

TALKING POINTS
SECOND MINISTERIAL REVIEW CONFERENCE ON THE GENEVA DECLARATION
ON ARMED VIOLENCE AND DEVELOPMENT
Geneva, 31 October -1 November 2011

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- It is my pleasure to have the occasion to address this ministerial meeting on behalf of the Republic of Serbia. I expect this meeting to make a significant contribution to the strengthening of security, by stressing not only the need for maintaining and continuously reinforcing security as a precondition of economic and overall social development, but also for sustainable development—a prerequisite for the preservation of security.
- The Republic of Serbia is a multi-ethnic and multi-confessional democracy. We are fully aware of the consequences of dictatorship and violence that characterized the Yugoslav civil wars, and how they affect all aspects of social development. As a result, Serbia is fully committed to settling all outstanding issues solely through dialogue and the diplomatic process, i.e. through respect of the legitimate interests of all parties concerned, as a precondition for reaching sustainable and durable solutions.
- In the wake of the democratic overthrow by the Serbian people of the dictatorship of Slobodan Milosevic on October 5th, 2000, the Republic of Serbia has re-established itself as a credible and predictable partner, especially at the regional level. This has been done in spite of great many serious challenges we face, such as the March 2004 pogrom against Serbs and their holy sites by ethnic-Albanian extremists in Kosovo, and the attempt at unilateral secession by the ethnic Albanian authorities in Pristina in 2008, as well as the current unilateralism and forcible attempts to subjugate innocent Serbian civilians in North Kosovo to an unwanted and illegitimate regime. Let me underline that Serbia remains committed to peaceful, diplomatic solutions. We will not use force, unlike both Kosovo Albanians and international forces have done against us in Kosovo. Armed violence will not resolve the Kosovo situation, and we call on all who support unilateralism in Kosovo to stand down.
- As for concrete results achieved by the Republic of Serbia in the prevention of armed violence, a number of important actions need be mentioned:
 - a) Significant results have been achieved in de-mining and clearance of ERW, which should have not been possible without the financial support of donors, especially UNDP, OSCE and the EU as well as major state donors such as the People's Republic of China, the United States, Canada, Austria, the Czech Republic, and others. Despite it, there remains a lot to be done in the future.
 - b) Having enacted the Law on Trade in Arms and Dual-Use Goods in 2005, the Republic of Serbia developed one of the most efficient regional regimes in this area, with full civilian control over this aspect of foreign trade operations and with a transparent budget.

c) The Republic of Serbia has **applied ILI is a member of** for admission to the most important international fora for disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control as well as regimes related to the control of arms transfers.

d) The Republic of Serbia has made an important contribution to the destruction of surplus stocks and the collected small arms and light weapons (in particular through SEESAC).

- The Republic of Serbia is the most important contributor to the fight against terrorism and organized crime in Southeast Europe. This has considerably reduced the threat of outbreak of armed conflict, both in Serbia and the region.
- The Republic of Serbia is very aware it will continue to face challenges in the time ahead, whether those of a strictly regional nature (because not all the actors are equally committed to dialogue and seeking mutually acceptable compromise solutions) or those predominantly generated from outside the region but assuming alarming proportions inside the region (i.e. consequences of the current financial and economic crisis and the upheavals on the southern and eastern Mediterranean coasts).
- Serbia will stay the course in embracing our inclusive, regionalist approach to issues related to armed violence and development. The Republic of Serbia is of the opinion that national efforts cannot bring about appropriate results if there is no corresponding progress, whether at close proximity or in the wider region. That is why consolidating regional stability is among our foremost national security priorities—and why cooperation, dialogue and understanding are still the basic premises of our regional policy.
- In conclusion, I would like to point to a good regional model for dealing with post-conflict crises, namely the Agreement on Sub-Regional Arms Control (under Article IV, Annex 1B, Dayton Agreement). All parties to the Agreement have adjusted their arms limits to comply with the restrictions in five categories of weapons as defined therein. This Agreement is the most successful regional arms control arrangement existing at present, and we suggest to this Meeting using it as a model ofr a number of other post-conflict areas.
- Thank you very much