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FROM VANCOUVER TO VLADIVOSTOK

WORKSHOP ON MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

STAKEHOLDER

MINISTERS OF DEFENCE

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CONTEXT

The diversity of OSCE member states' situation in regards to their membership (or lack thereof) in defense-military alliances focuses the attention of the entire Organisation on so-called mechanisms, especially those linked to the political and military dimension.

The current **Mechanism for Risk Reduction** was recorded in the 1999 Charter For European Security which contains three procedures: **consulting and co-operation mechanism in respect of unusual military activity**, which is activated in case of movement of troops that is unsettling, unplanned, and unreported beforehand to other participants. A country which deems such activity to be a threat to its own security may ask for an explanation from the country where the said movement is taking place. The answer should be provided within 48 hours. Otherwise, the country concerned may request a meeting; if this does not clarify the situation, in the last phase it is possible to request a joint meeting of all member states of the Organisation to resolve the issue.

The mechanism for organising visits in order to **allay fears related to military activity** assumes that a country conducting military trainings within its borders voluntarily invites observers from other countries in order to manifest absence of ill will and malicious intent from its side.

The mechanism **for co-operation in case of hazardous incidents of a military nature**. Every country on the territory of which such a situation occurs should inform of and provide explanation to other countries through contact points established for this purpose, thus avoiding misunderstandings and a potential escalation.

The organisation developed and continues to use two early warning mechanisms: the **Berlin Mechanism** (1991). It is general in nature and can be activated in case of major threats to peace, security, and stability. Every country has the right to request explanations from other countries if it concludes that such a situation has occurred. Currently, managing unusual situations and their assessment fall within the competence of the Permanent Council, without the need to formally activate the mechanism.

The Mechanism related to early warning and preventive action (1992) assumes the possibility of informing the High Council about situations which have the potential to escalate into conflicts, including armed conflicts. The right to submit such a report is granted to i.e. countries directly involved in a given conflict or a group of minimum 11 countries not directly involved in the issue.

GOAL

Review of the mechanisms and their simplification, changes in the decision-making system as to their activation, consideration of imposition of sanctions on countries for lack of cooperation in respect of realisation of the mechanisms.