The 19th PMSC Meeting was held in Skopje on 15-16 April 2008. The following annexes are enclosed to this document:

Annex A: Agenda of the 19th PMSC Meeting.

Annex B: List of Participants.

Annex C: Na-4 proposal on the 5th Additional protocol

Annex D: List of responsibilities of the nation representing SEEBRIG in IO’s

Annex E: PMSC Public Diplomacy Strategy

All presentations are in the attached CD.

The meeting was opened by the Na –5 Minister of Defense, HE. Lazar ELENOVSKI. The Minister of Defense welcomed the participants and underlined the significance of the SEDM Process and its role in the regional security and stability.

ITEM I. ADOPTION OF THE AGENDA - PRESENTED BY CHAIRPERSON

The 19th PMSC agenda was adopted (ANNEX A).

ITEM II. UPDATE ON PMSC ACTIVITIES - PRESENTED BY CHAIRPERSON

PMSC Chairperson welcomed all participants to this meeting and expressed her appreciation for their continuous support and cooperation.

The Chairperson of the PMSC presented a record of PMSC activities, since the last meeting and informed the PMSC about the steps taken so far. The Chairperson underlined the main PMSC activities within last six months: SEDM Ministerial Meeting in Kiev 2007, Exercise Seven Stars 2007, Ukraine General Staff personnel visit to HQ SEEBRIG, 3rd HLEM for 5th Additional Protocol of MPFSEE Agreement and the preparation of the Exercise Seven Stars 2008.

The Chairperson of the PMSC presented an update on the accomplishments, ongoing process and future activities related to Chairmanship 2007-2009 priorities.
ITEM III. UPDATE ON SEEBRIG ACTIVITIES - PRESENTED BY COMSEEBRIG

COMSEEBRIG presented an update of activities of HQ SEEBRIG, since the 18th PMSC Meeting, in Skopje, underlining the evaluation visits, meetings, seminars/symposium, exercises and visits realized in this period.

ITEM IV. UPDATE ON ISAF MISSION - PRESENTED BY JFC BRUNSSUM

JFC Brunssum representative Colonel Aldo Guaccio gave an update on ISAF Mission underlining ISAF’s Strategic vision, Mission statement, OMLT requirements, PRT Mission statement, and emphasized that ISAF mission remains NATO’s first priority.

The PMSC expressed the appreciation to JFC Brunssum representative for the presentation.

PMSC kindly requested JFC Brunssum representative to send through PMSC Secretariat more detailed information on the rotation policy within the ISAF Mission (RCC) in 2009.

ITEM V. UPDATE ON NATO AND EU OPERATIONS AND POSSIBLE FUTURE AREAS OF COOPERATION WITH SEEBRIG - PRESENTED BY JFC NAPLES

This item was canceled due to the fact of absence of JFC Naples Representative.

ITEM VI. STATUS OF THE MPFSEE AGREEMENT REVISION

(A) PREPARATION PROCESS OF THE 5th ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL - PRESENTED BY HQ SEEBRIG, DISCUSSIONS BY NATIONS

COMSEEBRIG informed the PMSC on the progress of the Revision Process.

During his presentation HQ SEEBRIG representative briefed PMSC on the conclusions of High Level Experts Meeting, held in Istanbul /Na-7, in the period 18-22 Feb 2008, which has resulted with a new Draft of the 5th Additional Protocol to the MPFSEE Agreement, underlying the necessity to evaluate and to decide on the open issues in order to finalize the Draft.

MPFSEE Nations agreed on the text of two remained open issues from the 3rd HLEM and on the keeping the original text of the Article 6 of the Third Additional Protocol

Na-7 highlighted that the assignment of one purchasing and contracting officer will be taken into consideration after the approval of the 5th Additional protocol.

Na-4 accepted to include the costs related to a ROLE 2 during the SEEHRIG deployment in the common budget.

MPFSEE Nations agreed to evaluate Na-4 proposal to merge the MPFSEE Agreement and the provisions of the five Additional protocols in a single document and to inform PMSC Secretariat by 20th PMSC Meeting.
(B) PROPOSAL ON THE 2nd DRAFT OF THE MPFSEE AGREEMENT REVISION - 5th ADDITIONAL PROTOCOL - PRESENTED BY NATION 4, DISCUSSIONS BY NATIONS

Na-4 presented additional national proposals (Annex C) on the MPFSEE Agreement and its approved Additional protocols that have already been presented during the HLEM held in Istanbul 18-22 Feb 2008.

Na-7 kindly requested from Na-4 to review their proposals to decrease the items to the extend possible improving (not changing) the main Agreement and its protocols.

Na-4 confirmed the need to have all the proposals evaluated by MPFSEE nations.

Upon discussion MPFSEE Nations agreed on the necessity to evaluate the Na-4 proposal in a short term in order to be integrated (or not) within 5th Additional protocol NLT 15 June 2008.

The agreed proposals by all the MPFSEE Nations will be included in the 5th Additional protocol.

Consequently, the Secretariat will distribute the final text of the 5th Additional protocol ASAP.

ITEM VII. SEEBRIG ENGAGEMENT IN PSO / FUTURE ACTIVITIES - PRESENTED BY CHAIRPERSON, NATIONAL VIEWS

(A) PROPOSAL FOR FUTURE SEEBRIG PSO MISSION - LEADERSHIP IN ISAF REGIONAL COMMAND CAPITAL (RCC-KABUL) IN 2008 OR 2009 (PRESENTED BY NA-7, SEEBRIG HQ PRESENTATION, NATIONAL VIEWS)

PMSC Chairperson informed on the planning activities related to any future SEEBRIG PSO engagement, expressing the willingness to pay a visit to UN and NATO together with COMSEEBRIG to determine future UN and NATO requirements.

Na-7 presented the national proposal of possible future SEEBRIG PSO engagement - leadership in ISAF regional command capital (RCC-KABUL) in 2008 or 2009, as a most suitable SEEBRIG PSO participation based on current SEEBRIG capabilities and requested concrete decision over this proposal to be taken by MPFSEE nations.

COMSEEBRIG presented a preliminary summary reflecting the current SEEBRIG operational capability for the SEEBRIG HQ possible future participation to ISAF mission (RCC Kabul), underlining that the Na-7 proposal to deploy SEEBRIG HQ for RCC Kabul can not be evaluated until the SHAPE visit has been completed.

COMSEEBRIG selected several pinpoints for a future SEEBRIG involvement in ISAF RCC (Manning, Training process and Annual Plan Revision, EOD/IEDD, Intelligence, Logistics and HQ Coy, CIS Equipment and CIS COY, CIMIC and PSYOPS, Cost vs Benefits, Mission budget, FOC certification).

MPFSEE nations agreed COMSEEBRIG undergo the procedures in order to obtain CRONOS access.

Upon discussion PMSC tasked SEEBRIG HQ and the Secretariat to visit NATO to determine what NATO requirements for ISAF RCC might be.
PMSC agreed in principle to examine possible future SEEBRIG deployment. However before MPFSEE Nations evaluate any possible deployment, SEEBRIG must have the shortfalls identified during the first deployment in ISAF mission, resolved.

Na-3 emphasized that the most acceptable timeframe for SEEBRIG overtaking of ISAF RCC is second semester of 2009. During the visit in NATO of both PMSC Chairperson and COMSEEBRIG, the national representatives in NATO are welcomed to participate with the above-mentioned persons in order to facilitate the whole procedure.

Na-6 stated that the preferable time frame for SEEBRIG overtaking of ISAF RCC is first semester of 2009, due to the fact that in July 2009, the personnel of key positions in the nucleus staff will be rotated (COMSEEBIG, COS, chiefs of G5 and G6) and the necessary period of time for training the new personnel will postpone the deployment, at least one year.

US stated that SEEBRIG should also focus its efforts on Disaster Relief and Crises response Operations.

(B) SEEBRIG REPRESENTATION IN IO’s (NATO, UN, OSCE AND EU)/LIST OF RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE NATION REPRESENTING SEEBRIG IN THE IO’s
(PRESENTED BY CHAIRPERSON, NATIONAL VIEWS)
Based on the Minutes from the 7th PMSC Meeting held in Bucharest 13-14 March 2002, PMSC Chairperson presented the possible options for SEEBRIG representation in IO’s:
- Presenting SEEBRIG in OSCE, UN, by respective permanent mission of the PMSC Chairperson Nation in these IO’s and
- Presenting SEEBRIG in NATO, EU by respective permanent mission of the nation providing the COMSEEBRIG.

Nations, except Na-3 and Na-7 agreed that SEEBRIG will be represented in the IO’s by the PMSC Secretariat Chair nation. If this nation is not a member of some of the above mentioned organizations, only for those it will be substituted by the nation that provides COMSEEBRIG.

Na-3 and Na-7 stated that the national position on the proposal of representing SEEBRIG in IO’s, will be submitted NLT 17 May 2008.

PMSC Chairperson presented also the List of responsibilities of the nation representing SEEBRIG in the IO’s, emphasizing the importance of having this document.

Upon discussion, PSMC agreed on the List of responsibilities, which is attached as Annex D.

ITEM VIII. EXERCISES & TRAINING ISSUE - PRESENTED BY HQ SEEBRIG

(A) SITUATION REPORT ON EXERCISE “COMBINED ENDEAVOUR - 08”
(B) EXERCISE “SEVEN STARS – 08”
(C) EXERCISE “SEESIM – 08”
(D) SEEBRIG EXERCISE (FTX / NATO/ PfP/ KEY LEADERS TRAINING 2008/ UN EXERCISE 2009/ BIANNUAL PLAN)/ EVALUATION VISITS POLICY (PRESENTED BY COMSEEBRIG, DISCUSSIONS BY NATIONS)
HQ SEEBRIG representative presented a status report on the above exercises and training issues, which are to be conducted during this year.

COMSEEBRIG underlined that in case of SEEBRIG will not be involved in a mission, exercise Seven Stars 2010 should be conducted as an FTX in order to enhance the HQ performance and to consolidate the co-operation with the assigned units. Furthermore, COMSEEBRIG emphasized that because of non existence of available NATO PfP exercises in 2008 of non peace enforcement type, SEEBRIG has to search for appropriate exercises in other organizations (UN, EU etc) or to participate in key leader training regarding RCC Mission.

COMSEEBRIG stressed also that IOT achieve better preparation and to enhance the performance of the HQ for missions and exercise activities, a mid and long term notice is required. In accordance to this, COMSEEBRIG proposed every August to submit a 2 years plan ( 1st year- current situation, 2nd year - the proposal for the second year ahead will have to include major activities and evaluation visits dates and 3rd year-possible imminent mission).

Related to evaluation visits policy COMSEEBRIG underlined that these visits should be re-concerned to be held on a 2-year basis cycle, since no significant changes on behalf of the assigned Units are to be implemented on an annual basis. The visits are better to be conducted right after the SEEBRIG’s change of command, or during the main activities such PSO training/PSO evaluation, Mission rehearsal training, NATO certification, FTX/LIVEX and also during their mission in order to provide the COMSEEBRIG with the sooner possible familiarization with the assigned Units and their capabilities and potential. Having in mind the common goals and responsibilities COMSEEBRIG proposed combined SEEBRIG and PMSC Secretariat evaluation teams on a case by case basis.

PMSC tasked SEEBRIG to prepare the Activities Plan on two year basis and to provide to the nations a tentative SESAP for national consideration.

Na-6 recommended COMSEEBRIG to reanalyze the topic of key leader training in RCC according to the additional information to be provided by JFC Brunssum representative.

Na-4 highlighted that although any kind of training activities has to be considered useful, there is currently no need for SEEBRIG HQ personnel to take part to key leader training activities of any kind. Any further evaluation about this matter could be evaluated when a possible mission will be defined.

Nations are going to take FTX into consideration for 2009 after clarification of the modalities about the exercise (Level of contribution, costs, time, duration, etc) by the HQ SEEBRIG.

Na-7 stated that it supports training and exercise opportunities in NATO/PfP, UN, EU without putting any limitations in general. However, participation to NATO/PfP UN, EU exercises including peace enforcement tasks could only be possible case by case in consultation among the MPFSEE nations.

Na-3 stated that the frequency of the evaluation visits should be limited to one inspection per two years, not necessarily during a national FTX.

IX. FINANCIAL ISSUES - PRESENTED BY HQ SEEBRIG

HQ SEEBRIG representative presented a status report on the following financial issues:

HQ SEEBRIG representative stated that in 5th Additional protocol there is a provision to change the currency from USD to EUR.

Since Nations agreed on the Draft of the Fifth Additional protocol, SEEBRIG HQ is authorized to present, during next PMSC meeting, the proposal of the budget for 2009 in EUR.

Na-5 stated that the saved money from 2008 cash call to be used as an advance for the next fiscal year 2009.

Na-6 stated that will inform SEEBRIG HQ with the necessary details related to the saved money, ASAP.

**ITEM X. UKRAINE CONTRIBUTION TO MPFSEE INITIATIVE, STATUS OF ACCESSION - PRESENTED BY UKRAINE**

(A) OUTCOMES OF THE UKRAINE GS VISIT TO SEEBRIG HQ AND FUTURE ACTIVITIES (PRESENTED BY SEEBRIG HQ AND UKRAINE)

HQ SEEBRIG representative presented the outcomes from the Ukrainian GS delegation visit to SEEBRIG HQ realized in Istanbul on 30 Jan 2008 during which he underlined the most critical requirements that will significantly improve overall capabilities of SEEBRIG in PSO (AIR ASSETS - helicopters for transportation, CASEVAC, S&R operations, C2).

Concerning the process of accession (Article XVI of the MPFSEE Agreement), Ukrainian representative informed the PMSC that the adoption of an official instrument of accession in MPFSEE is in a processing phase.

Ukrainian representative informed the PMSC on already considered national scope and manner of Ukrainian contribution in MPFSEE including but not limited to engineer unit up to level of company, NBC protection unit up to the level of platoon, staff officers and medical personnel, and possible assignment of MP unit.

Na-5 as MPFSEE Agreement depository nation stated that will develop a basic non paper document on the more elaborate procedures of accession to MPFSEE Agreement in accordance to Article XVI of MPFSEE Agreement, by the end of June 2008.

PMSC tasked Secretariat to disseminate this document to MPFSEE nations IOT collect the national comments and integrate in a draft document of procedures of accession to MPFSEE Agreement that is to be ready for endorsement during the next PMSC Meeting.

**ITEM XI. STATUS OF SEEBRIG CIS - PRESENTED BY HQ SEEBRIG**

HQ SEEBRIG Representative informed the PMSC on SEEBRIG CIS status, underlying the problem with SATCOM and TETRA Systems, pending on Na-7 approval for facilities visits.
Na-7 highlighted that responsible authorities were informed and Na-7 recommended HQ SEEBRIG to coordinate if any changes occur.

MPFSEE Nations agreed the main CIS equipment to be used during Seven Stars 08.

**ITEM XII. PMSC PUBLIC DIPLOMACY STRATEGY - PRESENTED BY PMSC SECRETARIAT**

PMSC Secretariat representative presented the current status with PMSC PDS

PMSC endorsed the PMSC Public Diplomacy Strategy (Annex E).

**ITEM XIII. ANY OTHER BUSINESS**

(A) **SEEBRIG LEVEL OF AMBITION (PRESENTED BY HQ SEEBRIG, DISCUSSIONS BY NATIONS)**

COMSEEBRIG presented the current status with SEEBRIG Level of ambition (General situation, Background versus transformation of SEEBRIG, Definition of LoA, Comments and Way ahead), notifying three possible levels of ambition:

- a. High Level of Ambition - High Readiness Capabilities Package
- b. Medium Level of Ambition – Emergency and Reconstruction Operations Capabilities Package

COMSEEBRIG proposed courses of action:

a. COA 1 – to work in parallel for the LoA Concept as ToR for the future Agreement Revision
b. COA 2 – to continue the working on the concept of LoA, as a next step, and after official approval to start to work on the future Agreement Revision.

Na-7 reiterated that this proposal is not appropriate at this stage.

Na-7 stated that it is not in a position to choose the proposed COA’s. However, Na7 stated that HQ SEEBRIG may continue studies to improve SEEBRIG capabilities by using different options as well as LoA as a reference working paper.

Na-6 proposed that COA 1 to be read as follows: - to work for the LoA concept

Na-4 believes that high LoA proposal is the most suitable to match the need to review the current LoA and to continue to provide SEEBRIG with the necessary tools to accomplish the tasks it was established for, and asks the SEEBRIG HQ to continue to analyze this option avoiding any reference to high readiness status and evaluating the issues connected with possible constitution of the two multinational battalions.

PMSC encouraged HQ SEEBRIG to continue studies to improve SEEBRIG capabilities in the future.

(B) **SEEBRIG ANTHEM (PRESENTED BY COMSEEBRIG)**

COMSEEBRIG noticed the need of having a SEEBRIG Anthem, proposing and justifying the proposal - “Triumphal March” from Verdi’s AIDA.
Na-7 stated that Anthem belonging any unit at brigade level is not a common practice and asked HQ SEEBRIG to provide information if any other MNB has an Anthem.

PMSC tasked HQ SEEBRIG to provide valid information on using an Anthem at the MNB level in general, NLT 15 June 2008.

Na-3 informed that the location of SEEBRIG HQ for the period 2011-2015 will be in Larissa instead of Kilkis.

US proposed establishing of a WG in order to conduct an assessment to review and make possible revision of SEEBRIG’s goals and areas of focus.

Na-5 supported US proposal and stressed that is ready to take responsibility to contribute to and to lead this WG.

**ITEM XIV. DATE OF THE NEXT MEETING**

The PMSC regular meeting was agreed to be held in Na-5, Ohrid, 23-24 September 2008.

**ITEM XV. APPROVAL OF MINUTES**

The PMSC approved the minutes of the 19th Meeting.

Concluding, the PMSC Chairperson expressed her gratitude to all the participants for their excellent contribution to this meeting.