

Key Developments in the CBM Process in Bosnia and Herzegovina

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The General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina, or the Dayton Peace Accords, attempted to bring a negotiated end to years of bloody ethnic conflict among Serbs, Croats, and Muslims in Bosnia and Herzegovina. To that end, in addition to signing the General Framework on 14 December 1995, the parties to the negotiations at Dayton also signed Annex 1-B to the General Framework—The Agreement on Regional Stabilization. The Annex entered into force immediately upon its signing.

The Annex called on the parties—specifically the Republic of Bosnia and Herzegovina, the Muslim–Croat Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the Republika Srpska—to devise “new forms of cooperation in the field of security aimed at building transparency and confidence and achieving balanced and stable defense force levels at the lowest numbers consistent with the Parties’ respective security” and stressed “the need to avoid an arms race in the region.” Article II of the Annex obligated the parties to “commence negotiations under the auspices of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) to agree upon a series of measures to enhance mutual confidence and reduce the risk of conflict, drawing fully upon the 1994 Vienna Document of the Negotiations on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures of the OSCE.” Furthermore, Article II called on the parties to “agree upon an initial set of measures within forty-five (45) days” after the Annex entered into force. The measures were to include:

- (a) restrictions on military deployments and exercises in certain geographical areas;
- (b) restraints on the reintroduction of foreign forces in light of Article III of Annex 1-A to the General Framework Agreement;
- (c) restrictions on locations of heavy weapons;
- (d) withdrawal of Forces and heavy weapons to cantonment/barracks areas or other designated locations as provided in Article IV of Annex 1-A [to the *General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina*];
- (e) notification of disbandment of special operations and armed civilian groups;
- (f) notification of certain planned military activities, including international military assistance and training programs;
- (g) identification of and monitoring of weapons manufacturing capabilities;
- (h) immediate exchange of data on the holdings of the five Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe (CFE) weapons categories as defined in the CFE Treaty, with the additional understanding that artillery pieces will be defined as those of 75mm calibre and above; and
- (i) immediate establishment of military liaison missions between the Chiefs of the Armed Forces of the Federation of Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Republika Srpska;

Article IV of the Annex required the parties to “commence negotiations under the auspices of the OSCE to reach early agreement on levels of armaments consistent with this

goal” and to conclude “an agreement establishing voluntary limits on military manpower” within thirty days after the Annex entered into force. Article IV called on the parties to negotiate an arms agreement based on a minimum of four criteria: population size, current military armament holdings, defense needs, and relative force levels in the region. Additionally, Article IV spelled out further details over the shape of a subsequent subregional arms control agreement:

- (a) The agreement shall establish numerical limits on holdings of tanks, artillery, armored combat vehicles, combat aircraft, and attack helicopters, as defined in the relevant sections of the CFE Treaty, with the additional understanding that artillery pieces will be defined as those of 75 mm calibre and above.
- (b) In order to establish a baseline, the Parties agree to report within thirty (30) days after this Annex enters into force their holdings as defined in sub-paragraph (a) above, according to the format prescribed in the 1992 Vienna Document of the OSCE.
- (c) This notification format shall be supplemented to take into account the special considerations of the region.

Accordingly, two sets of negotiations under the auspices of the OSCE, one on confidence- and security-building measures for Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the other on subregional arms control, opened in Vienna on 4 January 1996.

The negotiations on confidence- and security-building measures were chaired by then-Personal Representative of the OSCE Chairman-in-Office Ambassador Istvan Gyarmati of Hungary, and concluded on 26 January 1996 with the signing of an agreement, known both as the Vienna Agreement and as the Article II Agreement.

The Agreement outlines fifteen measures which cover the following:

- exchange of military information;
 - notification of changes in command structure or equipment holdings;
 - risk reduction;
 - notification and observation of and constraints on certain military activities;
 - restrictions on military deployments and exercises in certain geographic areas;
 - restraints on reintroduction of foreign forces;
 - withdrawal of forces and heavy weapons to cantonments/barracks or other designated areas;
 - restrictions on locations of heavy weapons;
 - notification of disbandment of special operations and armed civilian groups;
 - identification and monitoring of weapons manufacturing capabilities;
 - program of military contacts and cooperation;
 - principles governing non-proliferation;
 - verification and inspection regime;
- communications; and
 - implementation assessment.

Negotiations on subregional arms control, chaired by Ambassador Vigleik Eide of Norway, concluded on 14 June 1996 in Florence, Italy with the signing of the Agreement on Subregional Arms Control. In addition to the three parties to the Article II Agreement, the Republic of Croatia and the Federal Republic of Yugoslavia also signed on to the Agreement on Subregional Arms Control.

The Agreement on Subregional Arms Control set limits on five categories of armaments: armoured combat vehicles, artillery, attack helicopters, battle tanks, and combat aircraft. These limits are subject to rigorous verification. The Agreement includes provisions for on-site monitoring of the destruction process, an intrusive inspection regime, an impartial international role to assure “good faith” implementation of the Agreement, and a consultative mechanism for the parties to deal with differences that might arise in the course of implementation.

The parties committed themselves to the objective of establishing new forms of security cooperation aimed at establishing transparency and confidence-building, and achieving balanced and stable levels of defense forces at the lowest numbers consistent with the parties’ respective security requirements and the need to avoid a regional arms race.

The Agreement also includes protocols covering the following:

- reduction;
- procedures governing the reclassification of specific models or versions of combat-capable trainer into un-armed trainer aircraft;
- exchange of information and notifications;
- existing types of armaments;
- inspection; and
- the Subregional Consultative Commission.

