



EUROPEAN UNION

OSCE Annual Security Review Conference Vienna, 26-28 June 2018

Working Session II:

EU Statement on “Early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation: Lessons learned and the way ahead”

The European Union thanks the Italian Chairmanship for convening this working session and thanks the speakers for their presentations. We welcome this opportunity to discuss issues relating to the conflict cycle.

Conflict prevention and response to emerging crises lies at the very heart of OSCE activities. Whereas the OSCE plays a central normative role for European security and is the inclusive platform for dialogue and confidence building, it is important that the organisation also has the ability and tools to prevent and respond to crises and conflicts. We should do all we can to ensure that its conflict prevention and resolution capacities are sufficiently equipped to deal with the challenges we continue to face in the OSCE region.

First, the European Union reiterates that full implementation of MC Decision 3/11 on the Elements of the Conflict Cycle is a prerequisite for strengthening the role of the OSCE in early warning, conflict prevention, mediation, crisis management, conflict resolution and post-conflict rehabilitation across the three dimensions.

We welcome the work undertaken by the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), the autonomous institutions and other executive structures in close co-operation with other international actors to implement MC Decision 3/11. We stress again that the CPC, field missions and autonomous institutions must be provided with sufficient resources through the Unified Budget to carry out their mandates.

We strongly believe that many key efforts are only possible due to the strong and flexible mandates of the three autonomous institutions. These need to be preserved. We applaud the ODIHR and RFoM for providing early warning in the human dimension, raising issues such as serious human rights violations

that threaten our common security. The HCNM is and should remain a core conflict prevention instrument for the whole OSCE area, providing early warning and seeking early action with regard to tensions involving persons belonging to national minorities.

OSCE field missions could play a greater role in early warning and in addressing conflict situations, hence their mandates must be preserved too. Their work with and across host countries and with civil society is of tremendous importance for early warning, peace building, conflict prevention and mediation. The OSCE executive structures speak to actors and visit places where diplomats have no access. It is important to provide a safe space to civil society for them to raise concerns and make suggestions.

Secondly, we consider the implementation of 2004 OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality highly important. In light of current conflicts, UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and related Resolutions, are as important as ever today. Evidence shows that full and meaningful participation of women in all aspects of peace and security decision-making and action is necessary to bring about longer-lasting and more sustainable, inclusive, peace. We would highly appreciate if the panelists could share with us some positive examples in this regard.

Last year we welcomed the Austrian Chairmanship's efforts to reach consensus on a MC decision on the women's participation in the Security Sector. We regret that it was not possible to adopt this decision, but discussions were useful and serve as a good basis for further work on this topic. We would welcome concrete, positive measures and steps within the OSCE and therefore we appreciate the SG's and the Italian Chairmanship's commitment in the field of gender mainstreaming. The views of the panelists on why and how best to enhance women's participation in the security sector would be appreciated.

Finally, for our part, the EU is engaged in many conflict prevention efforts around the world and supports the UN Secretary General who has made this a number one priority. The recent World Bank-UN report on "Pathways for Peace" represents an opportunity for stepping up our joint engagement on conflict prevention as part of the wider EU commitment to a proactive multilateralism agenda. We are for instance strengthening initiatives on mediation with the UN and regional organisations. The conflict prevention agenda is a priority in our operational dialogue with the OSCE.

The EU pursues an integrated approach towards conflict prevention, making use of all available tools and aiming at strengthening long-term resilience. We work closely with civil society in all conflict phases – both in Brussels and on the ground

- and greatly benefit from input by the European Peacebuilding Liaison Office and the NGOs it brings together. One month ago, on 23 May, the EU organised a conference on Youth, Peace and Security in Brussels and discussed with 70 young peacebuilders how best to move forward on this agenda. We have also invested heavily in developing tools that can allow for early action based on early warning assessments.

Finally, the EU has deployed gender advisers to CSDP missions and operations for over a decade; Standards of Behavior dating back to 2003 have recently been revised with strengthened provisions to tackle harassment, sexual harassment and other gender-based violence; Gender and Women, Peace and Security considerations are part of our established partnership mechanisms, such as EU-UN and EU-NATO, while new networks to enhance cooperation are being developed. We would appreciate the views of the panelists on what lessons of relevance to the OSCE could be learned from the UN or others in this regard.

Thank you!

The Candidate Countries the FORMER YUGOSLAV REPUBLIC OF MACEDONIA*, MONTENEGRO* and ALBANIA*, the Country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and Potential Candidate BOSNIA and HERZEGOVINA, and the EFTA country LIECHTENSTEIN, member of the European Economic Area, as well as UKRAINE, the REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA, GEORGIA, ANDORRA and SAN MARINO align themselves with this statement.

* The Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.