

Appendix 13B. Documents on conventional arms control

CONCLUDING DOCUMENT OF THE NEGOTIATIONS UNDER ARTICLE V OF ANNEX 1-B OF THE GENERAL FRAMEWORK AGREEMENT FOR PEACE IN BOSNIA AND HERZEGOVINA

Vienna, 18 July 2001

Representatives of the twenty States referred to in the mandate of 23 November 1998 for negotiations under Article V of Annex 1-B of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina (hereafter ‘the participating States’), have engaged in negotiations under the auspices of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-Operation (FSC) in Vienna from 8 March 1999. They participated in the process as sovereign and independent States, on the basis of full equality.

The recent democratic changes in South-East Europe and the admission of the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia to the OSCE, as well as its commitment to the principles and standards of the OSCE and the Vienna Document 1999, have been of special relevance to these negotiations.

General

1. The participating States acted in accordance with the mandate for negotiations under Article V of Annex 1-B of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and were guided by the relevant OSCE Summit and Ministerial Council decisions.

2. The participating States underscore the importance of strict compliance with the provisions of the United Nations Charter and, in particular, of the full implementation of Security Council resolutions relevant to these negotiations.

3. The participating States reaffirm their adherence to the Helsinki Final Act, the Charter of Paris for a New Europe, and the Charter for European Security, and in particular recognize the indivisibility of security in Europe, and the inherent right of each and every participating State to be free to choose or change its security arrangements, including treaties of alliance, as they evolve. They reaffirm their commitment to full implemen-

tation of the provisions of the Vienna Document 1999, the Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, and other FSC-agreed instruments.

4. The participating States underline their support for the aims and objectives and for the full implementation of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina. They recall the achievements reached through the Florence and Vienna Agreements.

5. The participating States are resolved to enrich their broad security dialogue and to further co-operation and good neighbourly relations, based on the principles of the Helsinki Final Act: sovereign equality and respect for the rights inherent in sovereignty; refraining from the threat or use of force; inviolability of frontiers; territorial integrity of States; peaceful settlement of disputes; non-intervention in internal affairs; respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms, including the freedom of thought, conscience, religion or belief; equal rights and self-determination of peoples; co-operation among States; and fulfilment in good faith of obligations under international law.

6. The participating States recall that they are committed to take appropriate measures in preventing their respective territories from being used for the preparation, organization or commission of acts of extremist violence, including terrorist activities, against other participating States and their citizens.

7. The participating States, noting the existing initiatives for co-operation, emphasize the significant contribution of regional bilateral and multilateral agreements and arrangements to OSCE-wide confidence- and security- building. They underline their commitment to the aims and objectives of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe.

8. The participating States reaffirm the significance of the Open Skies Treaty.

9. The participating States recall that the adapted CFE Treaty, upon its entry into force, will be open to voluntary accession by other OSCE participating States in the area between the Atlantic Ocean and the Ural Mountains and thereby will provide an important additional contribution to European stability and security.

Defence-related information

10. The participating States note the particular importance of defence budget transparency. They encourage the exchange of information on the actual yearly expenditures (in terms of the relevant currency). They further encourage the provision of information about financial or other forms of contribution received from any other State and applied to its defence budget, including financial donations to any defence or defence-related budget; donations of armaments and equipment; and defence-related loans, leases or sales on preferential terms.

11. Those participating States who so wish may consider, on a voluntary basis, the exchange of information with regard to their national holdings of conventional armaments, in a bilateral and reciprocal framework.

Expanded military contacts and co-operation

12. Recognizing the need for further developing friendly relations between States throughout Europe, the participating States will intensify their efforts to promote and facilitate military contacts and co-operation in accordance with Chapter IV of the Vienna Document 1999. Pursuing the goals described in Chapter X of the Vienna Document 1999, they will, on a voluntary basis and as appropriate, promote and facilitate:

Military contacts

12.1. The establishment of a regular security dialogue at the appropriate political and military levels; the establishment of points of contact at different levels between Ministries of Defence, General Staffs, military schools and academies and between regional commands and units, particularly in border areas; the establishment of contacts between military formations, units and institutions, particularly in border areas ('partnerships'), including sporting and cultural events; the organization of seminars/workshops on military-political matters; the reservation of places in mid-level (i.e., Command and General Staff College) and top-level (i.e., War College) military schools and academies for members of the armed forces from the participating States; the establishment of contacts between national verification units.

Military co-operation and risk reduction

12.2. The establishment of joint training for peacekeeping, search and rescue or disaster

relief; the establishment of joint forces/headquarters for peacekeeping or disaster relief; the arrangement of visits for other participating States to military facilities or military formations in addition to the provisions set forth in the Vienna Document 1999; the arrangement of visits for other participating States to air bases in addition to the provisions set forth in the Vienna Document 1999; the establishment of hotlines between regional military commanders, particularly in border areas; the development of consultative mechanisms in case of unusual military activities, disaster relief, etc.; the use of the Regional Arms Control Verification and Implementation Assistance Centre (RACVIAC) for arms control-related instruction and training.

Military activities

13. Recognizing the significance of certain military activities, in particular in border areas, and taking into account existing bilateral and multilateral agreements, participating States may consider, on a voluntary basis and as appropriate, reducing the thresholds for military activities of their own forces subject to prior notification and observation to lower levels than those set out in Chapters V and VI of the Vienna Document 1999. Subject to the security needs of participating States they may develop additional criteria for notification and observation.

Inspections and evaluation visits

14. In accordance with paragraph 144.9 of the Vienna Document 1999, participating States may, on a voluntary basis and as appropriate, consider offering supplementary inspections and evaluation visits of their own forces, particularly in border areas. Other States, whose forces are present in the area, may voluntarily agree to participate in such supplementary inspections. The relevant provisions for inspections or evaluation visits set forth in Chapter IX of the Vienna Document 1999 will apply, unless otherwise agreed.

Antipersonnel mines

15. The participating States may provide, on a voluntary basis and as appropriate, financial and technical support in response to requests by other participating States for the de-mining of areas on their territory where antipersonnel mines are emplaced and for the destruction of antipersonnel mines.

Small arms and light weapons

16. The participating States recognize that the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms are problems that have contributed to the intensity and duration of the majority of recent armed conflicts. They are of concern because they pose a threat and a challenge to peace, and undermine efforts to ensure an indivisible and comprehensive security. The participating States reaffirm their commitment to the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons. They remain determined to implement fully the measures agreed therein, noting their relevance to the objectives of Article V. The participating States will co-operate as appropriate in combating illicit trafficking in all its aspects; in safe and effective management of stockpiles; in reduction and destruction of surpluses; and in early warning, conflict prevention; crisis management, and post-conflict rehabilitation issues related to small arms and light weapons. They will also seek to provide, as appropriate, financial and technical support for activities in this field.

Commission

17. A Commission of the participating States is established to review the implementation of the measures contained in this Concluding Document. It will be chaired by a participating State. The Chairmanship will rotate alphabetically in the French language, beginning with Albania. Unless otherwise agreed, the Chairmanship will change every year. Unless otherwise agreed, the Commission will meet once a year. Extraordinary meetings may be convened at the request of any participating State following appropriate consultations with all participating States by the Chairman.

18. Decisions will be taken by consensus. The Commission will define its own procedures and working methods.

19. The Commission will meet under the auspices of the OSCE. It will inform the FSC and the Permanent Council (PC) of its activities and will liaise with the sub-table on Defence and Security Issues of Table III of the Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe.

Final

20. The measures contained in this Concluding Document are of a voluntary nature. This Concluding Document is politically

binding and will become effective on 1 January 2002.

Source: Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, 'Regional arms control agreements, Article V', URL <<http://www.osce.org/representatives/arms/article5/article5.pdf>>.
