

Second day of the Twenty-Third Meeting
MC(23) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 7

**FROM LISBON TO HAMBURG:
DECLARATION ON THE TWENTIETH ANNIVERSARY OF THE
OSCE FRAMEWORK FOR ARMS CONTROL**

1. This year we mark the twentieth anniversary of the OSCE Framework for Arms Control. Mindful of the enduring value of this document, we, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the 57 participating States of the OSCE, underline the importance of conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) for advancing comprehensive, co-operative and indivisible security in the OSCE area,
2. Arms control, including disarmament and confidence- and security-building, is integral to the OSCE's comprehensive and co-operative concept of security. We value open and meaningful dialogue on these issues, notwithstanding diverging assessments of the challenges we are currently facing. We welcome steps to further develop military-to-military contacts amongst participating States, including the High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar of February 2016,
3. Today, in Hamburg, we commit ourselves to exploring, *inter alia*, how the negative developments concerning the conventional arms control and CSBM architecture in Europe can be reversed. Together, we will work towards creating an environment conducive to reinvigorating conventional arms control and CSBMs in Europe. The strong commitment of the OSCE participating States to full implementation and further development of arms control agreements is essential for enhancing military and political stability within the OSCE area,
4. At the same time, we recognize the interrelation between CSBMs and conventional arms control, and the wider politico-military context. We welcome launching of a structured dialogue on the current and future challenges and risks to security in the OSCE area to foster a greater understanding on these issues that could serve as a common solid basis for a way forward.

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the United States of America:

“Thank you, Mr. Chairperson,

On the occasion of the adoption of the Hamburg Ministerial Council Declaration, ‘From Lisbon to Hamburg: Declaration on the Twentieth Anniversary of the OSCE Framework for Arms Control,’ the United States of America would like to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the OSCE Rules of Procedure.

We note that the Declaration ‘welcomes steps to further develop military-to-military contacts amongst participating States,’ but does not commit any nation or group of nations to undertake any particular activity or engagement.

For the United States, military-to-military contacts in the context of this Declaration incorporate a wide range of activities, to include multilateral dialogue and engagement through the OSCE, such as the 2016 High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar, which we strongly supported. In this regard, the OSCE can provide for dialogue in an environment where routine or low-level military to military engagement may not be possible.

The United States faces statutory limitations on our bilateral military-to-military co-operation with the Russian Federation, per section 1233 of the 2017 National Defense Authorization Act.

We note that the United States Congress, recognizing the special and protected role that arms control plays, has provided an exemption for military-to-military activity in support of arms control implementation. In this regard, we encourage all participating States to fully implement the spirit and the letter of all conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures.

Mr. Chairperson, we ask that this statement be included in the journal of the day.

Thank you.”

MC.DOC/4/16
9 December 2016
Attachment 2

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the Russian Federation:

“Having joined the consensus on the OSCE Ministerial Council document adopted today ‘From Lisbon to Hamburg: Declaration on the Twentieth Anniversary of the OSCE Framework for Arms Control’, the delegation of the Russian Federation believes it necessary to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

1. With respect to paragraph 1 of the Declaration, the Russian Federation notes that the purpose of the Framework is, among other things, to contribute to the further development of the OSCE area as an indivisible common security space. It also recognizes the close interrelation of conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs) with the principle of the indivisibility of security; an integral part of the latter is the need to ensure that no participating State, organization or grouping strengthens its security at the expense of the security of others.

2. With respect to paragraph 3 of the Declaration, the Russian Federation notes that it suspended operation of the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE Treaty) in accordance with international law and, consequently, the provision of the Framework referred to in the Declaration on ‘commitment (...) to full implementation (...) of arms control agreements’ no longer applies to the implementation of the CFE Treaty by the Russian Federation. As for the prospect of developing CSBMs under the Vienna Document, the Russian Federation confirms the need to create the conditions that would make this possible.

I request that this statement be attached to the document adopted.”