

Information on confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms
(Resolution 63/57)
Republic of Azerbaijan
2009

Based on the main principles of the confidence-building measures in the field of conventional arms the Republic of Azerbaijan is a party to the below mentioned agreements and treaties:

a) Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (the CFE Treaty)

The Republic of Azerbaijan is a party to the Treaty on Conventional Forces in Europe (the CFE Treaty).

In 2009:

- In the framework of the CFE Treaty the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan received 4 inspections on its territory;
- As usual, annual military information in the framework of the CFE Treaty has been provided to the States Parties on January 1, 2010;
- The Republic of Azerbaijan in the framework of the bilateral agreements conducts mutual inspection trainings on CFE Treaty in the military bases of the United Kingdom and United States in Europe.

b) Vienna Document – 1999

The Republic of Azerbaijan is a party to the Vienna Document – 1999.

In 2009:

- In the framework of the Vienna Document – 1999 the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan received 3 inspections and 1 evaluation visit on its territory;
- As always, annual military information in the framework of the Vienna Document – 1999 has been submitted to the OSCE on January 1, 2010;
- June 15-19, representatives of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan visited air base in Norway.
- October 18-24, representatives of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Azerbaijan participated in the inspection training course on Vienna Document – 1999 hold by the Arms Control Centre of the United Kingdom Armed Forces.

c) OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security

The Republic of Azerbaijan regularly takes part in the information exchange on the implementation of the Code of Conduct according to the OSCE decision.

Recognizing the need to enhance security co-operation, including through the further encouragement of norms of responsible and co-operative behavior in the field of security the Republic of Azerbaijan has taken appropriate measures according to the principles, norms and commitments set out in the Code of Conduct.

Reaffirming the adherence to the respective commitments in the area of arms control and confidence and security-building measures, Azerbaijan works both multilaterally through international organizations and bilaterally with other governments to promote closer international co-ordination in this field.

d) OSCE document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)

The Republic of Azerbaijan regularly takes part in the annual information exchange pursuant to the OSCE Document on SALW and provides information within OSCE every year.

Azerbaijan fully shares international community's opinion that illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons represents a grave threat to security and stability.

At international level Azerbaijan puts every effort to strengthen cooperation with states to jointly tackle the illicit trafficking of any kind. Azerbaijan convinced that increased transparency in small arms sales significantly contributes to the security and stability in the OSCE area, as well as in the South Caucasus region.

There is no doubt that SALW problem is of a specific relevance to the South Caucasus region. Flows of SALW to zones of conflicts undermine the process of their negotiated settlement, have a negative impact on confidence between neighboring states and may threaten the international security. Azerbaijan stresses that efficient regime to curtail proliferation of SALW in the South Caucasus could be possible only when all the countries in the region demonstrate their clear intention to renounce territorial claims to their neighbors and through the restoration of territorial integrity of the countries.

e) UN Register on the export and import of conventional arms

The Republic of Azerbaijan annually submits its national report under the UN Register on Conventional Arms. This report includes the information on the seven types of conventional arms.

Azerbaijan shows its support for and commitment to provide data and information as required by the United Nations resolution in order to ensure its effective implementation.

f) OSCE document on Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers

The Republic of Azerbaijan in the framework of this document annually submits the information on the national practices to the OSCE.

In order to promote the establishment of international peace and security Azerbaijan has always stressed its adherence to the principles of transparency and restraint in the transfer of conventional weapons and related technology, and its willingness to promote them in the security dialogue of the Forum for Security Co-operation.

Effective national mechanisms for controlling the transfer of conventional arms and related technology are one of the priorities of Azerbaijan.

g) Global Exchange of Military Information

The Republic of Azerbaijan participated in the Global Exchange of Military Information and provided information to the OSCE on major weapon and equipment systems and personnel in its conventional armed forces as specified in the OSCE Document.

h) Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction (Ottawa Convention)

The Republic of Azerbaijan fully supports the goals, purposes and principles of the Ottawa Convention and comprehensive ban of use, storage and transfer of anti-personnel landmines.

The Republic of Azerbaijan did not accede to the Ottawa Convention since our country was forced to use landmines as a measure of containment from possible resumption of hostilities. Azerbaijan has been suffering from the landmine problem in consequence of the armed conflict resulted in the occupation of 20% its territories. Azerbaijan can not accede to the Ottawa Convention without settlement of the armed conflict, restoration of territorial integrity of the Republic of Azerbaijan, and having a threat of hostility resumption, even though Azerbaijan stopped planting of additional mines. Therefore, adherence to the Ottawa Convention will be possible only after the final settlement of the conflict between Azerbaijan and Armenia.

Notwithstanding the difficulties, Azerbaijan follows most of the provisions of the Convention by not producing or transferring antipersonnel mines. In addition to this, taking into consideration the humanistic goals of the annual UN General Assembly resolution calling for universalization of the Ottawa Convention, the Republic of Azerbaijan demonstrates its will to support the global endeavor of making the world free of the menace of mines and votes in favour of Resolution.

Moreover, from 2008 the Republic of Azerbaijan submitted its national report under Article 7 of the Ottawa Convention which embraces transparency measures.

Azerbaijan also submitted its report within the framework of the OSCE questionnaire on anti-personnel mines and explosive remnants of war in 2009.