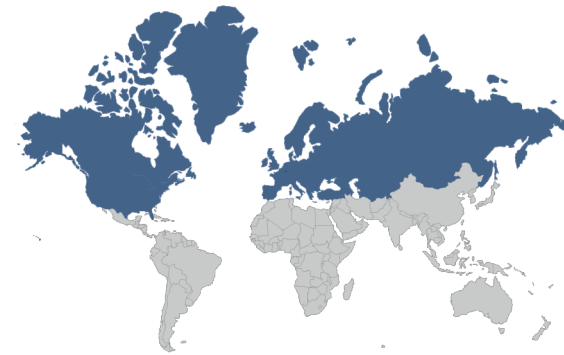




Ministry
of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Poland



Public task "Poland's regional position
in times of global tensions and rivalry:
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WORKSHOP ON MULTILATERAL DIPLOMACY

STAKEHOLDER

MINISTERS OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

CONTEXT

The OSCE organisational structure is extensive and consists of decision-making bodies of a political character, executive bodies, and field structures. The most important and most numerous group with an unclear division of competences is the first category, which includes:

Summits, i.e. meetings of heads of state, during which the most important matters regarding further cooperation are agreed upon. The last summit was held in 2010 in Astana. Decision-making method: consensus.

The Ministerial Council, which has the decision-making and governing competencies. The central decision-making body. It consists of ministers of foreign affairs, who meet on an annual basis in December. They are led by the country which holds the presidency. Decision-making method: consensus.

The Permanent Council consists of permanent representatives of countries to the Organisation (ambassadors), convening once a week in regular meetings. Decision-making method: consensus.

The High Council consists of the directors of the member states' MOFAs departments (bi-annual meetings of MOFAs political directors). It discusses the OSCE policy direction and prepares the Organisation's budget. Its importance has significantly decreased since the establishment of the Permanent Council.

The Chairman-in-Office. This role is performed by the minister of foreign affairs who holds the presidency in a given year. The person is responsible for preparing the presidency programme and the meeting agenda for particular thematic dimensions of the Organisation, as well as for coordinating multilateral diplomacy.

The presidential **Troika**, which means cooperation on the programme by the previous, acting and succeeding presidencies. The countries agree on the most important points of their programmes in order to maintain the continuity of the Organisation's work.

The Parliamentary Assembly consists of representatives of national parliaments and serves as a forum for the exchange of views on current topics which the Organisation is currently dealing with. It adopts resolutions (legally non-binding). The Assembly is an element of parliamentary diplomacy and a forum for communication between national parliaments.

Forum for Security Co-operation focuses, on an ongoing basis (weekly sessions), on topics related to identifying threats and conflicts which could affect the level of international security

GOAL

Institutional changes (simplification of the organisational structure), changes to the decision-making system (efficiency while maintaining the sovereign equality of countries).