



Permanent Mission of Ukraine
to the International
Organizations in Vienna

**STATEMENT BY THE DELEGATION OF UKRAINE
AT THE 1000th FSC PLENARY MEETING
(9 February 2022)**

Agenda item 1, Security Dialogue: SALW and SCA: OSCE commitments and lessons learned

Mr Chairperson,

Ukraine has aligned with the EU statement. Let me also make some remarks in my national capacity.

We thank the FSC Chairpersonship of Azerbaijan for organising today's Security Dialogue on OSCE commitments in the area of small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition. We also thank today's keynote speakers for their thought-provoking presentations and valuable contribution to our discussion.

It is quite symbolic that the Security Dialogue of this Jubilee meeting of the Forum for Security Co-Operation is dedicated to this issue. Despite a strong legal framework in the field of SALW and SCA, issues of illegal trade and trafficking of small arms and light weapons remain among the greatest challenges to the OSCE region.

The OSCE remains the largest regional security organisation that provides the participating States with a platform to address current security challenges and threats, in particular related to the illegal trade, illicit trafficking and excessive accumulation of SALW and SCA. The strong need to improve current security situation requires us to reinforce our cooperation in this area.

We regret that last year our Forum did not reach a consensus on the Ministerial Council Decision on Normative Aspects of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition. At the same time, we are glad that the respective Joint Statement was delivered in Stockholm on behalf of 50 participating States, whom Ukraine was honoured to join. We remain devoted to all principles and commitments outlined in the Joint Statement.

We believe that the work on further improvement of our common arms control toolbox should be continued within the framework of the Forum. Ukraine is committed to cooperating closely with participating States in developing effective measures aimed at terminating and eradicating the illegal proliferation of SALW.

When addressing the serious threat that illicit trafficking in and destabilizing accumulation of SALW and SCA pose to the regional security, peace and stability, we cannot but mention the continued armed aggression against Ukraine. The existing system of conventional arms control was seriously damaged by the presence of the Russian regular military forces armed with modern types of conventional armaments in the temporarily occupied territories of Ukraine.

Unfortunately, my country continues to suffer from the large scale illicit trafficking of SALW and conventional ammunition from the Russian Federation to the occupied territories of Ukraine in total violation of all relevant existing international instruments. Moreover, such actions further testify to the disrespect by the Russian Federation of nationally and internationally established export control and licensing procedures. The ongoing Russian aggression against Ukraine has turned occupied Autonomous Republic of Crimea, the city of Sevastopol as well as parts of Donetsk and Luhansk regions into the so-called “grey zone” invisible for international arms control regimes and verification inspections.

We have informed the participating States on multiple occasions on the illegal transfers of weapons and ammunition from the Russian Federation to the temporarily occupied territories in Donetsk and Luhansk regions, and Crimea. These arms are being employed to commit acts of aggression, including shelling civilian infrastructure facilities and residential areas. We deem it extremely cynical that the Russian Federation hides its illegal transfers of weapons behind the so-called “humanitarian aid“. Since August 2014, when the very first so-called “humanitarian convoy” entered Ukrainian territory, the Russian Federation has already sent 105 convoys without either Ukraine’s consent or proper customs inspection.

Such actions contradict the letter and the spirit of the OSCE norms and principles, in particular in the field of SALW and SCA. They undermine all efforts aimed at peaceful resolution of the conflict as well as continue to jeopardize regional security.

Mr Chairperson,

In pursuance of our commitment to combat the threat of illicit spread and misuse of small arms and light weapons, Ukraine ensures that the production, possession and destruction of SALW are licensed and supervised in line with all international standards and regulations. Particular importance is attached to effective export control procedures that are consistent with international requirements in this regard. Ukraine strictly adheres to all norms and principle of international law and other commitments in this sphere, in particular to the decisions taken by the UN Security Council, OSCE and the international export control regime Wassenaar Arrangement.

Being the largest security organisation in the region, we all should reinforce our joint efforts aimed at addressing risks and challenges related to SALW and SCA. Broad and continuous application of our political-military instruments dealing with arms control and disarmament is of particular importance. It is crucial to ensure implementation of all OSCE documents in the field of SALW and SCA.

In this regard, we welcome the efforts aimed at updating best practice guides in order to enhance the implementation of our commitments in this field, considering new challenges and technological advance.

I thank you, Mr Chairperson.