

Annual Security Review Conference
Working Group B – Comprehensive Security

ENGLISH only

Opening Remarks
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Permanent Representative of Albania to OSCE
Coordinator/Chair of Working Group B
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Dear colleagues from the capitals,
Colleagues from OSCE delegations in Vienna,
Ladies and gentlemen,

It is indeed a pleasure to have been entrusted by the FSC and the Permanent Council to coordinate and chair this Working Group of the first Annual Security Review Conference of the OSCE. This event should hopefully set an example, not necessarily the model, upon which the foundations for other ASRCs could be set.

Our Working Group B on Comprehensive Security is opening its proceedings with two key-note speeches. I would like to thank our distinguished key-note speakers, Director of Department for European Integration at the MFA of the Russian Federation, Mr. Alexander Grushko, and Deputy Director of the Security Department of the OSCE Mission in BiH, Brigadier General, Dr. Heinz Vetschera, for their kind acceptance to play that role and for their highly appreciated efforts to prepare and circulate in advance two very interesting and stimulating key-note speeches.

As we all know, arms control and disarmament negotiations and the relevant documents and agreements reached in the OSCE context have proven most valuable for the participating states and the life of the organisation itself. They constitute our rich pol-mil basket the implementation of which has so much contributed to stability, co-operation, transparency, trust, and to keeping alive a sustained security dialogue. Further developing the concept of a real and fruitful sustained dialogue on all aspects of security and defence issues, should be high on the agenda of the OSCE if we want it to benefit all participating states.

With this in mind, stock should be taken of the dramatic and dynamic changes that have occurred in the OSCE area, in particular in the last few years. In an effort to be able to provide an effective co-ordination to a framed discussion in this Working Group, may I remind that what may be expected from us today is, first of all, to bring discussion of all the pertinent issues under the purview of this Group to a higher political level, by focusing on national strategic and policy perceptions on FSC's core mandate.

From this point of view, after our distinguished key-note speakers presentations, national delegations are kindly invited to contribute to a fruitful discussion, in particular, on pertinent issues such the contribution of pol-mil instruments, tools and documents, and of existing arms control agreements and treaties, their analysis with a view to ascertaining their validity, compactness and quality and or the need for improvement, updating and enhancing of this package in the current circumstances. In a similar vein, this all relates to the understanding and validity of concept of indivisibility of security today that seems to be as important as ever. And finally, it is my expectation that at the end of this Working Group delegations of the participating states would have contributed also to the direction in which they like to see the OSCE going in the future in that regard.

I would like to conclude, dear colleagues, by saying that in these three hours or so at the disposal of this Group, we would be able to have an open and focused discussion on the crucial issues at hand. The chair/coordinator wishes to assure you that, together with our Group's able rapporteur, and thanks to your contributions, this Group will be able to come up with a substantial consolidated report for the closing Plenary that will reflect your views and perceptions and will benefit us all and the OSCE in our future endeavours.

I thank you for your attention.