

Second day of the Eighteenth Meeting
MC(18) Journal No. 2, Agenda item 8

DECISION No. 3/11
ELEMENTS OF THE CONFLICT CYCLE, RELATED TO
ENHANCING THE OSCE'S CAPABILITIES IN EARLY WARNING,
EARLY ACTION, DIALOGUE FACILITATION AND MEDIATION
SUPPORT, AND POST-CONFLICT REHABILITATION

The Ministerial Council,

Reaffirming our full adherence to the Charter of the United Nations and to all OSCE norms, principles and commitments, starting from the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris, the 1992 Helsinki Document, the 1994 Budapest Document, the Charter for European Security adopted at the 1999 Istanbul Summit, the 2009 Athens Ministerial Declaration and Decision on the OSCE Corfu Process, the 2010 Astana Commemorative Declaration and all other OSCE documents to which we have agreed, and our responsibility to implement them fully and in good faith,

Recalling that the OSCE, as a regional arrangement under Chapter VIII of the Charter of the United Nations and as a primary organization for the peaceful settlement of disputes within its region, is a key instrument for early warning, conflict prevention and resolution, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation,

Recognizing the primary responsibility of the United Nations Security Council for the maintenance of international peace and security and its crucial role in contributing to security and stability in the OSCE area,

Reaffirming our commitment to the vision of a free, democratic, common and indivisible security community stretching from Vancouver to Vladivostok, rooted in agreed principles, shared commitments and common goals,

Reaffirming further the pledge made at the Astana Summit meeting to increase efforts to resolve existing conflicts in the OSCE area in a peaceful and negotiated manner, within agreed formats, fully respecting the UN Charter, the Helsinki Final Act and international law, and to prevent new crises as well as to refrain from the threat or use of force in any manner inconsistent with the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations or with the ten Principles of the Helsinki Final Act,

Underlining the need for these agreed principles to be applied equally to all conflict and crisis situations in the OSCE area while recognizing that each crisis or conflict situation has its specific characteristics and therefore needs an approach tailored to the particular situation,

Recalling the commitment to uphold consensus as the basis for OSCE decision-making, and mindful of the need to preserve the OSCE's flexibility and ability to respond quickly to a changing political environment at the heart of the Organization's co-operative and inclusive approach to common and indivisible security,

Recognizing that threats to our security can stem from conflicts within States as well as from conflicts between States,

Taking into account the discussions aimed at improving the OSCE's capabilities within the framework of the Corfu Process, the preparation of the Astana Summit meeting as well as the V-to-V Dialogue,

Acknowledging the need for timely and preventive responses to crises and conflicts, which requires, *inter alia*, a comprehensive early warning capacity across all three OSCE dimensions; timely, objective and verifiable information, also regarding the humanitarian and security conditions on the ground including during a crisis, as well as the political will to take early and effective action; making full use of existing OSCE instruments, mechanisms and procedures for addressing the various phases of the conflict cycle and the ability to create new ones when necessary,

Bearing in mind that the OSCE's ability to deploy civilian, police or unarmed military expertise rapidly is essential to effective conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation,

Acknowledging the necessity to strengthen the OSCE post-conflict rehabilitation efforts and the importance of preventing relapses into crisis or conflict,

Acknowledging the vital role, in building a sustainable peace, of dialogue facilitation and mediation as well as preventive and quiet diplomacy as instruments for early action, crisis management, conflict resolution, post-conflict rehabilitation and confidence-building, while recognizing the contribution of OSCE mediators and special representatives in this regard,

Recognizing that a comprehensive, cross-dimensional response is required to address the multi-faceted causes of crises and conflicts and that this also demands co-operation and co-ordination between the participating States and among OSCE executive structures, including field operations within their respective mandates, and the Parliamentary Assembly as well as with international and regional organizations,

Emphasizing the importance of full implementation by participating States of the OSCE commitments in all three dimensions during all phases of the conflict cycle,

Reiterating that conflict prevention, conflict resolution, post-conflict rehabilitation and peace-building must involve efforts to address violations of human rights and

fundamental freedoms, as well as intolerance and discrimination, and the absence of strong democratic institutions and the rule of law,

Recognizing that the rights of persons belonging to national minorities as well as the rights of persons at risk of displacement or already affected by it, need to be effectively protected in all phases of the conflict cycle,

Taking into account that impediments to economic welfare and social development as well as threats to environmental security, including environmental degradation, natural and man-made disasters and their possible impact on migratory pressures, could be potential contributors to conflict,

Reaffirming the significant role of women in the prevention and resolution of conflicts and in peace-building, recalling UN Security Council resolution 1325, and recognizing the important role of civil society,

Reaffirming also our full adherence to the OSCE decisions, commitments and principles pertaining to politico-military aspects of security, including, *inter alia*, the 1993 Document on Stabilizing Measures for Localized Crisis Situations, the 1994 Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, the Vienna Document, the Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers and acknowledging their importance to confidence- and security-building and conflict prevention and conflict resolution,

Within the framework of the existing mandates of the OSCE Chairmanship, the Secretary General and other executive structures, including as defined *inter alia* by the Porto Ministerial Decision No. 8/02 and other relevant OSCE Ministerial decisions, with the aim to enable timely and preventive responses to crises and conflicts as well as strengthen mediation support and post-conflict rehabilitation efforts while avoiding the overlapping of their mandates and duplication of functions and responsibilities,

1. Decides, in anticipation of further steps in addressing the conflict cycle, to strengthen OSCE capabilities in early warning, early action, dialogue facilitation, mediation support and post-conflict rehabilitation on an operational level as follows:
2. Tasks the Secretary General to ensure that the Secretariat's Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) assumes the role and functions as the focal point for the Organization-wide systematic collection, collation, analysis and assessment of relevant early warning signals from various sources, co-operating and co-ordinating closely with other OSCE executive structures and the Parliamentary Assembly;
3. Urges the OSCE executive structures, within their existing mandates to strengthen their exchange of information related to all phases of the conflict cycle and calls for enhanced co-ordination between them in this regard;
4. Tasks the Secretary General, in consultation with the Chairmanship to:
 - Provide early warning to the participating States by bringing to the attention of the Permanent Council any situation of emerging tensions or conflicts in the OSCE area,

complementing the early warning functions already contained in the existing mandates of all relevant OSCE executive structures;

- Suggest to the Permanent Council, after consulting the participating State(s) concerned, possible options for timely and effective response(s) to escalating tensions or conflicts in the OSCE area;
 - Consolidate, in co-ordination with other executive structures, the OSCE's early warning capacity in a more methodical, comprehensive and cross-dimensional manner within available resources;
 - Prepare a proposal on how to make better use of the possible contributions of the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly in developing a more effective response to emerging crisis and conflict situations;
 - Prepare a proposal on how to enhance OSCE fact-finding, including expert team capabilities during emerging crises and conflicts and present it for consideration by the Permanent Council;
5. Agrees that participating States will share information, as appropriate, with each other and the Chairmanship at the earliest opportunity with regard to emerging crises or conflicts that threaten security and stability anywhere in the OSCE area;
6. Urges the Chairmanship to use its mandate to the full extent and to convene the Permanent Council without delay, including in special, reinforced or joint FSC-PC meeting if necessary, to consider early warning signals and possible response options, and in this context encourages the Permanent Council to:
- Welcome, as appropriate, the participation of the OSCE executive structures directly involved as well as the OSCE Parliamentary Assembly during Permanent Council debates on emerging and ongoing crisis/conflict situations which relate to issues that fall within their mandates;
 - Seek closer interaction with the Forum for Security Co-operation that will make its own contribution to this work within its competences and mandate;
 - Pursue follow-up to discussions in the Permanent Council on emerging crises and conflict situations;
 - Seek input of other international and regional organizations involved as well as external advice, as appropriate;
7. Encourages the Chairmanship to draw on past experience and lessons learned to organize thematic meetings devoted to a specific conflict in the OSCE area;
8. Expects the OSCE Chairmanship and the executive structures to take full advantage of their respective mandates to address all phases of the conflict cycle and urges the Chairmanship and participating States to use, swiftly and to the greatest extent possible, all available tools and procedures as applicable to a particular crisis or conflict situation; in this light, tasks the relevant OSCE executive structures, upon request by the Chairmanship and/or

decision making bodies, to provide advice on the use of existing instruments, mechanisms and procedures and to recommend those, as appropriate, to a given crisis or emerging conflict;

9. Tasks the Secretary General to designate a mediation-support focal point within the CPC;

10. Tasks the Secretary General, in close co-operation and consultation with the Chairmanship and executive structures, to prepare a proposal for consideration by the Permanent Council on how to maximize the continuity, consistency and effectiveness of OSCE engagement in conflict mediation and to strengthen the role of OSCE mediators. Among others, this proposal will aim at developing a systematic mediation-support capacity within the CPC covering, *inter alia*: (1) training and capacity-building within the OSCE structures; (2) knowledge management and operational guidance; (3) outreach, networking, co-operation and co-ordination with relevant local/national actors, as well as with international, regional and subregional organizations; (4) operational support to Chairmanships, their special representatives, heads of field operations, and other relevant OSCE mediators;

11. Urges the Chairmanship, the participating States and the OSCE executive structures to ensure that post-conflict rehabilitation efforts are comprehensive, systematic and sustainable, including through the deployment, upon consent of host participating State, of expert teams as well as other forms of temporary presence on the ground tailored to the specific needs of a given post-conflict situation and based on the existing mandates and areas of expertise of relevant executive structures, in accordance with relevant decision-making procedures;

12. Calls on the participating States to develop rosters of national experts readily available for OSCE post-conflict rehabilitation efforts as well as for other phases of the conflict cycle and to provide those experts with the necessary specialized training for them to be rapidly deployable to a crisis or conflict environment;

13. Urges the participating States, with the assistance of the executive structures, to make optimal use of OSCE instruments launched by previous OSCE documents such as Rapid Expert Assistance and Co-operation Teams (REACT) and tasks the OSCE executive structures to collect and analyse lessons identified from the use of such instruments in order to develop best practices;

14. Urges participating States to implement UNSCR 1325 by ensuring increased representation of women at all levels in conflict resolution and peace processes, and tasks the Secretary General in consultation with the Chairmanship-in-Office to prepare a set of concrete recommendations in this regard, and present these for consideration by the Permanent Council;

15. Encourages participating States and, within the framework of their mandate, the OSCE executive structures to make greater use of confidence-building and confidence- and security-building measures (CBMs and CSBMs), including those involving civil society representatives, across the three dimensions of security, in all phases of the conflict cycle and as agreed by participating States directly concerned;

16. Tasks the OSCE executive structures, in accordance with their respective mandates and within the framework of relevant decisions of the OSCE decision-making bodies, to enhance their co-operation and co-ordination with other international and regional organizations, especially with their respective structures in the field, and with civil society organizations, to increase financial, technical and political efficiency and burden-sharing, reduce unnecessary duplication and promote the best use of available resources. OSCE executive structures should also develop lessons identified and best practices as regards co-operation and co-ordination with other international actors in the field;

17. Calls for increased efforts to resolve existing conflicts in the OSCE area in a peaceful and negotiated manner, within agreed formats, fully respecting the UN Charter and the Helsinki Final Act and international law. To that end, calls on the Chairmanship and participating States to pursue steps to strengthen OSCE capabilities in further addressing the conflict cycle;

18. Tasks the Secretary General to provide a report by 16 July 2012 as a first step to inform participating States on progress made and possible options for the way forward in the areas dealt with in this decision, including possible options on how to cover, if necessary, related expenses.