



Second day of the Twenty-Third Meeting
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**MINISTERIAL DECLARATION ON
OSCE ASSISTANCE PROJECTS IN THE FIELD OF SMALL ARMS
AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL
AMMUNITION**

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe,
2. Mindful of the security and safety risks and threats related to stockpiles of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA),
3. Concerned at the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW and conventional ammunition,
4. Determined to contribute to the prevention and reduction of the risks and threats related to stockpiles of SALW and conventional ammunition, including through co-operation, information sharing and assistance,
5. Determined, notably, to prevent, combat and eradicate the use of SALW and conventional ammunition for terrorism and transnational organized crime,
6. Welcoming the broad range of OSCE assistance in the field of SALW and SCA,
7. Recognizing the value of OSCE practical assistance in addressing security risks and safety factors related to stockpiles of SALW and conventional ammunition, including liquid rocket fuel components, explosive materials and detonating devices in surplus in some States in the OSCE area and adjacent regions,
8. Reiterating the relevant provisions of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, the OSCE Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, and related FSC decisions including Decision No. 2/16 on enabling the provision of assistance to OSCE Partners for Co-operation using procedures outlined in the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition,
9. Recalling that the preferred method for the disposal of SALW and SCA is destruction,

10. Recognizing the contribution of such OSCE projects to the effective implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and the pursuit of relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals,
11. Underline our resolve to jointly address these risks by making full use of OSCE mechanisms to elaborate and implement related assistance projects,
12. Note in this respect the valuable contribution of OSCE assistance under the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA related to the improvement of physical security, stockpile management, risk awareness-raising and destruction of surplus SALW and SCA,
13. Welcome the progress achieved so far in developing and implementing OSCE projects, which have resulted in the destruction of more than 50,000 small arms and light weapons and 18,000 tonnes of conventional ammunition, in upgrades of safety and security at 95 storage sites, and in the enhancement of stockpile management capacity,
14. Recognize the importance of voluntary assistance, and welcome contributions made by participating States to OSCE projects on SALW and SCA, which in the period 2005–2016 have amounted to over 25 million euros, in addition to contributions in kind,
15. Acknowledge the valuable contributions of the recipient participating States to the successful implementation of the assistance projects,
16. Taking note of the efforts of the OSCE executive structures for SALW/SCA project management, including through the related OSCE trust fund repository programmes, encourage them to continue to promote co-ordination and assessment of progress with the view to enhancing synergies and avoiding duplication and call upon them to further assist participating States in implementing projects in an efficient and transparent manner, in accordance with the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA and relevant FSC decisions,
17. Invite participating States to continue providing extrabudgetary contributions to support FSC assistance projects on SALW and SCA, either for a specific project or by providing resources and technical expertise to the OSCE's comprehensive programme on SALW and SCA;
18. Encourage continued discussions on topical security issues related to SALW and SCA projects, including within the FSC Security Dialogue meetings and consider holding periodic SALW and SCA conferences. These would, *inter alia*, assess the implementation of ongoing OSCE projects on SALW/SCA, whilst ensuring cost efficiency through combining, where appropriate, other related assessment meetings and Security Dialogues;
19. Invite participating States to exchange views and information and share best practices, on a voluntary basis and if relevant to the mandate of the FSC, to address the impact of excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW and conventional ammunition on women and children as well as creating equal opportunities for women's participation in policymaking, planning and implementation processes with regard to the OSCE assistance projects in the field of SALW and SCA;

20. Invite participating States to consider, on a voluntary basis and in co-operation with other international organizations and institutions, providing technical, financial and consultative assistance for projects on SALW and SCA in response to requests from OSCE Partners for Co-operation and in accordance with FSC Decision No. 2/16;
21. Invite OSCE Partners for Co-operation to consider opportunities to jointly engage with the OSCE participating States on mitigating risks arising from the presence and destabilizing accumulations of SALW and SCA.