

**FSC CHAIRPERSON'S PROGRESS REPORT  
TO THE TWENTY-FIFTH MEETING  
OF THE MINISTERIAL COUNCIL**

**THE CONTINUING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE  
OSCE DOCUMENTS ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS  
AND STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION**



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## **Executive Summary**

This progress report provides comprehensive factual information on the implementation of the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) for the period from November 2017 to November 2018.

The reporting period saw the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) continuing to conduct its activities aimed at combating the proliferation of illicit SALW and preventing destabilizing accumulations. In this connection, the Vienna Ministerial Council adopted Decision No. 10/17 on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, which gave participating States a general framework for the future work of the FSC, allowing for improvements both in the normative aspects and in the implementation of the existing commitments.

In October 2018 the FSC held the Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA. Following up on actions suggested at the third UN Review Conference on the Programme of Action on SALW (RevCon3), the outcomes of the OSCE Biennial Meeting provided impetus to streamlining and updating the norms, best practices and mechanisms in order to ensure an effective OSCE approach to combating the proliferation of SALW and to strengthening the safety and security of SCA.

The year 2018 also saw the adoption of the OSCE Best Practice Guide on Minimum Standards for National Procedures for the Deactivation of Small Arms and Light Weapons. These guidelines contribute to common approaches and procedures on the permanent deactivation of SALW, and provide the participating States with recommendations on how to incorporate these into national norms and mechanisms.

The participating States continued to exchange SALW-related information as stipulated in the OSCE Document on SALW and other relevant FSC decisions. Recent years, however, show a declining trend in the implementation of these provisions, with fewer and fewer participating States providing data on the agreed information exchanges, in particular information on imports/exports of SALW and their destruction. To decrease the reporting burden on participating States and to encourage a co-ordinated approach to reporting, a SALW online reporting tool has been developed jointly with UNODA for the submission of SALW-related information to both organizations simultaneously.

The FSC held several Security Dialogues devoted to SALW and SCA in the reporting period. The practical assistance given to OSCE participating States through the implementation of SALW projects remains a key component of the work undertaken to improve security and stability in the OSCE area.

Finally, in line with its mandate, the OSCE Secretariat further enhanced its co-operation with other international organizations dealing with SALW-related issues. Formal co-operation agreements have been established to mainstream and enhance co-operation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) through the Joint Action Plan, and with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the Memorandum of Understanding.

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## **1. Introduction**

At the Twenty-Fourth Meeting of the Ministerial Council in Vienna, the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC), through its Chairperson, was requested to submit to the Twenty-Fifth Meeting of the Council a progress report on the continuing implementation of the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (MC.DEC/10/17).

The OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons<sup>1</sup> was adopted on 24 November 2000 and reissued on 20 June 2012 (FSC.DOC/1/00/Rev.1). It sets forth norms, principles and measures to address the threat posed to the international community by the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW. This was acknowledged by the OSCE Strategy to Address Threats to Security and Stability in the Twenty-First Century<sup>2</sup> and the Ministerial Declaration on OSCE Assistance Projects in the Field of SALW and SCA<sup>3</sup> (MC.DOC/3/16), as well as by Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/17 on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition<sup>4</sup> (MC.DEC/10/17), which regards the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA and relevant FSC Decisions as important tools for combating threats caused by terrorism and transnational organized crime, and underlines the importance of further strengthening their implementation.

In its activities, the OSCE aims to complement action undertaken at the global level. Together, the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA also constitute a substantial contribution to the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects (“United Nations Programme of Action on SALW”).

## **2. Objectives**

The present report is intended to provide an overview of the implementation of OSCE commitments on SALW and SCA; it also describes progress made in the implementation of OSCE-related SALW and SCA assistance projects. It is primarily designed to serve as a basis for determining the status of implementation of the OSCE commitments on SALW and SCA. The report covers the period from November 2017 to November 2018 (the deadline for the inclusion of factual data having been 13 November).

## **3. The OSCE’s contribution to the third UN Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action on SALW**

The third UN Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in

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<sup>1</sup> <https://www.osce.org/fsc/20783>

<sup>2</sup> <https://www.osce.org/mc/17504>

<sup>3</sup> <https://www.osce.org/cio/288201?download=true>

<sup>4</sup> <https://www.osce.org/chairmanship/361581?download=true>

All Its Aspects (and its International Tracing Instrument), RevCon3<sup>5</sup>, was held from 18 to 29 June 2018 in New York. The OSCE participated in the preparations for RevCon3 by actively contributing to the thematic discussions on: small arms control in conflict and post-conflict settings; the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and gender; new technologies; and synergies.

At the UN level, the OSCE promoted its achievements in co-operation, co-ordination and synergies with UNODA on reporting on SALW as well as in international assistance activities contributing to combating illicit trafficking and reducing and preventing the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW in the OSCE area.

On the margins of the Preparatory Committee of RevCon3, the OSCE, jointly with Germany and France, promoted its Best Practice Guide on Minimum Standards for National Procedures for the Deactivation of SALW (“Best Practice Guide on Deactivation of SALW”), adopted in 2018, by organizing a side event which raised awareness, underlining that everyone was concerned by the threat posed by the illicit conversion, transformation or reactivation of weapons. It was also concluded that the deactivation of SALW should become an integral part of capacity-building efforts through the incorporation of common rules and standards on SALW related to national norms and mechanisms in the OSCE area and beyond.

At RevCon3, the OSCE promoted its work by highlighting the importance of the regional efforts in implementing the PoA on SALW and promoting the SDGs, in particular by reducing illicit arms flows. The OSCE highlighted four areas of its work:

- Deactivation of SALW;
- Facilitating synergies in reporting;
- Promoting implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security, through the training programme for women on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation in the OSCE area, and by seeking to make gender aspects an integral part of the OSCE’s assistance projects on SALW and SCA;
- Implementation of the SALW and SCA projects promoting the safe and secure storage and timely destruction of weapons, ammunition and explosives, contributes to a safer and more secure world, as do capacity-building for those purposes and effective collaboration on combating proliferation and accumulation.

The RevCon3 outcome document, contained in the annex of the conference report<sup>6</sup>, provides a roadmap for strengthening the fight against illicit SALW at all levels and in particular emphasizes issues related to reducing illicit trade in SALW, integrating gender perspective in work on SALW, inclusion of the ammunition regulation in the framework of the Plan of Action, technological advancement, and the relation of SALW to the Sustainable Development Goals.

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<sup>5</sup> RevCon takes place every six years to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA). As the PoA is not a stand-alone document, it is reviewed together with best practice guides, sustainable development goals, assistance projects, law enforcement, and regional instruments.

<sup>6</sup> [http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/CONF.192/2018/RC/3&referer=/english/&Lang=E](http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/CONF.192/2018/RC/3&referer=/english/&Lang=E)

#### **4. Assessment of the implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA**

In accordance with FSC Decisions No. 4/18 and No. 5/18, the Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition was held on 2 and 3 October 2018 in order to follow up on suggestions for action contained in the RevCon3 outcome document and to seek ways to apply them in further SALW and SCA related work of the OSCE.

The meeting brought together over a hundred national officials and representatives of international organizations. The meeting's goal was to take stock (or initiate "inventory") of the OSCE's existing tools and to seek ways to streamline them to ensure an effective OSCE approach to non-proliferation of SALW, and to strengthening safety and security of SCA.

The participating States took the opportunity to review the normative side of SALW and SCA work with focuses on: 1) the Plan of Action on SALW, 2) the OSCE Best Practice Guides, and 3) the assistance mechanism.

The participants acknowledged the need for the OSCE to enhance its SALW- and SCA-related norms, best practices and mechanisms to better address both present and emerging challenges and preventing, combating and eradicating the diversion of SALW and conventional ammunition. A number of areas were identified for improvement and further development, such as efforts on preventing and combating diversion through, *inter alia*, deactivation or destruction; addressing weapons-related technological developments, in particular modular and polymer weapons; integrating gender aspects into best practice guides; making better use of national reporting and the SALW online reporting tool; and improving the assistance mechanism in the field of SALW and SCA to enhance the OSCE's capacity to engage more effectively in the multi-level processes.

#### **5. Normative aspects**

The OSCE Document on SALW establishes the OSCE normative base for the development and implementation of national legislation, rules and procedures. The review of these norms and the development of supplementary and/or complementary decisions by the FSC constitute a core part of the FSC's regular work, which in 2018 centred on the following issues:

##### ***5.1 The Best Practice Guide on Minimum Standards for National Procedures for the Deactivation of SALW***

In order to establish a reliable barrier to prevent diversion and leakage of small arms into the illegal market, the OSCE has developed the Best Practice Guide on Minimum Standards for National Procedures for the Deactivation of Small Arms and Light Weapons<sup>7</sup>, which was approved at the FSC on 21 February 2018 (FSC.DEC/1/18/Corr.2).

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<sup>7</sup> <https://www.osce.org/forum-for-security-cooperation/383988>

Commonly referred to as the “Best Practice Guide on Deactivation of SALW”, it suggests minimum standards, approaches and procedures to ensure the permanent deactivation of SALW, and provides recommendations on how to incorporate these into national legislation and mechanisms. It details concrete measures for the participating States to take in marking and keeping records of weapons and also sets out technical specifications for the deactivation of SALW.

On 29 and 30 October 2018, at Podgorica, Montenegro, the Regional Workshop on the OSCE Best Practice Guide on Deactivation of SALW was held to support the participating States in applying the SALW deactivation standards, approaches and procedures in their efforts to combat diversion and illicit transfers of SALW.

The workshop contributed to the efforts being undertaken in South-Eastern Europe to tackle the risks and challenges associated with reactivated, converted or otherwise illegally modified SALW. The workshop focused on how to integrate the standards contained in the Best Practice Guide into national legislation and SALW control procedures.

The workshop was the first event to be held in direct, practical support of the Franco-German joint initiative that led to the adoption in July 2018 of the “Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2024”. The workshop also sought to promote implementation of national action plans on illicit firearms trafficking and comprehensive SALW control. The workshop focused on two goals of the Roadmap: to ensure that arms control legislation is fully harmonized with the international regulatory framework by 2023, and to ensure that the collection and legalization of SALW is carried out using deactivation procedures that comply with international standards.

## ***5.2 Proposals on SALW***

The FSC has on its agenda a proposal for a draft decision on the prevention of illicit trafficking of SALW and/or ammunition by sea and inland waterways. Highlighting the importance of the security of the maritime domain for the stability of the OSCE area, the proposal suggests engaging in best practice and information exchange on the prevention of illicit trafficking of SALW by maritime transport and through inland waterways.

This would strengthen the OSCE’s role in the implementation of international regulations and commitments relevant to combating this form of illicit trafficking and in engaging in dialogue with private and international organizations to enhance the knowledge of best practices.

## ***5.3 The Informal Group of Friends on SALW***

The work of the Informal Group of Friends (IGoF) on SALW continued in 2018.

The IGoF dealt with the preparations for the third UN Review Conference and reviewed the OSCE’s work in this area since the second UN Review Conference held



in 2012. The OSCE's achievements since RevCon2 were identified as having taken place in the following areas:

- 1) Normative aspects and their implementation in accordance with the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA; Ministerial Council and FSC Decisions on SALW and SCA, including FSC Decision No. 1/18 on the best practice guide on deactivation of SALW;
- 2) Synergies in reporting – further development of the SALW online reporting tool;
- 3) SALW/SCA projects aimed at enhancing the capacity of the participating States in reducing surplus stockpiles of SALW and SCA and in improving stockpile management;
- 4) Gender, highlighting the OSCE's work in gender mainstreaming and the need to include women in decision-making processes.

In this connection, there was widespread praise for the training programme for young professionals, in particular women, on “arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation in the OSCE area”, which was supported by the OSCE Scholarship for Peace and Security. Such activities advance the implementation of UNSCR 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security and UN Sustainable Development Goal 5 on gender equality and SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions.

Moreover, the IGoF discussed ways of promoting the online reporting tool among the participating States. The reporting tool was launched in May 2017 jointly by the OSCE and UNODA for the submission of SALW-related information to both organizations, in order to decrease the reporting burden on participating States and to encourage a co-ordinated approach to the reporting. At the IGoF meetings there were also discussions concerning the possibility of expanding the reporting tool to cover all SALW reporting commitments and on how to increase the added value of the SALW reports.

## **6. Implementation of existing commitments**

### ***6.1 Information exchanges on SALW***

The OSCE Document on SALW commits the participating States to a number of standards which, if fully implemented, assist States in their efforts to abide by many of the paragraphs on national implementation in the United Nations Programme of Action on SALW. Among other things, the OSCE Document established a mechanism consisting of transparency measures aimed at raising confidence and security and at further promoting trust among OSCE participating States.

The OSCE participating States regularly exchange information on an annual as well as on a one-off basis on various matters related to SALW: imports/exports, destruction, points of contact, manufacture, marking, national legislation and current practice in small arms export policy, procedures, documentation, and brokering controls. These information exchanges were all considered confidential until the FSC adopted a decision in 2016 (FSC.DEC/4/16/Corr.1) stipulating the publication of most of the SALW-related information on the OSCE's public website either immediately

following its exchange or upon request of the respective participating State. The OSCE Secretariat was tasked with ensuring the timely publication of these reports. Despite the fact that general levels of implementation started to show slight improvement in 2015 in comparison with previous years, the trend in exchanging SALW-related information turned negative in the years 2016–2018, despite extensive use of the Revised Announcing and Reminding Mechanism (FSC.DEC/10/02).

OSCE annual information exchanges relevant to SALW include:

- Information exchange on small arms exports to, and imports from, other participating States during the previous calendar year (FSC.DOC/01/00, III (F)1);
- Information exchange on the category, sub-category and quantity of small arms that have been identified as surplus and/or seized and destroyed on their territory during the previous calendar year (FSC.DOC/1/00/Rev.1, IV(E)1);
- Information exchange on the Points of Contact on Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (FSC.DEC/4/08).

In addition, the participating States have agreed to provide each other with updates as follows, when necessary:

- Information exchange on national stockpile necessary management and security procedures (FSC.DOC/1/00/Rev.1, IV (E)2);
- Information exchange on national marking systems used in the manufacture and/or import of small arms and light weapons (FSC.DOC/01/00, II, (D)1);
- Information exchange on national procedures for the control of manufacture of small arms and light weapons (FSC.DOC/01/00, II, (D)1);
- Information exchange on national legislation and current practice in small arms export policy, procedures, documentation, and brokering controls (FSC.DOC/01/00, III, (F)2);
- Information exchange on techniques and procedures necessary for the destruction of SALW (FSC.DOC/1/00/Rev.1, IV (E)3).

### **6.1.1 One-off information exchanges**

Under the OSCE Document on SALW, the participating States agreed to share and submit updated information, when necessary, on the following matters: national marking systems; national procedures for the control of manufacturing; national legislation and current practice in export policy, procedures and documentation, also in control over brokering; small arms destruction techniques; and small arms stockpile security and management programmes.

FSC Decision No. 11/08 tasked the participating States with exchanging information on national practices related to preventing the spread of SALW through illicit air transport.

FSC Decision No. 12/08 requested the participating States to provide a sample format of their national end-user certificate and/or other pertinent documents.

FSC Decision No. 17/10 requested the participating States to exchange information on their present regulations concerning brokering activities with regard to SALW.

FSC Decision No. 4/16 enabled the publication of one-off SALW information exchange reports which can be found on the OSCE's public website.

Detailed information about the number of participating States that exchanged one-off information in 2018 can be found in Annex A to this report.

In March 2011, the Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) issued a revised template for reporting one-off information on SALW (FSC.GAL/38/11), with the suggested start date for reporting being 30 June 2011, in accordance with the deadline for reporting updated in the OSCE Document on SALW.

In July 2015, the CPC sent individual letters to the participating States requesting feedback in order to improve the implementation rate and quality of reports on SALW-related issues. The OSCE and UNODA then studied possibilities for further reducing the SALW reporting burden by making the submission of the OSCE reports possible online. Following the example set by UNODA for national reports on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on SALW, the submission of one-off information on SALW was made possible online by means of the SALW Online Reporting Tool developed through a joint OSCE-UNODA project in 2016. The reporting tool provides for synergy with other international instruments, allowing participating States to simultaneously submit national SALW reports to both the OSCE and the UN.

In 2017, Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/17 on SALW and SCA invited the participating States to make use of the voluntary online tool for the submission of OSCE SALW-related information exchanges and provide extrabudgetary contributions for its further development. The OSCE Secretariat is actively promoting the tool by, *inter alia*, organizing training workshops for the participating States and exploring possibilities for its expansion.

### **6.1.2 Annual information exchanges**

In addition to exchanging information about existing norms and regulations, the OSCE Document on SALW requires the participating States to exchange data annually on exports to and imports from other OSCE participating States, as well as on small arms identified as surplus and/or seized and destroyed on their territories in the previous calendar year. Total numbers of destroyed SALW are in decline, but so is the implementation of the SALW reporting obligations, and the two are directly related. An overview of this information exchanged in 2018 is displayed in Annex B.

According to the available data that was exchanged during the period from 2001 to 2018, the OSCE participating States have destroyed 16,965,743 items of SALW. Details are set out in Annex C.

## **7. Practical assistance on SALW**

Implementation of the elements in the OSCE Document on SALW concerning requests from participating States for assistance in the destruction or management and

security of stockpiles of SALW remains an essential part of the work of the Forum for Security Co-operation in this field.

Assistance for project activities on SALW and SCA continued in 2018.

The assistance ranges from control of cross-border trafficking to the destruction of surplus SALW and SCA, physical security and stockpile management, and SALW collection programmes.

In 2018, together with OSCE field operations, the CPC supported participating States in the development and/or implementation of 22 SALW and SCA projects amounting to approximately 25 million EUR, specifically in Armenia, Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Montenegro, Serbia, Tajikistan, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkmenistan and Ukraine.

In Belarus, some 690 tonnes of rocket fuel components, also known as *mélange*, were safely removed from the country and sent for environmentally sound disposal; in addition, the technical preparations for the removal of rocket fuel components in Armenia and in Kyrgyzstan were carried out. In Serbia, the physical security and safety of conventional ammunition stockpiles were improved through upgrading of the fire-fighting system. In Georgia, a total of 461 tonnes of cluster and aviation bombs and artillery shells were destroyed. In Ukraine, following the production of the “Needs assessment for combating illicit trafficking of weapons, ammunition and explosives in and across Ukraine’s borders”, the initial project aimed at enhancing border security and management capacities in this field was initiated in co-operation with the OSCE Transnational Threats (TNT) Department; furthermore, support was given to improving emergency response capacities in ERW clearance. In the OSCE area as a whole, support was given to efforts to establish a baseline for providing technical advice and institutional support to the OSCE participating States on the SALW and SCA normative base and practical assistance projects; furthermore, expert assessment visits under the OSCE Documents on SALW / SCA were carried out.

The CPC also provided project supervision and/or advisory support, including resource mobilization, to the SALW/SCA projects directly implemented by the field operations in Bosnia and Herzegovina, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Tajikistan and Ukraine.

## **8. Outreach and co-operation**

### **8.1 Partnership and co-operation agreements with other international organizations**

#### **8.1.1 Memorandum of understanding with the UNDP**

The OSCE continued co-operation with the UNDP in accordance with a new expanded Memorandum of Understanding between the OSCE Secretariat and the UNDP signed in 2013. The Memorandum foresees closer co-ordination and co-operation in the following areas:

- i) Early warning, conflict prevention and reconciliation;

- ii) Demilitarization and arms control;
- iii) Confidence-building and community security;
- iv) Good governance, anti-corruption work, rule of law, and judicial and legal reform;
- v) Disaster risk reduction;
- vi) Displacement;
- vii) Activities in support of UNSCR 1325 (2000) on women and peace and security;
- viii) Minorities;
- ix) Environment, management of natural resources, and sustainable energy;
- x) Border management.

In the framework of the Memorandum of Understanding between the OSCE and the UNDP, five large-scale projects have been jointly implemented, in Belarus, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Georgia, Montenegro and Serbia.

### **8.1.2 Joint Action Plan with the UNODC**

In January 2018, the OSCE and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) extended the Joint Action Plan in order to improve synergies between the activities of the two organizations. The Plan specifically foresees joint development of policy and programmes.

The OSCE-UNODC Joint Action Plan 2018-2019 reflects the two organizations' contributions to the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and allows for more streamlined technical collaboration in twelve subject areas.

Official collaboration between the OSCE and the UNODC on the basis of joint action plans was first established in 2011, and the current plan for 2018–2019 is the fourth of its kind. Subject to the availability of funding and within the framework of each organization's mandate, the plans allow for greater co-ordination and the implementation of joint programmes and activities. This includes co-ordination and co-operation through the exchange of best practices, the organization of joint workshops, joint technical assistance and sharing resources.

The Parties will consider co-operating on awareness-raising on and the promotion and implementation of:

- The UN Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, and the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons;
- The mandates, decisions, taskings and recommendations emanating from their respective governing bodies;
- Existing and upcoming reporting mechanisms established in the framework of the respective governing bodies;
- Specific regional initiatives, including those in the Southern Caucasus, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and South-Eastern Europe;

- Initiatives to improve the national capacities of OSCE participating States to effectively tackle the illicit trafficking of firearms/SALW and related serious crimes through, *inter alia*, joint conferences and workshops, capacity-building training, country visits and technical assistance projects.

Furthermore, in view of, and as part of, the above, the Parties will consider developing partnerships in:

- Raising awareness for the ratification/accession of the Firearms Protocol by OSCE participating States and on the complementary nature and possible synergies between the Protocol and other international and regional instruments and documents;
- Supporting specific initiatives aimed at the implementation of the Firearms Protocol and the relevant OSCE Documents, in the areas of preventing and combating illicit trafficking in SALW and ammunition, including its transposition into national SALW legislation and regulations, and implementation of measures such as record-keeping, (import) marking, standards for deactivation of firearms, establishing and maintaining effective systems of transfer control for SALW, as well as detection, investigation and prosecution of related criminal offences in the OSCE area in the context of existing initiatives, projects and other activities;
- Enhancing co-operation among representatives of law enforcement, judiciary and prosecution bodies for the purpose of countering illicit trafficking in SALW, including the tracing of illicit SALW.

Regular OSCE–UNODC staff talks were held in 2017 and 2018 to discuss the extension and implementation of the Joint Action Plan. Moreover, UNODC representatives were invited to contribute to the Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA, held on 2 and 3 October 2018.

### **8.1.3 Memorandum of Understanding with UNODA**

In October 2012, the OSCE Secretariat and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) signed a Memorandum of Understanding as part of their common efforts to further improve their mutual synergies.

In the Memorandum, it was agreed that co-operation should be strengthened in the fields of disarmament, arms control and conventional arms regulation, and in confidence-building and related issues, through:

- a. Exchange of information and co-ordination of policies and activities;
- b. Organization of joint activities;
- c. Resource mobilization for joint activities;
- d. Exchange programmes;
- e. Common visibility strategy to support and promote joint activities; and
- f. Synergies in the planning of meetings.

The UNODA and the OSCE have launched practical joint initiatives in the following areas:

- The online reporting tool on SALW, reducing the SALW reporting burden by allowing participating States to simultaneously submit national SALW reports to both the OSCE and the UN;
- The training programme for young professionals, in particular women, on “Conflict Prevention and Resolution through Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-proliferation”, supported by the OSCE Scholarship for Peace and Security. In 2018, the programme enabled 71 participants to increase their awareness and understanding of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation issues, in particular SALW and SCA, with a specific focus on the OSCE and the relevant instruments.

Also, the programme provided young professionals, in particular women, with opportunities for networking and contributed to creating equal opportunities for women’s participation in policy-making, planning and implementation processes in the area of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

## ***8.2 Operational support and information exchange***

The OSCE Secretariat holds regular staff talks with the United Nations to share information about the latest developments and new initiatives, both on the setting of norms and standards and on practical assistance in connection with SALW.

### **8.2.1 Co-operation and information exchange with other international organizations**

Since 2010, the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) has held regular consultations with the UN Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA), which involves over 20 relevant UN agencies and programmes that deal with SALW issues, including UNODA, the UNODC, the UNDP and the UN Institute for Disarmament Research. In 2018, regular exchanges with CASA continued to result in exchange of information about ongoing and planned initiatives, co-ordination of actions, and the exploration of synergies.

The OSCE Secretariat has initiated closer co-operation with the European Union with regard to funding for OSCE SALW activities.

The OSCE also engages in regular co-ordination and information exchange with the Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Controls for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies (WA). In 2017 and in 2018, Ambassador Phillip Griffiths, Head of Secretariat at the WA, gave a briefing to the FSC on “Export Controls and Deactivation of SALW”, and the CPC Director Ambassador Marcel Peško took part in the annual outreach briefing organized by the WA.

Furthermore, the OSCE Secretariat conducts biannual staff talks with NATO, at which issues related to the implementation of projects on SALW and conventional ammunition are discussed in detail. Such talks serve to promote the sharing of

information and lessons learned, to avoid duplication of effort, to establish possible synergies, and to increase the effectiveness of projects.

Finally, the OSCE Secretariat holds bi-annual staff talks with the EU to exchange information and discuss a wide range of issues.

The CPC exchanges information with other international organizations on OSCE project activities and on normative achievements in the area of SCA. Since 2008, informal meetings have been organized with other international organizations to enhance co-ordination of efforts with regard to projects on SALW and SCA. The purpose of the meetings is to take stock of the projects relating to SALW and SCA being implemented by international organizations, to exchange lessons learned and best practices, and to co-ordinate ongoing and future activities.

## **9. Conclusions**

### ***9.1 Normative work on SALW***

The OSCE Document on SALW and the associated OSCE best practice guides continue to play an important norm-setting role in the OSCE area, which in its turn contributes to confidence and stability.

In line with MC Decision No. 10/17, work continued both on fostering the implementation of existing commitments and also on looking into means of making the measures more effective and efficient, and seeking the best responses to prevent the diversion of weapons in all stages of their life-cycle, taking into consideration latest technological developments and good practices that have recently emerged. In this regard, co-operation and co-ordination with other international organizations, particularly the United Nations, play a crucial role in terms both of recognizing the leading role of the UN in managing the SALW control process and of ensuring the most efficient and effective use of resources.

In addition, dialogue on SALW with interested participating States has continued and new requests for assistance on SALW and conventional ammunition have been considered.

Although, through the FSC and the Informal Group of Friends on SALW, participating States have taken an active approach to further implementing the OSCE *acquis* on SALW issues, much remains to be done. At the Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA, it was concluded that the OSCE needs to enhance its SALW- and SCA-related norms, best practices and mechanisms to be fit to address challenges and prevent, combat and eradicate the diversion of SALW transfers and conventional ammunition for the purposes of terrorism and transnational organized crime. The first step has been taken towards the streamlining of SALW information exchanges and their synchronization with those at the UN, a process which will be continued in the coming years.



## ***9.2 Practical assistance on SALW***

Measures undertaken in response to requests for assistance from an increasing number of participating States remain a key OSCE field of activity in the context of the practical implementation of the Documents on SALW and SCA. Steps continue to be taken to enhance the effectiveness of SALW activity through regular regional co-operation and informal co-ordination with other international organizations.

Further periodic information-sharing or briefings on projects, both by the respective co-ordinator and actors involved, are intended to raise awareness and help mobilize resources from the participating States.

## ***9.3 The future SALW work of the FSC***

Activities undertaken in 2018 within the FSC and in other forums such as the United Nations provide a platform on which to strengthen efforts to combat the security challenges resulting from the illicit spread and destabilizing accumulations of SALW. In the OSCE area, SALW continues to pose a threat that could be minimized through streamlined and improved normative controls and project-based activities, in combination with associated co-operative and capacity-building activities. At the Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA, held in October 2018, the FSC, following up on suggestions made in the outcome document of the Third UN Review Conference on the Programme of Action on SALW, took stock of the implementation of its norms, principles, measures, best practices and mechanisms and sought further ways to enhance them in the SALW- and SCA- related work of the OSCE.

## **10. Annexes**

Annex A: Overview of the one-off information exchange on marking, export controls, stockpile management and destruction procedures in respect of SALW, as well as on brokering, samples of end-user certificates and illicit air transport

Annex B: Overview of the annual information exchange on: export/import of SALW, surplus SALW and/or SALW seized and destroyed

Annex C: Destruction of SALW in the OSCE area

Annex D: Meetings, seminars and conferences on SALW organized by the OSCE from November 2017 to November 2018

Annex E: Participation in events organized by other international organizations and in jointly organized events

**Annex A: Overview of the one-off information exchange on marking, export controls, stockpile management and destruction procedures in respect of SALW, as well as on brokering, samples of end-user certificates and illicit air transport**

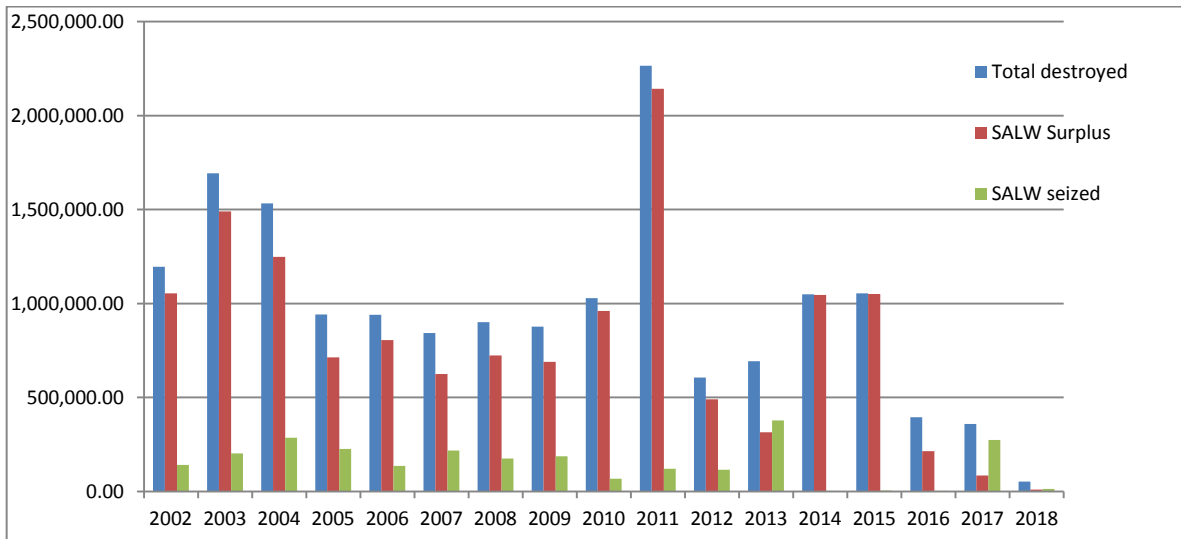
<b>Reference (paragraph)</b>	<b>Citation regarding implementation measures</b>	<b>Exchanged to date</b>	<b>Updates in 2018</b>
Section II, (D)1 (starting from 30 June 2001)	The participating States agree to conduct an information exchange on their national marking systems used in the manufacture and/or import of small arms.	56 participating States	18 participating States
Section II, (D)1 (starting from 30 June 2001)	The participating States agree to exchange with each other available information on national procedures for the control of the manufacture of small arms.	56 participating States	18 participating States
Section III, (F)2 (starting from 30 June 2001)	The participating States will exchange with each other available information on relevant national legislation and current practice on export policy, procedures, documentation and on control over international brokering in small arms in order to spread awareness of “best practice” in these areas.	56 participating States	18 participating States
Section IV, (E)2 (starting from 30 June 2002)	The participating States will exchange information of a general nature about their national stockpile management and security procedures. The FSC will consider developing a “best practice” guide, designed to promote effective stockpile management and security.	54 participating States	15 participating States
Section IV, (E)3 (starting from 30 June 2001)	The participating States agree to exchange information on their techniques and procedures for the destruction of small arms. The FSC will consider developing a “best practice” guide of techniques and procedures for the destruction of small arms.	55 participating States	18 participating States
FSC Decision No. 11/07 (by 25 January 2008)	The FSC requests participating States to exchange information on their present regulations concerning brokering activities with regard to small arms and light weapons.	48 participating States	0 participating States
FSC Decision No. 11/08 (by 30 June 2009)	The FSC decides that the participating States shall provide, as an update to the one-off information exchange established by Section III, part F, paragraph 2, of the OSCE Document on SALW,	47 participating States	0 participating States

	additional information on national practices related to preventing the spread of SALW through illicit air transport.		
FSC Decision No. 12/08 (by 27 March 2009)	The FSC requests participating States to provide a sample format of their national end-user certificate and/or other pertinent documents.	53 participating States	1 participating State
FSC Decision No. 17/10 (by 30 June 2011)	The FSC requests participating States to exchange information on their present regulations concerning brokering activities with regard to SALW.	50 participating States	17 participating States

***Annex B: Overview of the annual information exchange on: export-import of SALW, surplus SALW and/or SALW seized and destroyed***

<b>Reference (paragraph)</b>	<b>Citation regarding implementation measures</b>	<b>2018</b>
Section III, (F)1	The participating States agree to conduct an information exchange among themselves about their small arms exports to, and imports from, other participating States during the previous calendar year. They also agree to study ways to further improve the information exchange on transfers of small arms.	35 participating States
Section IV, (C)1  Section IV, (E)1	The participating States agree that the preferred method for the disposal of small arms is destruction. The participating States agree to share available information on the category, subcategory and quantity of small arms that have been identified as surplus and/or seized and destroyed on their territory during the previous calendar year.	26 participating States (excluding nil reports)

**Annex C: Destruction of SALW in the OSCE area\***



\* It should be noted that in cases where a participating State has not differentiated between surplus and seized weapons, the statistics are reflected as surplus.

<b>Total destroyed:</b>	52,499
Total surplus destroyed:	10,482
Total seized, confiscated and destroyed:	13,674

***Annex D: Meetings, seminars and conferences on SALW organized by the OSCE from November 2017 to November 2018***

**FSC meetings:** Presentations related to SALW given in the context of the Security Dialogue of the FSC

FSC Chairpersons regularly invite guest speakers to address the Forum, also on issues related to SALW. In 2018, the presentations on topics related to SALW included the following:

- Presentation by Mr. Tom Van Beneden, Project Officer (PfP), NATO Support and Procurement Agency, on: “International projects in the field of SALW and SCA complementing OSCE efforts”;
- Presentation by Ms. Shelley Inglis, Governance and Peacebuilding, UNDP Regional Hub Istanbul, on: “International projects in the field of SALW and SCA complementing OSCE efforts”;
- Presentation by Mr. Yann Hwang, Head of Department for Arms Control, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, France, on: “Preparation for the Third Review Conference on the UN Programme of Action”;
- Presentation by Mr. Glenn McDonald, Senior Researcher and Managing Editor, Small Arms Survey, on: “Preparation for the Third Review Conference on the UN Program of Action”;
- Presentation by Ambassador Philip Griffiths, Head of the Secretariat, Wassenaar Arrangement, on: “Export Controls and Deactivation of SALW”;
- Presentation by Ms. Judit Körömi, Chair of the Council Working Party on Non-Proliferation (CONOP), European External Action Service, on: “Export Controls and Deactivation of SALW”;
- Presentation by Mr. John Reyels, Deputy Head of Division, Conventional Arms Control and CSBM, Federal Foreign Service, Germany, on: “Export Controls and Deactivation of SALW”;
- Presentation by Ms. Petra Stenkula, Police Commissioner and Chief of the Criminal Investigation Department for Police Region South, Swedish Police Authority, on: “Countering Illicit Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons”
- Presentation by Mr. Oscar Lindvall, Customs Prosecutor and Head of Department of Customs Prosecutors, southern Region, Swedish Customs, on: “Countering Illicit Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons”

**Meetings, conferences, workshops and events in 2018** (in chronological order):

- Online training modules and presentations on SALW non-proliferation and SCA at the joint OSCE-UNODA training programme, in particular for women, on

“Conflict Prevention and Resolution through Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-proliferation in the OSCE Area”, taking place from 29 January to 16 April 2018, including the in-person course in Vienna from 12 to 16 February;

- Participation in the Second High-level National SALW and SCA Conference organized by the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Moldova, 15 February 2018, Chisinau, Moldova;
- Participation in the Roundtable and pre-feasibility visit to Montenegro organized by the Ministry of Defence of the Montenegro on potential ExB SALW/SCA projects, within the framework of project 1101757 “Support to Expert Assessment Visits under the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA”, Podgorica, Montenegro, 9–11 April 2018;
- Organization of the “Workshop on Reporting on SALW and the OSCE Online Reporting Tool to revisit the current SALW reporting obligations, enhance capacity of the participating States to effectively utilize and examine further development of the SALW Online Reporting Tool as well as to discuss and identify synergies in the OSCE reporting with other SALW international instruments”, 29 May 2018, Vienna, Austria;
- Participation in the West-Balkan Coordination Group meeting to discuss national priorities and activities in accordance with the Roadmap to counter illicit weapons, ammunition and explosives, organized by France and Germany, 5 June 2018, Sarajevo, Bosnia-Herzegovina;
- Organization of the Co-ordination Meeting on the Implementation of Projects on SALW and SCA within the framework of project 1101994, Strengthening OSCE Action against the Illicit Proliferation of Small Arms & Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA), 5 and 6 July 2018, Vienna, Austria;
- Participation at the “Meeting on SALW/SCA projects for the West Balkan area with UNDP/SEESAC”, 13 September 2018, Belgrade, Serbia;
- Organization of the “Workshop on Reporting on SALW and the OSCE Online Reporting Tool to revisit the current SALW reporting obligations, enhance capacity of the participating States to effectively utilize and examine further development of the SALW Online Reporting Tool as well as to discuss and identify synergies in the OSCE reporting with other SALW international instruments”, 1 October 2018, Vienna, Austria;
- Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA, Vienna, 2 and 3 October 2018;
- Meeting in Pristina with local authorities on the Franco-German Initiative to Counter Illicit SALW Trafficking in West-Balkans, 16 October 2018, Pristina, Kosovo\*;

- Holding of co-ordination meetings with border guards, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Ministry of Interior of Poland, within framework of the ExB project 1101903 “Needs Assessment for Combating Illicit Trafficking of WAE in and across Ukraine”, 17 and 18 October 2018, Warsaw, Poland;
- Meeting in Skopje with local authorities on the Franco-German Initiative to Counter Illicit SALW Trafficking in West-Balkans, 18 October 2018, Skopje, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia;
- Organization of the workshop “Combating Transnational Illicit Trafficking in Weapons, Ammunition and Explosives” within the framework of ExB project 1101903 “Needs Assessment for Combating Illicit Trafficking of WAE in and across Ukraine”, 23–25 October 2018, Lviv, Ukraine;
- Organization of the OSCE Regional Workshop on the OSCE Best Practice Guide on SALW Deactivation, 29 and 30 October, Podgorica, Montenegro, within the framework of Franco-German initiative to promote adoption of the “Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2024”.

*\*All references to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, in this text should be understood in full compliance with the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1244.*



***Annex E: Participation in events organized by other international organizations and in jointly organized events***

The OSCE continued its active external co-ordination and co-operation with other regional and international organizations and civil society, also participating in events organized by other actors.

In 2018, representatives of the CPC continued to promote the OSCE's outreach activities by participating in events organized by other international and regional organizations. The conferences and meetings at which presentations were given are listed below.

<b>OSCE/FSC participation in SALW-related events organized by other international and regional organizations in 2018</b>		
<b>Date</b>	<b>Title</b>	<b>Place</b>
23 and 24 November 2017	Expert Symposium on synergies between the Programme of Action, the Arms Trade Treaty, and other relevant instruments, including the UN Firearms Protocol and UN counter-terrorism mechanisms, organized in preparation for the third Review Conference on the Programme of Action (PoA) on SALW. The CPC gave a presentation on the OSCE perspective on military information exchange, reporting, co-operation and co-ordination, giving an overview on information being exchanged in the OSCE, OSCE best practice guides and provisions, as well as practical ways of minimizing the reporting burden.	Geneva
19–23 March 2018	Preparatory Committee of the third UN Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the PoA on SALW, where OSCE efforts were promoted through organization of side event on deactivation of SALW, and active involvement in the thematic discussions and other side events.	New York
18–29 June 2018	Third UN Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects (and its International Tracing Instrument), RevCon3, where the OSCE delivered a statement on its efforts in implementing the Programme of Action.	New York