians.⁴¹ “The SALW issue is important for the OSCE because a significant number of producers and exporters are OSCE participating States,” said the FSC Chairman, Ambassador Ian Cliff of the United Kingdom.⁴² In 2010, the Forum for Security Co-operation Support Programme has continued to focus on eliminating safety risks from stockpiles of arms and ammunition within the OSCE.⁴³

On 26 May 2010, OSCE participating States adopted a Plan of Action to counter the uncontrolled proliferation and destabilizing accumulation of illicit SALW. The Plan of Action will be a major element of the OSCE’s contribution to discussions to take place in New York in June at the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons.⁴⁴

17th OSCE Ministerial Council

Meeting in Athens in December 2009, the Ministerial Council through its decision No. 16/09 on “Issues Relevant to the FSC” welcomed “within the FSC, progress made in implementing UNSCR 1540 (2004) and developing best practice guides on its implementation.” The Ministerial Council called “on the FSC in 2010 in accordance with its mandate to facilitate where appropriate the fulfillment by the OSCE participating States of the provisions of UNSCR 1540 (2004), UNSCR 1673 (2006) and UNSCR 1810 (2006).”⁴⁵

OSCE Secretary General’s Response

⁴⁰ FSC, Best Practice Guide on UN Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1540 Export Controls And Transshipment, FSC.DEL/65/09/rev.3, 16 September 2009.

⁴¹ OSCE Press Release, “OSCE meeting takes stock, seeks way forward in fight against small arms and light weapons”, 22 September 2009, http://www.osce.org/fsc/item_1_39647.html.

⁴² OSCE FSC, “Decision No. 5/09 OSCE Meeting to Review the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons and its Supplementary Decisions”, 8 July 2009.

⁴³ 2010 OSCE Programme Outline

⁴⁴ OSCE Press Release: “OSCE participating States adopt Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons”, 26 May 2010, www.osce.org/item/44128.html

⁴⁵ OSCE MC, “Decision No. 16/09 Issues relevant to the Forum for Security Co-operation”, MC.DEC/16/09, 2 December 2009, http://www.osce.org/documents/cio/2009/12/41855_en.pdf.

Regarding OSCE PA's call on participating States and the OSCE to take part in and actively contribute to the fourth biennial Meeting on the Action Programme of the United Nations on SALW in New York in 2010, Secretary General Marc Perrin de Brichambaut responded that "the Ministers agreed to develop an OSCE plan of action on SALW following the Review Meeting" which took place on 22-23 September 2009.

OSCE Field Activities

The OSCE Missions in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Moldova and Tajikistan, in particular, have been working with OSCE participating States to ensure compliance with OSCE principles on SALW and conventional ammunition (SALW/CA).

Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina

The OSCE Mission in Bosnia and Herzegovina organized meetings with a number of foreign embassies and international missions in Sarajevo in order to strengthen a common approach used by the international community in urging the BiH authorities to undertake concrete actions with regard to the disposal of BiH's surplus military stockpiles of weapons and ammunition. In 2010, the Programme will continue to encourage BiH authorities to request assistance for destruction of these surplus stocks and assistance will also be provided to ensure legislative compliance regarding private possession of SALW.⁴⁶

In January 2010 the Mission's Department of Security Co-operation launched a campaign to raise public awareness about the risks concerning BiH's surplus military SALW and to highlight OSCE's readiness to assist BiH in reducing it.⁴⁷ This initiative prompted the BiH defence sector to plan and organize workshops on the disposal of surplus weapons and ammunition.⁴⁸ In March, the BiH Presidency discussed a proposal by the BiH Ministry of Defence on the disposal of surplus defence property, especially weapons and ammunition. The Mission has not yet received definitive information from BiH.⁴⁹

Mission to Montenegro

As a focal point of the joint partnership programme of the Government of Montenegro, UNDP and OSCE, known as MONDEM, the Mission continues to support the host country in reducing the risks posed by the destabilizing accumulation of SALW. The Mission further supports the efforts of the Ministry of Defence in building the national capacity for the highest standard, sustained management of stockpiles of conventional ammunition and ammunition storage sites, as well as further enhancement of arms control measures.⁵⁰

Mission to Moldova

The OSCE Mission to Moldova underlined in its June and July monthly activity reports that there had been no reports of withdrawals of Russian ammunition, troops or equipment from

⁴⁶ 2010 OSCE Programme Outline.

⁴⁷ OSCE CPC: 'Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina – Weekly Report no. 02/2010', 17 February 2010

⁴⁸ OSCE CPC: 'Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina – Weekly Report no. 04/2010', 8 March 2010

⁴⁹ OSCE CPC: 'Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina – Weekly Report no. 05/2010', 9 April 2010

⁵⁰ 2010 OSCE Programme Outline.

Moldova.⁵¹ As stated in the 2010 OSCE Programme Outline, the Head of Mission will supervise the efforts of the Conflict Prevention/Resolution (CPR) Programme to build confidence between the two sides of the Dniester/Nistru river by encouraging and supporting them in destroying surplus and unwanted arms and ammunition, and to resettle uniformed personnel from armed structures into civilian employment. The Mission stands ready to facilitate the process of withdrawing Russian military equipment and ammunition from the Transnistrian region, including through the destruction of ammunition and armaments. Implementation of these actions will require both sides' willingness as well as close co-operation and co-ordination with the Russian Federation and Ukraine.⁵²

Office in Tajikistan

The Office hosted a meeting with representatives from various government ministries on 15 July 2009 with the goal of establishing a working group for the development of regulatory framework on incident response involving SALW/CA. The working group that was established following this meeting acts as an inter-institutional platform for discussion, co-ordination and it assists in the preparation of draft versions of necessary legislative and normative acts for the Government and Parliament.⁵³

The working group was established as part of the Small Arms and Light Weapons and Conventional Ammunition (SALW/CA) project, which provides expertise for the assessment and revision of the national legislation regarding SALW/CA, and supports the development of legislation to govern the government's incident response to emergency situations involving arms and ammunition. The Office collaborates with the government to ensure that these provisions are understood, supported and implemented by all law enforcement agencies.⁵⁴ On 29 April 2010, the Office hosted the first meeting of this working group, which included representatives from relevant ministries and state agencies.

In 2010 the Office intends to support the establishment of a national training capacity on SALW/CA within law-enforcement agencies and to provide expertise to establish an adequate regulatory framework governing the storage, destruction and transport of SALW and CA in Tajikistan.⁵⁵ The Office supported the participation of two representatives of the Ministry of Defence (MoD) in the "Thirteenth International Meeting of National Mine Action Programme," which was organized by the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and the United Nations Mine Action Team. During the meeting, the delegation shared Tajikistan's experiences with other mine action implementing partners and held several meetings with representatives of international non-governmental organizations, experts from donor governments and United Nations agencies.⁵⁶

⁵¹ OSCE Mission to Moldova, "Activity Report No. 6/2009: June 2009 and Activity Report No. 7/2009: July 2009".

⁵² 2010 OSCE Programme Outline.

⁵³ OSCE Office in Tajikistan, "Activity Report 1-31/07/2009".

⁵⁴ OSCE Office in Tajikistan, "Activity Report 1-30/04/2010".

⁵⁵ 2010 OSCE Programme Outline.

⁵⁶ OSCE Office in Tajikistan: 'Activity Report 1-31 March 2010'.

III. National Initiatives / Best Practices

France supports the adoption of a treaty on arms trading which would favor responsible attitude regarding export, import and transfer of conventional arms and that would limit supply of SALW/CA to war-affected areas. France voted for the UN General Assembly Resolution on “Arms Trade Treaty” on 30 October 2009. Belgium has since the beginning been one of the first to discuss an arms trade treaty within the framework of the United Nations and aims to have an ambitious treaty on arms trade approved in 2012. Regarding illicit trade of arms, Belgium continues to ask for full implementation of the 2001 UN Plan of Action regarding SALW.

The Czech Republic emphasizes that it acts in accordance with the EU Code of Conduct for Arms Exports which stipulates good practices in arms trading and export while Cyprus stresses that it continues to destroy stockpiled antipersonnel mines.

Hungary says that it has nearly completed destruction of its SALW and CA surplus. The Government supports formulating a series of standardized criteria for export controls of SALW and standardized content of End User Certificates within the OSCE area. According to FSC decision 4/08, Hungary has appointed a point of contact on SALW for the OSCE Directory created by that decision.

Liechtenstein’s Sanctions Act of 10 December 2008 limits trade with foreign States in order to fulfill international obligations by which Liechtenstein is bound. Commercial transactions involving weapons require a special weapons trading permit that are issued by the Liechtenstein Government. According to the revised Liechtenstein Weapons Act manufacturers of firearms or substantial components and accessories are obliged to mark these individually for the purpose of identification and traceability. Brokering in military material and weapons is subject to a basic, general authorization. Pursuant to this basic authorization, specific authorizations must subsequently be obtained. To grant specific authorizations criteria such as maintenance of peace, international security and regional stability, the situation in the country of destination, in particular with regard to the human rights situation and the restraint from using child soldiers are taken into account.

Poland emphasizes the need for effective control of arms production and trade, in particular with regards to the activities of middlemen, and for penalizing embargo breaches. Polish law sets high standards for licensing and controls of arms and military equipment exports, including SALW. Currently, in view of changes in the EU law defining common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment, work has been in progress on amending the above Law of 29 November 2000.

The United Kingdom remains committed to forging consensus on a strong arms trade treaty that includes SALW regulation. Along with the original co-author States the UK secured UN agreement for preparatory committee meetings in 2010 and 2011 and a Diplomatic Conference to negotiate an Arms Trade Treaty.

Switzerland has created mechanisms for managing stockpiles and munitions at the national level and is committed to improve these instruments. It is also committed to increase expertise in the fields of inventory control and security, removal and destruction of SALW, control over ammunition price and assessment. It is also participating in the fourth biannual UN meeting on SALW Action Programme in New York.

Slovenia carries out a set of actions to prevent arms smuggling. The police co-operate in preparing the report for the implementation of the UN Programme of Action on SALW. Slovenia regulates the procedure to issue licences through the Decree of the Government on permits and consents for the trade in and production of military weapons and equipment. Police representatives took part in the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapon meeting on police training to prevent arms and explosive trafficking, and established contacts with NGOs working on SALW in Burundi.

Romania developed a mechanism to monitor SALW exports and prevent diversion by air. SALW license applications are in line with INCOTERMS 2000 and are assessed on a multi-criteria basis by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The monitoring process of SALW export entails a five-day mandatory notification, registration/authorization of the broker and verification of the end user certificates. Romania is working on a draft regulation project to enforce into the national legislation the control of purchasing and holding fire weapons, according with Directive 2008/52/EC.

Hungary is in the final phase of the destruction of SALW and CA surplus. As a member of the Multinational Small Arms and Ammunition Group (MSAG), Hungary carried out some visits in Mali and Ethiopia for Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM). It assists SALW destruction projects in the Balkan region, participating in the project of US Defense and Threat Reduction Agency (DTRA). According to the FSC Decision 4/08, Hungary has appointed a POC on SALW. It supports the OSCE document on SALW in the FSC, standardization, management of stocks and ammunition.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia adopted a National Strategy on control of Small and light weapons and the action plan on its implementation – National Committee. In co-operation with the UNDP it has also developed new software for registering and tracking weapons.

Renewed Discussion on Arms Control and Disarmament in Europe

I. Vilnius Declaration, Resolution on Renewed Discussion on Arms Control and Disarmament in Europe

On the subject of arms control and disarmament in Europe, the Vilnius Declaration “underlines the necessity of intensifying the dialogue on European and transatlantic security,” and calls upon participating States to “act in the spirit of the Conventional Forces in Europe (CFE) Treaty to set aside differences and to increase their efforts to reach a new consensus on collective security

topics.” It also supports the idea of combining the discussions on renewal of CFE with those on the subject of non-proliferation, as well as discussion regarding new security governance in Europe.

II. OSCE Initiatives

Corfu Process

Following the 2007 suspension of the CFE Treaty, inspections have halted of remaining conventional forces in Europe, leading to declined ability on the part of the OSCE to develop confidence- and security-building measures, including through arms control. Although the suspension has closed down the exchange of data on the deployments of conventional forces, the suspension did not amount to the full-scale suppression of the Treaty and dialogue was said to remain open.

The launching of the Corfu Process in June 2009 by the Greek Chairmanship was meant in part to address this impasse and ensure that arms control negotiations continue within the OSCE framework. The political declaration that came out of the informal meeting of Foreign Ministers of OSCE participating States who gathered on the Greek island of Corfu charts the way for an OSCE-anchored debate on the future of European security. The resulting Corfu Process aims to enable OSCE States to develop effective common responses to new and old security challenges by building on common achievements and existing institutions. One of the security challenges recognized was that Europe’s fundamental arms control regime, the CFE Treaty, “a cornerstone of stability,” has been in limbo for two years.⁵⁷

17th OSCE Ministerial Council

On the second day of the Ministerial Council, the Foreign Ministers issued Decision 1/09, “Furthering the Corfu Process,” which provides a roadmap for the future of the Corfu Process by asserting that the dialogue should center on several matters including arms control, confidence- and security-building regimes, as well as transnational and multidimensional threats and challenges.⁵⁸

The Ministerial Council tasked the Kazakh Chairmanship, in close consultation with the successive FSC Chairmanships, “to continue the informal, regular and open dialogue, in the framework of the Corfu Process, through regular informal meetings, at the level of permanent representatives, reinforced by capitals, as appropriate, in order to extend the areas of agreement and contribute to consensus building.” A major component of this process is the role of “arms control and confidence- and security-building regimes in building trust, in the evolving security environment.”⁵⁹

⁵⁷ Press Statement by Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairperson Ms. Dora Bakoyannis, 28 June 2009, http://www.osce.org/documents/cio/2009/06/38505_en.pdf

⁵⁸ “Decision No. 1/09 Furthering the Corfu Process,” 17th OSCE Ministerial Council, 2 December 2009, http://www.osce.org/documents/cio/2009/12/41864_en.pdf

⁵⁹ “Decision No. 1/09 Furthering the Corfu Process,” 17th OSCE Ministerial Council, 2 December 2009, http://www.osce.org/documents/cio/2009/12/41864_en.pdf

In the Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Corfu Process, the Foreign Ministers expressed concern over “stalemates in conventional arms control [and] resolution of disagreements in this field” and emphasized that “the resumption of the full implementation of the CFE Treaty and restoration of its viability require urgent concerted action by its States Parties.”⁶⁰ Further, the Ministers reconfirmed the commitments made at the Informal Ministerial in Corfu and pledged “strong political impetus to the Corfu Process.”

Kazakh Chairmanship’s Priorities

In an interview with *OSCE Magazine*, Kazakh Foreign Minister and OSCE Chairperson-in-Office Kanat Saudabayev outlined several areas, including arms control, that will be a focus of the Kazakh Chairmanship. “We will also pay close attention to issues related to arms control and to the proliferation of dangerous materials and weapons of mass destruction,” he said, adding that “as a recognized leader in the non-proliferation field, Kazakhstan intends to make full use of the practices it has developed.”⁶¹

III. Other International Developments

New START Treaty and Nuclear Security

In April, the Russian Federation and the United States signed the New START Treaty, which limits the number of deployed strategic nuclear warheads to 1,550, a decrease of nearly two-thirds from the original START treaty. The treaty also limits to 800 the number of deployed and non-deployed inter-continental ballistic missile (ICBM) launchers, submarine-launched ballistic missile (SLBM) launchers, and heavy bombers equipped for nuclear armaments. Further, the treaty will limit the number of deployed ICBMs, deployed SLBMs, and deployed heavy bombers equipped for nuclear armaments to 700.⁶² According to the White House, the Treaty is an “important step forward” in President Barack Obama’s stated goal of a world without nuclear weapons.⁶³

Russian President Dmitry Medvedev called the signature of this ten-year agreement “a victory for the global community.” The new agreement “fully strikes a balance between Russian and American interests” and “reinforces global strategic stability and simultaneously facilitates the transition to a new, higher level” between the USA and Russia, he added. Particular attention in

⁶⁰ “Ministerial Declaration on the OSCE Corfu Process: Reconfirm-Review-Reinvigorate Security and Co-operation from Vancouver to Vladivostok,” 17th OSCE Ministerial Council, 2 December 2009, http://www.osce.org/documents/cio/2009/12/41848_en.pdf

⁶¹ “Kazakhstan seeks to ‘breathe new life’ into interaction among participating States,” *OSCE Magazine*, December 2009, http://www.osce.org/publications/sg/2009/11/41439_1396_en.pdf

⁶² U.S. Department of State: New START Treaty, Treaty Between the United States Of America and the Russian Federation on Measures for the Further Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms, 8 April 2010, <http://www.state.gov/documents/organization/140035.pdf>

⁶³ The White House Blog, “A New START in Prague,” <http://www.whitehouse.gov/blog/2010/04/07/a-new-start>

the joint press conference was paid to the importance of synchronization of the ratification process in both countries.⁶⁴

President Obama also hosted a Nuclear Security Summit on April 12-13 to enhance international co-operation to prevent nuclear terrorism. With more than 40 countries represented, including many OSCE participating States, the Summit focused on the security of nuclear materials. At the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation on 21 April, the U.S. delegation offered particular recognition to Ukraine for its “historic contribution in pledging the removal of all of its highly-enriched uranium.”⁶⁵

NATO 2020

In a recent strategy paper entitled “NATO 2020: Assured Security; Dynamic Engagement,” NATO’s Group of Experts discusses the close co-operation that NATO enjoys with the OSCE on issues such as arms control, emphasizing that the relationship “is different and more intimate than it is with most other international organizations.” The Experts Group, led by Madeleine Albright (United States) and Jeroen van der Veer (Netherlands), stresses that “NATO should make full use of the OSCE’s toolbox of training resources and expert advice in ‘soft security,’” and should “actively pursue, under the framework of the OSCE, the negotiation of conventional arms control and confidence-building measures.” The report also states that NATO intends to more closely co-operate with the Russian Federation on areas such as arms control and non-proliferation, counter-terrorism, crisis management, missile defence, and responding to new threats.

The Group of Experts emphasizes that “NATO members have a major stake in arms control, but the Alliance as an entity has only a limited formal role.” Acknowledging that “the CFE process has stalled and is now in danger of crumbling,” the Group advocates a Strategic Concept that “underlines NATO’s commitment to a robust and stabilizing conventional arms control regime in Europe, based on the principles of mutual transparency, restraint, and host-nation consent for the stationing of foreign forces.” With this target in mind, the Group calls for the revival of the CFE process and constructive dialogue with all CFE States.⁶⁶

IV. National Initiatives / Best Practices

In its response to the questionnaire, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia outlines several existing laws regarding regulations on arms trading that are currently in effect in the country; specifically the Law on Weapons regulates matters concerned with civilian, as well as military arms.

In its response, Hungary reaffirms the importance of all participating States respecting OSCE commitments, particularly regarding renouncing the use of force as an option in settling disputes. It lamented the stalemates in conventional arms control, and called for the “resumption of full

⁶⁴ Official web page of the President of Russia: Russian-US Treaty on Reduction and Limitation of Strategic Offensive Arms has been signed, 8 April 2010, <http://eng.kremlin.ru/transcripts/271>

⁶⁵ United States Mission to the OSCE, Statement on START Treaty, NPR and NSS, 21 April 2010

⁶⁶ North Atlantic Treaty Organization, “NATO 2020: Assured Security; Dynamic Engagement,” 17 May 2010, http://www.nato.int/cps/en/natolive/official_texts_63654.htm

implementation of the CFE Treaty regime.” Hungary underscores “the strategic importance of the CFE Treaty” and notes that the country has continued fully to implement the Treaty despite its suspension, in practice by continuing to provide the annual information exchange.

Germany draws attention to its annual report, issued last January, on the topic of disarmament while Andorra said that it supports many initiatives designed to promote peace, stability, and security in Europe, and considers the OSCE an excellent forum to discuss issues related to security and stability due to its comprehensive approach to the concept of security.

Slovenia stresses that the OSCE is the most appropriate forum for discussions focused on European security as the OSCE operates based on a comprehensive concept of security. The country also remains committed to conventional arms control as an important element of Euro-Atlantic security and stability. While the Republic of Slovenia is not a Contracting Party to the CFE Treaty, the country expressed support for the treaty’s preservation and for the proposal of a parallel action plan that would allow for the ratification of the adapted CFE by all contracting parties. The Government states that it is willing to accede to the treaty after it comes into effect.

Switzerland highlights the importance of the CFE Treaty in regard to European security, and reiterates the fact that dialogue concerning European security should not undermine the existing arms control and security framework. Switzerland believes that the adapted CFE would be a welcome addition to the security landscape in Europe.

Belgium says that it would like to see increased discussion regarding Euro-Atlantic security, in particular efforts to stimulate dialogue with Russia regarding the current security architecture.

Canada indicated its commitment to the Corfu Process, and maintains its position that existing security institutions are a sound and efficient means to achieving security goals as more should be invested into making the existing structures work more efficiently. Furthermore, Canada welcomes the inclusion of the New START treaty into the security dialogue.

Cyprus participates in the Corfu Process enthusiastically and is eager to reach consensus on European and transatlantic security. The country has previously hosted contact visits for OSCE personnel, and continues to comply with disarmament commitments. Liechtenstein is also an active participant in the Corfu Process and as a priority in controlling arms across Europe, the country financially supported a demilitarization project in Montenegro in 2009.

The United Kingdom continues to support the Corfu Process, and believes that the OSCE is the appropriate forum for such work given the OSCE’s broad membership and “cross-dimensional” focus on security. The United Kingdom also acknowledges the fact that Russia has serious concerns regarding the current security architecture in Europe, and has expressed support for those concerns to be discussed as part of the Corfu Process in the spirit of achieving comprehensive security.

Poland stated its view that the Corfu Process is an appropriate response to facing the security challenges within the European community, and that the process has already done much to stimulate meaningful dialogue regarding European and transatlantic security. Arms control is of

particular significance to Poland given its historic geopolitical significance. Poland also mentioned the current nature of security in Europe as opposed to the period immediately following the end of the Cold War and stressed the continued need for open dialogue in the arms control arena.

Romania participates actively in the Corfu Process and sees great value in the fact that the process is open-ended, and absent of predetermined outcomes and artificial deadlines. To that end, within the thematic debates incorporated by the Corfu Process, Romania initiated a Food-for-Thought paper entitled “Ideas on a civilian operation/mission to improve OSCE response in post-crisis and post-conflict rehabilitation.” The paper was co-sponsored by several other participating States and aims to identify best practices for use in the field of conflict prevention and resolution.

Labour Migration in Central Asia

I. Vilnius Declaration, Resolution on Labour Migration in Central Asia

Adopting a resolution on labour migration in Central Asia, the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly agreed to further promote regional co-operation through the participation of parliaments in Central Asia in the activities of the OSCE. The resolution also encourages participating States to co-operate with the relevant OSCE Institutions, and international organizations in the field of labour migration, ensuring respect for human rights in managing migration flows in the region and continued legislative reform and harmonization in Central Asia to ensure co-ordinated regional policies.

The resolution calls on participating States to continue co-operation in the area of information exchange and to actively combat trafficking in human beings in migration flows. It also recommends that participating States work to improve the public image of labour migrants and the contributions they make to host societies, in the national media and continue regional legislative efforts to improve the free movement of people across national borders. The resolution calls for greater non-discrimination efforts by participating States in the region, and increased efforts to combat hate crimes against migrants in host countries.

II. OSCE Initiatives

OSCE PA Engagement

On 16 April 2009, prior to the Annual Session, a regional parliamentary seminar was organized jointly by the OSCE PA and Tajikistan’s parliament in Dushanbe. Kimmo Kiljunen, the OSCE PA Special Representative for Central Asia, and legislators from several OSCE participating States including Tajikistan, Kyrgyzstan, Finland, Norway, Poland, France and Germany, discussed the effects of the financial crisis on labour migration in the region, managing labour migration regionally and combating trafficking in human beings. The seminar brought together

regional experts from international organizations and governments including the Migration Service of the Russian Federation – which processes millions of migrations from Central Asia – and touched on legislative reform and regional frameworks, policies of host countries and protecting workers' rights.⁶⁷ Participants noted the need for a more co-ordinated migration policy, as well as the need to protect the rights of migrations in host countries and fight discrimination and rising hate crimes, especially at times of financial crisis.

President Joao Soares appointed a Dutch Member of Parliament, Kathleen Ferrier, as Special Representative on Migration in October 2009. The mandate of the Special Representative includes monitoring and reporting on migration movements within the OSCE area, promoting discussion and awareness on migration issues within the OSCE PA, serving as a focal point for the OSCE PA and suggesting specific lines of action that the OSCE and member of delegations to the OSCE PA may undertake to better address migration issues.⁶⁸

As Special Representative, Ms. Ferrier met with Andreas Halbach, Chief of Mission of the International Organization for Migration, at the OSCE PA's Vienna Liaison Office in January 2010. She also addressed the Trans-Asian Parliamentary Forum in Almaty on 15 May, describing her own personal experience as a migrant, and the work she has done as a Member of the Parliament on migration issues. Specifically, she spoke about her initiatives regarding circular migration, temporary remigration and remittances.

On 8-9 December 2009 a delegation of Kyrgyz political leaders from the ruling party and opposition parties visited Finland and Norway. The visit was facilitated by the OSCE Centre in Bishkek and the parliaments of Norway and Finland.⁶⁹ The OSCE PA Special Representative for Central Asia continues follow up on labour migration and other issues, encouraging greater participation and exchange with parliaments in Central Asia.

OSCE Field Activities

OSCE Centre in Bishkek

On 8 December 2009 the OSCE Centre in Bishkek co-organized an event within the framework of its Labour Migration and Employment Programme that brought together experts, policymakers and private sector representatives. Attendees at the event heard a presentation on labour migration legislation and discussed the draft law "On private employment agencies." Recommendations regarding better social-economic conditions for returning migrants, which were developed within an OSCE Centre in Bishkek project, were also presented.⁷⁰

⁶⁷ OSCE PA Press Release, "OSCE parliamentarians discuss labour migration in Tajikistan", 16 April 2009, http://oscepa.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=622:osce-parliamentarians-discuss-labour-migration-in-tajikistan&catid=48:Press%20Releases&Itemid=73.

⁶⁸ OSCE PA News, "Kathleen Ferrier appointed new Special Representative on Migration", 21 October 2009, http://oscepa.org/index.php?option=com_content&view=article&id=726:kathleen-ferrier-appointed-new-special-representative-on-migration&catid=48:Press%20Releases&Itemid=73

⁶⁹ News from Copenhagen, no 325, 9 December 2009, http://www.oscepa.org/images/stories/documents/News%20from%20Copenhagen/2009_281-News_from_Copenhagen_325.pdf

⁷⁰ OSCE Event, "Public hearings on labour migration", OSCE Centre in Bishkek, 8 December 2009, <http://www.osce.org/item/40579.html>.

OSCE Office in Astana

An international conference on labour migration management was held on 24-25 June 2009 in Kazakhstan. Co-organized by the OSCE Office in Astana, the Kazakh Ministry of Labour and Social Protection, the International Organization for Migration and the International Labour Organization, the conference focused on raising awareness of the gaps and needs in migration management policy in Central Asian countries by sharing best practices. Participants from Central Asia and Russia, representing parliamentarians, government officials, NGOs, international experts, international and regional organizations took part in the conference.⁷¹

Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities

The Office of the Co-ordinator of OSCE Economic and Environmental Activities together with the International Office for Migration, co-organized a three-day seminar to “train the trainers” on labour migration at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek in September 2009. The seminar was designed to build the capacity of government officials in the CIS countries and representatives of employers’ and workers’ organizations, recruitment agencies and other stakeholders in order to effectively manage labour migration. The seminar also enhanced the participants’ skills in promoting migrant workers’ protection.⁷²

III. National Initiatives / Best Practices

Cyprus states that it has adopted new laws that promote the improvement of the employment conditions of migrant workers and the education of their children. Sweden points out that it approved new rules for labour immigration in November 2008, with the aim of creating more opportunities for labour immigration and facilitating recruitment from countries outside Europe.

Poland, within the framework of the EU Programme Solidarity and Management of Migration Flows (SOLID), enhances the activity of consular and other services in third countries with regard to the flow of non-EU citizens. Lithuania has been working to relieve the administrative burden for migrants wishing to enter or reside in the Republic of Lithuania and has expanded the use of IT in managing migration processes since 2009. The amendments to the Law on the Legal Status of Aliens have decentralized and streamlined the procedures for issuing temporary residence permits.

Security Sector Stabilization and Compliance with UN Blacklists

I. Vilnius Declaration

The Vilnius Declaration’s Resolution on Security Sector Stabilization and Compliance with UN Blacklists calls on participating States that are members of the United Nations Security Council

⁷¹ OSCE Event, “High level international conference on labour migration management”, OSCE Office in Astana, 24-25 June 2009, <http://www.osce.org/item/37969.html>.

⁷² OSCE Press Release, “OSCE, IOM train trainers on labour migration at the OSCE Academy in Bishkek”, 29 September 2009, http://www.osce.org/eea/item_1_39841.html.

to use their influence in the OSCE and the Security Council to uphold the values embodied in the UN Covenant on Civil and Political Rights. Further, it invites participating States to “establish appropriate national procedures to implement the above mentioned principles imposed by the United Nations Security Council on their nationals or legal residents.”

II. National Initiatives / Best Practices

Turkey organized a thematic debate on peacekeeping operations during its Presidency of the Security Council. The meeting focused primarily on the co-operation between the Security Council and troop/police contributors. Turkey provides support to efforts and initiatives – including the New Horizon paper – aimed at strengthening the UN peacekeeping mechanism to overcome the current challenges. Sweden has promoted the inclusion of gender issues (the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security) in the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security. Sweden also actively promotes the inclusion of different aspects of human rights in the operational plans of peacekeeping missions carried out by the EU, the UN and NATO (PfP).

Lithuania established the Commission on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law in 2001 as an advisory body to the Minister of National Defense. It co-ordinates dissemination of international humanitarian law and related topics. Among other activities the Commission also organizes national and international seminars, courses and workshops on international humanitarian law and related topics for militaries and civil servants. Andorra is committed to implement UN Resolution 1325(2000) and Resolution 1267(1999). With regard to the latter, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Institutional Relations is responsible for managing UN blacklists. It delivers to the Ministry of Interior, which forwards the documents to the Police Service and Immigration service.

Hungary states that as far as targeted sanctions imposed by the UN Security Council (travel restrictions, freezing of assets) are concerned, UN “blacklists” are implemented in a similar way (2007.CLXXX.law). Travel restrictions imposed by the UN Security Council and the Council of the European Union are implemented in accordance with Hungarian law, which provides the legal basis for the implementation of restrictive measures.