



# Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe

## 2024 Report on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and its International Tracing Instrument

The report covers the period 2022–2023

### I. Organization and focal point

#### 1. Organization name

Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

##### a. Address

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Conflict Prevention Centre  
OSCE Secretariat  
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##### b. Email address

For official correspondence: [fsc.support@osce.org](mailto:fsc.support@osce.org)

##### c. Home page (relevant website)

[www.osce.org/](http://www.osce.org/)  
[www.osce.org/arms-control](http://www.osce.org/arms-control)  
[Portfolio of OSCE Practical Assistance Projects on SALW / SCA | OSCE](#)

#### 2. SALW focal point

##### a. Name

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### **3. Applicable (sub)region(s)**

North America, Europe and Central Asia

### **4. Member States in the (sub)region(s)**

The OSCE comprises 57 participating States ([www.osce.org/participating-states](http://www.osce.org/participating-states)); it also has five Asian and six Mediterranean Partners for Co-operation ([www.osce.org/partners-for-cooperation](http://www.osce.org/partners-for-cooperation)).

### **5. General mandate/purpose of the organization**

The OSCE pursues a comprehensive approach to security encompassing politico-military, economic and environmental, and human aspects. Accordingly, the OSCE addresses a wide range of security-related topics, including arms control, confidence- and security-building measures (CSBMs), human rights, national minorities, democratization, policing strategies, counter-terrorism, and economic and environmental activities. All 57 participating States enjoy equal status, and decisions are taken by consensus on a politically, though not legally, binding basis.

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) ([www.osce.org/forum-for-security-cooperation](http://www.osce.org/forum-for-security-cooperation)) is an OSCE decision-making body that includes representatives of all the OSCE participating States and meets weekly.

The FSC is mandated to deal with a broad spectrum of politico-military issues, ranging from traditional security between and within States to transnational threats such as trafficking in small arms and light weapons (SALW). The Forum's main tasks include regular consultations and intensive co-operation on military security matters; negotiations on CSBMs; reduction of conflict-related risks; and the implementation of agreed measures, including the exchange of military information. See: [www.osce.org/forum-for-security-cooperation/factsheet](http://www.osce.org/forum-for-security-cooperation/factsheet).

Issues related to SALW and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA) have been on the Forum's agenda since 1999. The FSC develops norms and provides practical assistance to tackle the illicit proliferation of SALW. The OSCE Secretariat (specifically the FSC Support Unit within the Conflict Prevention Centre) assists participating States in fulfilling their relevant commitments. Upon request, the OSCE provides assistance with the collection and destruction of SALW, helps to improve national legislation for the effective control of SALW, supports participating States in enhancing SCA management, and facilitates the exchange of information between the participating States on SALW-related issues, among others. See: [www.osce.org/resources/factsheets/salw](http://www.osce.org/resources/factsheets/salw).

The fight against illicit trafficking in small arms and conventional ammunition is an integral part of the OSCE's wider efforts to address the conflict cycle, including in the fields of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post conflict rehabilitation. International cooperation and the availability of practical assistance are important catalysts for preventing and combatting diversion and the illicit transfer of SALW. Sharing good practices and lessons learned also contribute to effective national controls of SALW, including stockpile management.

## II. Regional instruments

### 6. Regional instrument(s) relevant for the implementation of the Programme of Action (if applicable)

#### a. Title of instrument(s)

OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (2000; reissued in 2012)

[www.osce.org/fsc/20783](http://www.osce.org/fsc/20783)

#### b. Scope, objectives and main provisions of the instrument(s)

The Document has been politically agreed by all 57 OSCE participating States. It provides a comprehensive set of norms, measures and principles to control each stage of the SALW life cycle (manufacture, marking, record-keeping, transfer and stockpiling), together with a set of measures for use in post-conflict situations. The Document also commits participating States to the exchange of information on these topics.

Upon request by participating States and following the OSCE SALW/SCA assistance mechanism, the OSCE designs and implements projects providing practical assistance with the destruction of SALW and SCA and with stockpile management.

In the course of the Document's implementation, the participating States have developed a number of Best Practice Guides (BPGs) on SALW, which encourage higher common standards of practice on small arms controls and on preventing the diversion of such weapons into illegal markets. The BPGs on SALW cover the following topics:

1. National controls over the manufacture of SALW;
2. Marking, record-keeping and traceability of SALW;
3. National procedures for stockpile management and security;
4. National Procedures for management, security and destruction of MANPADS;
5. National control of brokering activities;
6. Export control of SALW;
7. Definition and indicators of a surplus of SALW;
8. National procedures for the destruction of SALW;
9. SALW in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes;
10. Minimum standards for national procedures for the deactivation of SALW;
11. Preventing destabilizing transfers of SALW through air transport;
12. Compiling national reports on SALW exports from / imports to other participating States.

The BPGs are applied both by participating States and by the OSCE field operations. The BPGs support the OSCE SALW/SCA assistance to the participating States.

#### c. Mandated function of your organization under regional instrument(s)

The Document underlies the OSCE's broad response to:

- trafficking in SALW;
- excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW;
- illegal transfers of SALW.

Through the Document, the OSCE supports the safe and secure storage of SALW and conventional ammunition, thereby helping to prevent their diversion to illicit markets. As such, the Document serves to promote confidence, security and transparency.

**d. Requirement for national reports under regional instrument(s)**

The participating States report on SALW-related issues through annual information exchanges and providing updates on: points of contact for SALW and SCA; imports/exports; seized/identified as surplus and destroyed SALW; the manufacture of SALW; international transfers; brokering; stockpile management; marking; record-keeping; tracing; co-operation and assistance; gender considerations; SALW deactivation; and preventing the spread of SALW through illicit air transport.

These information exchanges support the review of progress in the implementation of the OSCE framework documents on SALW. Moreover, they make it possible to identify the assistance required by participating States. Annex A provides a detailed overview of the participating States' reporting obligations related to implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UN PoA on SALW).

The OSCE uses the Announcing and Reminding Mechanism to announce the information exchanges, while the FSC Chairpersonship reminds States of the need to fulfil their reporting commitments.

The OSCE collects, archives and summarizes (in monthly, quarterly and annual reports) the data submitted by the participating States in order to facilitate their national analysis of these data. The OSCE Secretariat does not itself perform any analysis of the data.

Since 2017, the OSCE uses a harmonized template with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) for the submission of SALW-related information available on the SALW Online Reporting Tool to enable participating States to submit their national reports online and simultaneously to both the OSCE and UNODA.

**e. National focal points for your organization under regional instrument(s)**

The OSCE participating States exchange information annually on their points of contact on SALW and SCA as an additional mechanism for mutual co-operation and co-ordination on assistance projects. The Conflict Prevention Centre collects this information on behalf of the participating States and provides them with an overview. The information is made available to the public, if so requested by a participating State at the time of submission.

**f. Regional action plan under regional instrument(s)**

The OSCE Plan of Action on SALW was adopted in 2010 to improve the implementation of participating States' commitments.

See: [www.osce.org/fsc/68450?download=true](http://www.osce.org/fsc/68450?download=true).

### III. United Nations Programme of Action

#### 7. Mandates and roles relevant for the implementation of the Programme of Action

The OSCE continues to play a dynamic role in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects. By seeking synergies with relevant international processes, particularly at the regional level, the OSCE actively contributes to the implementation of the UN PoA on SALW and aims to reduce illicit arms flows in line with target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Politico-military security, conflict prevention and resolution, the countering of terrorism and crime, and the promotion of human rights and sustainable socio-economic development all lie within the Organization's responsibilities. As such, they form the basis of many of its activities related to early warning, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation in the OSCE area.

A list of OSCE Ministerial Council decisions and other documents laying down mandates that are relevant to implementation of the UN PoA on SALW may be found in Annex B.

In its activities, the OSCE aims to complement action taken at the global level. The OSCE Document on SALW (2000) and the OSCE Document on SCA (2003) together constitute a significant contribution to implementation of the UN PoA on SALW.

In 2018, the OSCE began organizing biennial meetings – aligned with the UN schedule of meetings for 2018–2024 under its PoA on SALW – to consider the normative aspects of SALW- and SCA-related issues and the implementation of assistance projects in that field. The meetings fostered the OSCE's efforts towards more targeted approaches and becoming an integral part of the global processes. Moreover, the OSCE meetings helped to facilitate implementation of the UN Programme of Action at the regional level and ensure synergies between action taken at all levels, but also enabled the frequent review of complementary regional efforts to strengthen the safety and security of ammunition stockpiles.

Due to the unprecedented security situation in the OSCE area, the holding of biennial meeting in 2022 did not reach consensus and the comprehensive review and update of the OSCE Best Practice Guides (BPGs) on SALW and conventional ammunition was halted. Hence, during the reporting period only one OSCE BPG was reviewed, updated and adopted:

- **“Ammunition marking, registration, and record-keeping”** aiming at strengthening the efforts in developing policy guidance, operational guidelines and procedures on all aspects of ammunition marking, registration and record-keeping; and addressing the life cycle management of ammunition and related security risks related to illicit trafficking and uncontrolled spread of stockpiles of conventional ammunition. The BPG was supplemented with general policies and procedures focusing on life-cycle management approach and continuous risk management. The BPG was also streamlined with the international regulations, in particular, the guiding principles of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG).

The OSCE BPGs cover a wide range of aspects of the life cycle of SALW and ammunition. The guidance provided draws on norms, operational practices and an understanding of new technologies and their application, all of which are constantly evolving. The development and updating of the BPGs therefore relies heavily on the advice and opinions of experts. Although

not binding as such, the BPGs help to establish a common understanding of key SALW- and SCA-related issues among all 57 participating States and lay the ground for the OSCE's provision of practical assistance to interested States. The BPGs are endorsed by all OSCE participating States.

The above-mentioned Guides are intended to assist participating States with the development and application of national policies, and to foster higher common standards in the governance and management of SALW and SCA. Higher standards should prevent the diversion of surplus or poorly managed stockpiles of SALW and conventional ammunition into illicit trade and trafficking, and reduce the likelihood and impact of unplanned explosions at storage sites.

The BPGs are above all meant to highlight what needs to be addressed, rather than serving as "how-to" guides, although some of them do provide technical guidance for use at the operational level, for example on SALW export controls and on the management and security of SCA. The BPGs are not prescriptive; instead of a "one size fits all" solution, they provide a menu of effective measures to support implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA.

Launched in 2019, the review and update process were led by the participating States ensuring consistently high quality in all new and updated BPGs. The updated Guides complement other international guidance documents on the life-cycle management of SALW and SCA, such as the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG), the Modular Small-arms-control Implementation Compendium (MOSAIC) and the International Tracing Instrument. To that end in 2019, the Conflict Prevention Centre carried out a "Comparative Study of the OSCE Handbooks on Best Practice Guides for the SALW and SCA Documents", comparing the BPGs with international standards and guidelines with a view to providing recommendations on whether to update, expand or adapt existing Guides.

The updated BPGs provide guidance on all stages of the life cycle of SALW and ammunition – from manufacture, through stockpile management (including accounting, storage, transport and security), to destruction, deactivation or legal transfer by sale, gift or loan, in a more effective way. They also contribute to the life-cycle management of SALW and SCA in a more effective and efficient manner, as well as provide support for practical assistance projects.

It is envisaged that the lessons learned from applying the updated BPGs in the OSCE field operations and assistance projects will feed into the next update cycle.

### **Information exchange**

The OSCE Document on SALW (2000) commits the participating States to a number of standards, which, if fully upheld, assist States in their efforts to abide by many of the paragraphs on national implementation in the UN PoA on SALW. Among other things, the Document established a set of transparency measures aimed at raising confidence and security and at further promoting trust among the OSCE participating States. Information exchange on various aspects of participating States' national activities underlies relevant capacity-building efforts to jointly tackle risks and challenges related to the uncontrolled spread of SALW. An overview of the OSCE reporting obligations supporting the implementation of the UN Programme of Action is provided in [Annex A](#).

Most of the SALW-related information becomes publicly available either immediately following its exchange or later on if so requested by the relevant participating State. Information on the import and export of SALW is exempted from this public information exchange. The OSCE Secretariat uses the Announcing and Reminding Mechanism to announce the information exchanges, while the FSC Chairmanship reminds States of the need to fulfil their reporting commitments.

### **Annual information exchanges**

The OSCE Document on SALW requires the participating States to exchange data annually on:

- SALW exports to and imports from other participating States during the previous calendar year;
- the category, subcategory and quantity of SALW that have been identified as surplus and/or seized and destroyed on their territory during the previous calendar year;
- their points of contact on SALW and SCA.

The level of implementation of annual SALW information exchanges slightly declined in 2023, with 70 per cent of all participating States complying with their reporting obligations compared to 81 per cent of participating States in 2022.

An overview of the annual information exchanged in 2022 and 2023 is provided in [Annex C](#).

### **Reporting on the Implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW**

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 on export policy, procedures, documentation and on control over international brokering; SALW destruction techniques; and SALW stockpile security and management programmes.

Since 2017, to lighten States' reporting burden, UNODA and the OSCE harmonized their reporting templates and launched the SALW Online Reporting Tool. This tool creates synergies with other international instruments and allows States to submit their national SALW reports online and simultaneously to both the OSCE and UNODA.

In 2020, the OSCE re-harmonized the template with the 2020 UN Reporting template on PoA on SALW. Due to technical issues, the simultaneous submission function to both organizations could not be enabled. However, the template was made available on the OSCE SALW Online Reporting Tool. The OSCE-specific questions, such as SALW deactivation and national practices related to preventing the spread of SALW through illicit air transport, were also integrated in the template in order to minimize various reporting formats for the participating States. On several occasions, the FSC Support Unit conducted briefings and trainings to the participating States and their points of contact on SALW reporting and the Online Reporting Tool in order to facilitate the annual information exchanges.

Additionally, the OSCE participating States exchange updated information, when necessary, on:

- national stockpile management and security procedures;

- national practices related to control of manufacture of small arms
- national marking systems used in the manufacture and/or import of SALW;
- national legislation and current practice on small arms export policy, procedures, documentation and brokering controls;
- techniques and procedures for the destruction of SALW;
- regulations on brokering activities related to SALW;
- national procedures for SALW deactivation;
- national practices on preventing the spread of SALW through illicit air transport;
- national end-user certificates and/or other pertinent documents (providing in each case a sample format).

Every year, in average, between 15 and 18 out of the 57 OSCE participating States provide updates on the implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW and Supplementary Decisions. By facilitating support to the participating States (awareness raising briefings, workshops on reporting, support to individual inquiries etc.) the number of updates increased to 20-30 submissions per year. In 2023, 27 participating States submitted their updates to the OSCE. Annex D provides an overview of these information exchanges.

The Conflict Prevention Centre also continues the development of the OSCE Information Management and Reporting System – iMARS, an analytical platform for the participating States to monitor all military information exchange at the OSCE, including on SALW, aimed at increasing transparency, situational awareness and support the early warning mechanism. As planned in its scope, iMARS will cover SALW/SCA assistance projects as well as SALW import/exports, surplus/seized destruction and national policies on SALW, as reported by the participating States, including through the Online Reporting tool.

## **8. Meetings**

### **a. Participation in global UN PoA meetings**

The OSCE participates in the relevant UN meetings – i.e., the Biennial Meetings of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms (BMS) and the Conferences to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action on Small Arms (RevCon). At these meetings, the OSCE provides a detailed overview of its activities that support implementation of the UN Programme of Action.

### **b. Regular meetings relevant to the UN PoA process organized by your organization**

#### **i. Frequency and timing of meeting(s) (e.g., once a year in April)**

A detailed overview of OSCE and FSC meetings on SALW held during 2022–2023 is provided in Annex E.

#### **ii. Timing of meetings aligned with the UN PoA process**

While no agreement on holding the OSCE Biennial Meeting to Assess the Implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA could be reached in 2022, participating States held security dialogues devoted to small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition and explosive hazards in the OSCE region.



### **9. Challenges related to implementation of the PoA for States of your (sub)region**

Since the OSCE's reporting template is harmonized with the UNODA, the challenges identified by the OSCE participating States are also applicable to the implementation of the PoA.

### **10. Targets/goals for States of your (sub)region and/or your organization, which are consistent with PoA implementation**

The targets and goals for the OSCE participating States are described in their national SALW strategies.

## **IV. International assistance**

### **11. International assistance (including regional assistance)**

During the reporting period, the OSCE continued to provide its traditional support to participating States in addressing a wide range of security and safety risks related to SALW and SCA, such as: (a) presence of conventional ammunition, explosive material, detonating devices and highly toxic rocket fuel components; (b) degraded physical infrastructure and poor stockpile management and security practices; (c) presence of explosive remnants of war and landmines; and (d) trafficking of weapons, ammunition and explosives.

In that regard, the OSCE has in place a proven, transparent and well-functioning mechanism for providing assistance to participating States through project work. The assistance mechanism was established by the OSCE Document on SALW and the OSCE Document on SCA<sup>1</sup>. The OSCE's assistance projects significantly reduce SALW- and SCA-induced risks to, on the one hand, the local population, the environment and the economy, and, on the other, to the security of the participating States as a result of trafficking and uncontrolled spread of SALW, especially to terrorists and other criminal groups. An overview of the OSCE SALW/SCA assistance projects is provided in Annex F.

Moreover, the participating States are in agreement that the problem of SALW is an integral part of the OSCE's wider efforts in the fields of early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation. In 2023, the OSCE Toolbox portal ([OSCE Toolbox](#)) was developed and launched in the framework of Structured Dialogue. The Toolbox portal provides overview of all the tools the OSCE, its participating States and institutions have at their disposal throughout all stages of the conflict-cycle. SALW and SCA aspects are also part of the toolbox.

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<sup>1</sup> Agreed on by all OSCE participating States in 2003, the OSCE Document on SCA ([www.osce.org/fsc/15792](http://www.osce.org/fsc/15792)) is politically binding. The Document addresses the problem of surpluses of conventional ammunition, explosive material and detonating devices. It commits States to the safe and secure storage of their national stocks of conventional ammunition. While the Document did not establish any transfer controls, it defined indicators of a surplus of ammunition, thereby paving the way for the destruction of such surpluses.

Efforts to tackle the problem of SCA, explosive material and detonating devices in surplus and/or awaiting destruction must have a scope that is as broad as possible. Accordingly, the Document covers conventional ammunition, explosive material and detonating devices of land-, air- and sea-based weapons systems. On the other hand, ammunition used for weapons of mass destruction (nuclear, chemical and biological) is excluded.

The OSCE participating States have developed a number of BPGs on SCA encouraging higher common standards of practice on procedures for the management of SCA; the transport of ammunition; ammunition marking, registration and record-keeping; physical security of SCA; and the destruction of conventional ammunition. The BPGs are applied by participating States and the OSCE field operations assisting the participating States.

In 2022 and 2023, **the OSCE worked on 20 assistance projects in the field of SALW and SCA at the national and regional levels.** One of them was successfully completed, while 19 have continued being implemented beyond the reporting period. The total value of all OSCE assistance projects during that period amounted to 55,8 million euros. Over 30,4 million euros have been pledged by 21 participating States and two international organizations. The funding gap at the end of the reporting period was 25,4 million euros; this is currently 46% per cent of the total value of SALW/SCA projects.

The OSCE provided project assistance in the field of SALW and SCA directly to Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Kosovo<sup>2</sup>, Moldova, Montenegro, North Macedonia, Serbia, Tajikistan and Ukraine. Furthermore, the Organization also provided project assistance targeted at specific regions and at the wider OSCE area.

During the reporting period, the OSCE assistance projects comprehensively addressed the concerns expressed by participating States regarding:

- **disposal of surpluses of SALW/SCA** – for example, in Moldova 600 tonnes of ammunition was palletized;
- **improving SALW/SCA infrastructure** – for example, in Montenegro several classrooms have been refurbished and put into use for PSSM trainings, two specialised trucks for handling and driving explosives, according to the Agreement concerning the International Carriage of Dangerous Goods by Road (ADR) were procured, and beneficiaries trained and obtained the ADR licenses; in Moldova mobile laboratory for testing the ammunition propellant was renovated, two sanitary containers and two mini tractors provided;
- **strengthening national ownership and capacities in relation to SALW/SCA** – for example, in Bosnia and Herzegovina OSCE worked with all eleven Law Enforcement Agencies (LEA) in supporting them to develop joint Guidelines for the physical security stockpile management of SALW in LEA's (PSSM Guidelines) and in the Kyrgyz Republic PSSM trainings were provided to the Ministry of Defence and the Border Guard Service of the State Committee for National Security;
- **combatting illicit trafficking of SALW/SCA** – for example, the OSCE developed three new assistance projects in Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan and Kazakhstan aiming at strengthening the border services and customs in combatting illicit trafficking of SALW, ammunition and explosives potentially stemming from Afghanistan, providing training based on international standards, strengthening canine detection capacities and developing explosive ordnance risk education; in Bosnia and Herzegovina specialised vehicles for the transportation of police Canine detecting SALW were delivered; in North Macedonia the capability of Police to manage, deploy transport, and condition their Canine unit in detecting SALW/SCA, and explosives was strengthened.

During the reporting period, a large OSCE donor community supported the above-mentioned assistance projects. The donors were Austria, Belgium, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Canada, Czech Republic, European Commission (including European Agency for Reconstruction), European

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<sup>2</sup> 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.

Union<sup>3</sup>, Finland, France, Germany, Hungary, Ireland, Italy, Lichtenstein, Luxembourg, the Netherlands, Norway, Poland, Slovakia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Türkiye, the United Kingdom and the United States of America.

In 2022 and 2023, **a total of 3 requests for project assistance were submitted to the OSCE by three participating States:** Kazakhstan, Moldova and Tajikistan. At the forefront of these assistance requests was the need to advance their national capacities relevant for combating the trafficking of SALW in all its aspects, while the authorities of Kazakhstan also expressed interest in strengthening their PSSM capacities.

The OSCE has been collaborating with various international governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to ensure the co-ordination of project assistance efforts at the national, regional and organization-wide levels. These organizations include the EU and its family of agencies and missions, such as the European Border and Coast Guard Agency (FRONTEX), and the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine (EUBAM); the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the UN and its entities, such as UNODA, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) (including the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons [SEESAC]) and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC); NATO; and the Small Arms Survey and other international NGOs.

## **V. Relevant issues**

### **12. Gender-specific considerations**

As an integral part of its comprehensive approach to security, which encompasses the politico-military, economic and environmental, and human dimensions, the OSCE adopted, in 2004, the Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality.<sup>4</sup> The Action Plan requires OSCE executive structures to mainstream gender aspects into all of the Organization's projects and programmes. At an institutional level, the OSCE has created a dedicated Gender Issues Programme within the OSCE Secretariat, its mandate being to support all OSCE structures, field operations and participating States, and also the position of Senior Adviser on Gender Issues. Furthermore, gender focal points have been appointed in OSCE field operations and institutions, as well as in all departments of the Organization's Secretariat; their task is to support OSCE staff with the mainstreaming of gender issues into policies, programmes and projects.

A growing body of evidence in research and practice points to the fact that the use, misuse and effects of SALW and SCA are highly “gendered” – that is, they have different impacts on women and men, and on boys and girls. It is also important to note that women continue to be significantly under-represented in policymaking on SALW and SCA. In an attempt to address these glaring issues, a detailed guidance was developed providing direction for the meaningful inclusion of gender-mainstreaming into projects. Development of internal documents that guide gender mainstreaming into the OSCE Assistance Mechanism for SALW and SCA provides support to

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<sup>3</sup> The European Union's support has been provided through: (a) Council Decision (CFSP) 2019/2009 of 2 December 2019 in support of Ukraine's efforts to combat illicit trafficking in weapons, ammunition and explosives, in cooperation with the OSCE, as well as b) Council Decision (CFSP) 2021/2133 of 2 December 2021 in support of the comprehensive programme on supporting efforts to prevent and combat illicit trafficking of SALW and Conventional Ammunition in South- Eastern Europe.

<sup>4</sup> See Ministerial Council Decision No. 14/04 (MC.DEC/14/04).

all new projects are required to consider and incorporate relevant gender mainstreaming measures in the design of new projects/programmes, and to report on their implementation.

A Guidance Note on Gender and SALW is based on the premise that the use, misuse, and the effects of SALW and SCA affect women and men, boys and girls differently. Addressing these different impacts requires assistance projects to be designed and implemented in a way that promotes gender mainstreaming to achieve gender equality. This Guidance Note seeks to provide practical advice on how such targeted action can be developed and undertaken in the context of OSCE practical assistance projects in the field of SALW and SCA. This document provides step-by-step practical guidance for each one of the seven stages of the assistance mechanism, from clarifying the need for assistance through to project completion. It draws on lessons-identified from existing practice, and from key documents which are relevant to mainstreaming gender into OSCE assistance projects.

The OSCE participating States have explicitly acknowledged the importance of gender equality and mainstreaming in the field of SALW/SCA. Thus, in 2010, they tasked the FSC with giving greater consideration to the gender aspects of SALW. Among the possible measures proposed in FSC Decision No. 9/11 is the exploration of “a list of recommendations to ensure the identification and integration of gender aspects in post-conflict SALW programmes”. Several years later, in 2017, Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/17 (MC.DEC/10/17) instructed the FSC to:

Continue to exchange views and information and share best practices, on a voluntary basis and if relevant to the mandate of the FSC, on:

- Addressing the impact of excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW and SCA on women and children;
- Creating equal opportunities for women’s participation in policymaking, planning and implementation processes to combat illicit SALW as well as with regard to the OSCE assistance projects in the field of SALW and SCA.

**a. Policies/guidance documents for gender-specific actions by your organization**

The following documents are used for gender-specific actions by the OSCE:

- OSCE Action Plan for the Promotion of Gender Equality (2004);
- Secretariat’s road map for the implementation of the Action Plan;
- Guide on gender mainstreaming in the organization of OSCE events (2016);
- Gender equality marker for OSCE projects;
- Aide-memoire on gender mainstreaming projects;
- Gender and Security Toolkit – Tool 15: Integrating Gender in Project Design and Monitoring for the Security and Justice Sector and;
- Guidance note on Mainstreaming Gender into the OSCE Assistance Mechanism for SALW and SCA.

**b. Gender-focused initiatives/projects implemented during the reporting period**

The OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre, the FSC Support Unit conducts, annually since 2018 and in co-operation with other international organizations, the [OSCE Scholarship for Peace and Security training programme on conflict prevention and resolution](#) through arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.

The training programme, dedicated to young professionals from the OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation, aims to provide general orientation and knowledge about conflict prevention and resolution through arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, and to help create equal opportunities for young professionals, particularly women. It thereby ultimately supports the implementation of UN Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on women, peace and security; UNSCR 2250 on youth, peace and security; SDG 5 on gender equality; and SDG 17 on building partnerships.

The training programme encompasses the whole conflict cycle, including conflict prevention and resolution; arms control; CSBMs; non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction; combating trafficking in SALW; conventional weapons and ammunition; disarmament and development; gender aspects; and peace- and development-related technologies.

Within the reporting period, two editions of the annual Scholarship for Peace and Security training programme on conflict prevention and resolution through arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation took place. The programme consists of a 9-week instructor-led online training, hosted on the OSCE E-Learning Platform; and a one-week in-person in-depth training in Vienna, hosted by the OSCE in cooperation with other international organizations in Vienna. Most recently in 2023, some 150 young professionals (86% female) from across the OSCE region participated in the 9-week online course; and 42 female graduates from 37 countries participated in the course in Vienna, which included an interactive discussion on non-proliferation of firearms with a representative of the UNODC and a thematic session with the OSCE SALW&SCA Project Officer.

The programme has produced a group of alumnae of 650 graduates (85% women), out of whom all indicated that their participation in the training represented a milestone in their professional development, as well as inspired their perception of gender issues in arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation. The majority of programme's graduates indicate that they stay engaged in the security sector after its completion.

### **c. Gender mainstreaming of SALW projects implemented during the reporting period**

Based on the Guidance note on Mainstreaming Gender into the OSCE Assistance Mechanism for SALW and SCA in 2022 – 2023 two more projects launched with OSCE Gender Marker 2, (where gender is mainstreamed to a significant extent of the projects). Such projects possess multiple entry-points for gender mainstreaming activities, but do not explicitly state gender equality and/or women's empowerment as their principal objective. Rather, gender equality and/or women's empowerment is a secondary objective and the project has corresponding results and indicators that measure how gender equality will be advanced.

To illustrate some of the other projects implementation successes under the OSCE Gender Marker 2, in 2023 several gender empowerment developments took place:

In Albania, the assistance project “Assisting the National Authorities of the Republic of Albania to Decrease the Risk of Weapon Proliferation and Misuse of SALW” supported the following developments:

- In February 2023, appointment of a first female specialist in charge of implementation and oversight of the SALW deactivation structure took place. A female State Police's officer

for seven years was appointed to the Albanian State Police Deactivation Unit. The Unit, through the newly established Deactivation Centre, oversees technical processes including verification, marking, certification and record keeping of deactivated firearms.

- Moreover, the project supported the development the SALW Project's Gender Mainstreaming Strategy. This document was developed in consultation and close coordination with the relevant national authorities in Albania responsible for SALW control (such as Albanian State Police, SALW Commission, and Ministry of Interior). Each activity of the Gender Mainstreaming Strategy is designed to strengthen the capacities of national authorities to include gender perspectives in their SALW control policies, implementation, and decision making. The Strategy ensures that all project activities, such as training courses, standard operating procedures, other plans and documents, and infrastructure reflect gender aspects.

The assistance project, "Assisting the National Authorities of the Republic of North Macedonia to Decrease the Risk of Weapon Proliferation and Misuse of SALW" provided for the following:

- Improvement of training and management infrastructure of the Canine Unit (separate bathrooms and changing rooms). Such a development was the last precondition for project to advocate for the inclusion of the greater number of female professionals in the work of the Canine Unit.
- As a result of these developments a female police officer was appointed as the first female Canine handler in the country. This important development was implemented not in the interest of reaching gender parity quotas, but considered as a turning point that will unlock an entire new performance and deployment potential of the Canine unit.

In Bosnia and Herzegovina, the assistance project on strengthening SALW control advanced with regard to:

- The legislative and regulatory framework of civilian small arms possession reaching the agreement with the working groups of twelve cantonal and entity jurisdictions to include gender-based restrictive measures.
- Agreement was reached that in the legislation regulating civilian, small arms possession will be forbidden to all those individuals reported as perpetrators of the gender-based violence. To strengthen the outreach and awareness raising on SALW control and its highly gendered impact, project in Bosnia and Herzegovina was partnering up with the two associations of women in the police forces to ensure adequate target audience, reach and impact of this initiative.

### **13. Contributions to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**

#### **a. SDG-related initiatives/projects implemented during the reporting period**

The OSCE's work in the area of SALW and SCA – in particular, the assistance projects conducted in the participating States – supports the implementation of SDG target 16.4, which calls, *inter alia*, for a significant reduction of illicit arms flows by 2030. The OSCE's efforts facilitate the realization of the SDGs related to peace, justice and strong institutions (Goal 16), economic growth (Goal 8), the environment (several Goals), health and well-being (Goal 3), gender equality (Goal 5), and sustainable cities and communities (Goal 11).

In 2022 and 2023, the OSCE Scholarship for Peace and Security training programme for young professionals, particularly women, on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation supported the implementation of UNSCR 1325 on women, peace and security; UNSCR 2250 on youth, peace and security; SDG 5 on gender equality; and SDG 17 on building partnerships. Moreover, the training programme contributed to the Agenda for Disarmament by raising young professionals' awareness of disarmament issues and encouraging them to take responsible action. In 2018, the training programme has received an OSCE Gender Champion Award in recognition of its focus on gender equality as a key element in conflict prevention and comprehensive security. In particular, it was recognized as an outstanding initiative that helps to strengthen the participation of young women in the security sector. The programme remains a flagship project in the OSCE politico-military dimension promoting female participation in arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation fields (SDG 5).

#### **b. Regional indicator(s)**

The OSCE has affirmed the link between security and sustainable development since its very origins with the signing of the Helsinki Final Act in 1975. Its comprehensive approach to security rests on the recognition that conflicts may arise not only from political and military threats but also from economic tensions, environmental degradation, social insecurity and violations of human rights, all of which are problems that need to be tackled if the SDGs are to be attained.

The 17 SDGs form one integrated whole. While the activities of the OSCE as a regional security organization have a strong focus on peace, justice and strong institutions (Goal 16), they in fact support the implementation of every one of the SDGs. See: [www.osce.org/sustainable-development-goals](http://www.osce.org/sustainable-development-goals).

The OSCE has no agreed indicators related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

#### **VI. Additional remarks**

No additional remarks.

#### **VII. Annexes**

**A:** Overview of OSCE reporting obligations supporting the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on SALW

**B:** OSCE mandates relevant for the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on SALW

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

**D:** Overview of the information exchange on SALW-related marking, export controls, stockpile management and destruction procedures, brokering, samples of end-user certificates and illicit air transport (harmonized with UN SALW PoA reporting template)

**E:** OSCE and FSC meetings on SALW during 2022–2023

**F:** OSCE SALW/SCA assistance projects

Date: 31 May 2024

## Overview of OSCE reporting obligations supporting the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on SALW

Submission deadline	OSCE information exchange
30 June	On small arms exports to, and imports from, other participating States during the previous calendar year <a href="#">OSCE Document on SALW (FSC.DOC/1/00/Rev.1)</a> , Section III, part F, paragraph 1
	On the category, subcategory and quantity of small arms that have been identified as surplus and/or seized and destroyed on participating States' territory during the previous calendar year* <a href="#">OSCE Document on SALW (FSC.DOC/1/00/Rev.1)</a> , Section IV, part E, paragraph 1
	On the points of contact on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition* <a href="#">FSC Decision No. 4/08 (FSC.DEC/4/08)</a>
Updates when necessary on 30 June each year	On present regulations concerning brokering activities with regard to small arms and light weapons <a href="#">FSC Decision No. 17/10 (FSC.DEC/17/10)</a>
	Sample formats of national end-user certificates and/or other pertinent documents <a href="#">FSC Decision No. 12/08 (FSC.DEC/12/08)</a>
	On national stockpile management and security procedures** <a href="#">OSCE Document on SALW (FSC.DOC/1/00/Rev.1)</a> , Section IV, part E, paragraph 2
	On national marking systems used in the manufacture and/or import of small arms** <a href="#">OSCE Document on SALW (FSC.DOC/1/00/Rev.1)</a> , Section II, part D, paragraph 1
	on national procedures for the control of the manufacture of small arms** <a href="#">OSCE Document on SALW (FSC.DOC/1/00/Rev.1)</a> , Section II, part D, paragraph 1
	on national legislation and current practice on small arms export policy, procedures, documentation and brokering controls** <a href="#">OSCE Document on SALW (FSC.DOC/1/00/Rev.1)</a> , Section III, part F, paragraph 2
	on techniques and procedures for the destruction of small arms** <a href="#">OSCE Document on SALW (FSC.DOC/1/00/Rev.1)</a> , Section IV, part E, paragraph 3
	Questionnaire on national practices related to preventing the spread of small arms and light weapons through illicit air transport* <a href="#">FSC Decision No. 11/08 (FSC.DEC/11/08)</a>
	SALW deactivation to facilitate the application of the <a href="#">updated Best Practice Guide on SALW Deactivation (FSC.DEC/4/20)</a>

\* Available publicly, upon request by the participating State at the time of submission.

\*\* Available publicly.



## OSCE mandates relevant for the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on SALW

- [OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons](#) (FSC.DOC/1/00/Rev.1)
- [OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition](#) (FSC.DOC/1/03/Rev.1)
- [FSC Decision No. 11/02 on the preparation of Best Practice Guides on SALW](#) (FSC.DEC/11/02)
- [FSC Decision No. 5/04 on standard elements of end-user certificates and verification procedures for SALW exports](#) (FSC.DEC/5/04)
- [FSC Decision No. 8/04 on the OSCE Principles on the Control of Brokering in SALW](#) (FSC.DEC/8/04)
- [Ministerial Council Decision No. 8/05 on further efforts to implement the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA](#) (MC.DEC/8/05)
- [FSC Decision No. 3/06 on Annex C to the Best Practice Guide on National Procedures for Stockpile Management and Security of the “OSCE Handbook of Best Practices on SALW”](#) (FSC.DEC/3/06)
- [FSC Decision No. 7/06 on combating the illicit trafficking of SALW by air](#) (FSC.DEC/7/06)
- [Ministerial Council Decision No. 8/06 on further efforts to implement the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA](#) (MC.DEC/8/06)
- [FSC Decision No. 9/06 on Best Practice Guides on SCA](#) (FSC.DEC/9/06)
- [Ministerial Council Decision No. 9/06 on combating the illicit trafficking of SALW by air](#) (MC.DEC/9/06)
- [FSC Decision No. 5/08 on updating the OSCE principles for export controls of man-portable air defence systems](#) (FSC.DEC/5/08)
- [FSC Decision No. 11/08 on introducing best practices to prevent destabilizing transfers of SALW through air transport and on an associated questionnaire](#) (FSC.DEC/11/08)
- [Ministerial Council Decision No. 11/08 on SALW and SCA](#) (MC.DEC/11/08)
- [FSC Decision No. 11/09 on the update of FSC Decision No. 15/02 on expert advice on implementation of Section V of the OSCE Document on SALW](#) (FSC.DEC/11/09)
- [Ministerial Council Decision No. 15/09 on SALW and SCA](#) (MC.DEC/15/09)
- [FSC Decision No. 2/10 on the OSCE Plan of Action on SALW](#) (FSC.DEC/2/10)
- [Ministerial Council Decision No. 6/11 on SALW and SCA](#) (MC.DEC/6/11)
- [Ministerial Council Decision No. 8/13 on SALW and SCA](#) (MC.DEC/8/13)
- [Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/14 on SALW and SCA](#) (MC.DEC/10/14)
- [Ministerial Declaration on OSCE Assistance Projects in the Field of SALW and SCA](#) (MC.DOC/3/16)
- [Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/17 on SALW and SCA](#) (MC.DEC/10/17)

- [Ministerial Council Declaration on OSCE Efforts in the Field of Norms and Best Practices on SALW and SCA \(MC.DOC/5/18\)](#)
- [Updated Best Practice Guide on Deactivation of Small Arms and Light Weapons \(FSC.DEC/4/20\)](#)
- [Updated Best Practice Guide on National Procedures for the Destruction of SALW \(FSC.DEC 4/21\)](#)
- [Updated Best Practice Guide on National Procedures for Stockpile Management, Security and Destruction of Man-portable Air Defence Systems \(MANPADS\) \(FSC.DEC/7/21\)](#)
- [Updated Best Practice Guide on Procedures for Management of Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition \(FSC.DEC/8/21\)](#)
- [Updated Best Practice Guide on National Procedures for Stockpile Management and Security of SALW \(FSC.DEC/9/21\)](#)
- [Updated Best Practice Guide on Ammunition Marking, Registration and Record-Keeping \(FSC.DEC/1/22\)](#)

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

Reference (paragraph)	Citation regarding implementation measures	Status as of 29 April 2024	
		2022	2023 (submission deadline was 30 June 2023)
Section III, part F, paragraph 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 of further improving the information exchange on transfers of small arms.	45 participating States	39 participating States
Section IV, part C, paragraph 1  Section IV, part E, paragraph 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.	40 participating States	33 participating States

**Overview of the submissions on the implementation of the OSCE Document on SALW marking, export controls, stockpile management and destruction procedures, brokering, samples of end-user certificates, SALW deactivation and illicit air transport (harmonized with UN SALW PoA reporting template)**

Reference (paragraph)	Citation regarding implementation measures	Status as of 29 April 2024		
		Exchanged to date	Updates in 2022	Updates in 2023
Section II, part D, paragraph 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	30 participating States	26 participating States
Section II, part D, paragraph 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	31 participating States	27 participating States
Section III, part F, paragraph 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	32 participating States	26 participating States
Section IV, part E, paragraph 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	30 participating States	26 participating States
Section IV, part E, paragraph 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.	56 participating States	21 participating States	3 participating State

Reference (paragraph)	Citation regarding implementation measures	Status as of 29 April 2024		
		Exchanged to date	Updates in 2022	Updates in 2023
FSC Decision No. 11/08 (starting from 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, additional information on national practices related to preventing the spread of SALW through illicit air transport.	51 participating States	15 participating States	21 participating States
FSC Decision No. 12/08 (starting from 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	4 participating States	1 participating State
FSC Decision No. 17/10 (starting from 30 June 2011)	The FSC requests participating States to exchange information on their present regulations concerning brokering activities with regard to SALW.	51 participating States	29 participating States	25 participating States
FSC Decision No. 4/20 (starting from 28 October 2020)	The FSC encourages participating States to exchange information on SALW deactivation to facilitate the application of the updated Best Practice Guide on SALW Deactivation	28 participating States	22 participating States	20 participating States

## OSCE and FSC meetings on SALW, 2022–2023

The OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) addresses a wide range of issues, including topics related to Small Arms Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA). FSC Chairpersonships regularly include the topics related to SALW and SCA issues on the agenda of FSC meetings. Within 2022-2023 reporting period, the following **FSC Security Dialogues on SALW and SCA** related issues were conducted (seven in total).

### In 2022

The FSC Chairpersonship of Azerbaijan organized the Security Dialogue on ***Mine action with the focus on the UNSCR 2365***, as well as a side event dedicated to *Humanitarian mine action: challenges, innovative solutions and international assistance*. Invited panelists: Mr. S. Poladov, Dep. Chair, Board of the Mine Action Agency (ANAMA), Azerbaijan; Mr. S. Essén, Global Mine Action and Development Advisor, UNDP; Mr. Ö. B. Gönen, Planning Expert, Mine Action Center, Ministry of Defence of Türkiye; and Ms. E. Becker, Executive Director, Marshall Legacy Institute.

The FSC Chairpersonship of Azerbaijan organized the Security Dialogue dedicated to the topic of ***SALW and SCA: OSCE commitments and lessons learned***. Invited panelists: Mr. M. Bleinroth, D/Perm. Rep., Permanent Mission of Germany to the OSCE; Ms. A. Gruber, Ministerial Councillor, Austrian Ministry of Defence; Mr. M. Nikolic, Director of the Directorate for the OSCE and the Council of Europe, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Montenegro; and Ambassador J. Brunet, Ambassador-at-large on transnational criminal threats and the fight against the illicit trafficking of SALW, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France.

The FSC Chairpersonship of Belgium organized the Security Dialogue on ***Explosive hazards in the OSCE region: The iron harvest***. Invited panelists: Mr. É. Schnell, Chief Deminer, Demining Center Colmar of France; Mr. S. Obradović, Director, Mine Action Center of Bosnia and Herzegovina; Mr. M. Ibromhoda, Director, National Mine Action Center of Tajikistan; and Ms. M. Akopyan, Deputy Minister of Interior of Ukraine.

### In 2023

The FSC Chairpersonship of Bosnia and Herzegovina organized the Security Dialogue dedicated to ***SALW and SCA in South-East Europe region***. Presentations were provided by: Mr. A. von Wittke, Federal Foreign Office of Germany; Mr. M. Jovanović, Ministry of Interior of Serbia; and Dr. S. Penksa, OSCE Mission to Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The FSC Chairpersonship of Bosnia and Herzegovina organized the Security Dialogue on ***Mine action as a confidence-building measure***. Invited panelists: Amb. S. Toscano, Director, GICHD; Ambassador T. Lovrenčić, Director, ITF Enhancing Human Security; Capt. Mustafa Torun, TÜRMAC; and Lt. Dževad Kokošija, Demining Battalion, Armed Forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina.

The FSC Chairpersonship of Bulgaria organized the Security Dialogue on ***Capacity Development in Humanitarian Mine Action***. Invited panelists: G. Guilbert, Programs Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, US Department of State; Dr. M. Hajjaj, Gender, Diversity, Equality and inclusion Advisor,

GICHD; V. Nikitchyn, Department for Ecological Security and Mine Action, Ministry of Defence of Ukraine; and Dr. G. Rhodes, Mine Action Coordinator, UNDP in Ukraine.

The FSC Chairpersonship of Canada organized the Security Dialogue dedicated to *Mine Action*, with invited panelists: Mr. S. Tiller, Head, HALO Europe, The HALO Trust; Mr. O. Riabtsev, Chief Specialist, National Mine Action Authority Secretariat, Ministry of Defence of Ukraine; and Mr. J. Denselow, Head, Conflict and Humanitarian Policy and Advocacy, Save the Children.

In 2022-2023, several **workshops** were conducted for the participating States on the SALW- and CAT-related information exchanges:

- On 24 May 2022 and 23 May 2023, two workshops were conducted for interested participating States and points of contact in capitals. The workshop revisited OSCE SALW reporting obligations and discussed best practices and lessons learned; a demonstration of the Online Reporting Tool was also conducted;
- On 27-28 April 2023, a workshop on the OSCE-related arms control information exchanges (including SALW and CAT) was conducted in Dushanbe, Tajikistan to facilitate and discuss annual information exchanges.

## OSCE SALW/SCA ASSISTANCE PROJECTS

### INTRODUCTION:

The OSCE Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)/ Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) Assistance Mechanism is a response to the security risks posed by the destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of SALW and CA, which are of continuing concern to the participating States. The measures are contributing to solving challenges within the OSCE conflict cycle - namely early warning, conflict prevention, crisis management and post-conflict rehabilitation.

### THE OSCE ASSISTANCE MECHANISMS IN SALW/SCA:

The OSCE has a proven, transparent and well-functioning mechanism for providing assistance to States as established by the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA. Both OSCE participating States and Partners for Co-operation can submit official requests for OSCE assistance.

Through a systematic approach, the assistance mechanism verifies and validates concerns of SALW and SCA which were raised by the States. It confirms the requirements for external assistance and its feasibility. Moreover, the mechanism supports determining the scope of the assistance needed and provides recommendations for project development and further implementation.

### OSCE MANDATE:

- Combatting illicit trafficking
- Reducing stockpiles
- Upgrading stockpile management and security
- Restraining production, transfer and holding
- Building confidence, security and transparency
- Addressing concerns through dialogue and practical measures
- Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration processes
- Strengthening national capacity and ownership

### OSCE SALW/SCA REPOSITORY PROGRAMME:

The Repository Programme is a centralized funding mechanism devoted to the co-ordination and management of financial resources allocated to relevant projects throughout the OSCE region.

The strengths of this funding mechanism are its transparent management of resources, swiftness of allocation pursuant to the instructions of the donor, and ability to channel funding through the OSCE executive structure all over the OSCE region.

All types of pledges are supported. Earmarked funding can be pledged to the specific programme/project or against the request for assistance of a State. Also, generic non-earmarked funding can be pledged thematically.

Procedural safeguards envisage that the use of all pledges is agreed with the donors based on their explicit prior written consent.

### DONOR COMMUNITY:

- |                          |                            |
|--------------------------|----------------------------|
| • Austria                | • Liechtenstein            |
| • Azerbaijan             | • Lithuania                |
| • Belgium                | • Luxembourg               |
| • Bosnia and Herzegovina | • Montenegro               |
| • Czechia                | • Netherlands              |
| • Denmark                | • Norway                   |
| • European Union         | • Poland                   |
| • Finland                | • Slovakia                 |
| • France                 | • Spain                    |
| • Germany                | • Sweden                   |
| • Greece                 | • Switzerland              |
| • Hungary                | • Türkiye                  |
| • Ireland                | • United Kingdom           |
| • Italy                  | • United States of America |

### OSCE POINT OF CONTACT:

Ms. Nora VANAGA, Project Support Officer, Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC) – FSC Support Unit, [Nora.Vanaga@osce.org](mailto:Nora.Vanaga@osce.org)



## PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW SOUTH-EAST EUROPE

PARTICIPATING STATE	TITLE OF THE PROJECT	PROJECT BUDGET (TIMEFRAME)	NORMATIVE ASPECTS	PHYSICAL SECURITY AND STOCKPILE MANAGEMENT (PSSM)				COMBATTING ILLICIT TRAFFICKING WEAPONS, AMMUNITION AND EXPLOSIVES			VISIBILITY
				Improving infrastructure	Addressing all life-cycle management	Destruction and Disposal, incl. rocket fuel	Explosive ordnance disposal	Enhancing capabilities in countering illicit trafficking	Enhancing canine (K-9) capacities	Deactivation or destruction of firearms	
		<b>EUR</b>	Improving legislation and regulations								
<b>Albania</b>	Assisting the National Authorities of the Republic of Albania to Decrease the Risk of Weapon Proliferation and Misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)	<b>1,715,598</b> (08.2021 – 08.2024)									
<b>Bosnia and Herzegovina</b>	Addressing Security and Safety Risks of Illegal Possession, Misuse and Trafficking of SALW and their Ammunition in Bosnia and Herzegovina	<b>4,666,253</b> (11.2020 – 12.2025)									
<b>Kosovo*</b>	Support the strengthening of the Canine (K-9) capacity of the police services to detect and confiscate SALW, ammunition and explosives	<b>582,218</b> (09.2020 – 12.2024)									
<b>Montenegro</b>	Mitigation of Safety and Security Risks related to SALW/SCA in Montenegro	<b>2,171,776</b> (11.2020 – 12.2026)									
<b>North Macedonia</b>	Assisting the National Authorities of the Republic of North Macedonia to Decrease the Risk of Weapon Proliferation and Misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)	<b>8,059,445</b> (05.2020 – 12.2025)									
<b>Serbia</b>	Support to designing and implementing awareness-raising campaigns on SALW control in Serbia	<b>351,163</b> (09.2019 – 12.2024)									
<b>Serbia</b>	Strengthening the capacities of the Serbian Ministry of Interior to more effectively reduce, prevent, and counter illicit trafficking and misuse of Small Arms and Light Weapons, ammunition and explosives	<b>1,735,543</b> (02.2022 – 10.2025)									

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

## PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW **CENTRAL ASIA**

PARTICIPATING STATE	TITLE OF THE PROJECT	PROJECT BUDGET (TIMEFRAME)	NORMATIVE ASPECTS	PHYSICAL SECURITY AND STOCKPILE MANAGEMENT (PSSM)				COMBATTING ILLICIT TRAFFICKING			VISIBILITY
				Improving infrastructure	Addressing all life-cycle management	Destruction and Disposal, incl. rocket fuel	Explosive ordnance disposal	Enhancing capabilities in countering illicit trafficking	Enhancing canine (K-9) capacities	Deactivation or destruction of firearms	
		<b>EUR</b>	Improving legislation and regulations								Awareness-raising
<b>Kazakhstan</b>	Addressing Contemporary Safety and Security Risks in the Republic of Kazakhstan	<b>2,994,109</b> (12.2023 – 12.2026)									
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	Removal and Disposal of Rocket Fuel Component Samin from Kyrgyz Republic	<b>928,472</b> (06.2022 – 12.2024)									
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	Reducing the risk of illicit small arms and light weapons, ammunition and explosives proliferation across the border of the Kyrgyz Republic	<b>5,756,555</b> (01.2023 – 06.2026)									
<b>Kyrgyzstan</b>	Improvement of SALW and CA life-cycle management capacity of Ministry of Defence of Kyrgyz Republic	<b>2,483,108</b> (01.2023 – 12.2025)									
<b>Tajikistan</b>	Security upgrade of SALW depots of Tajikistan's Ministry of Defence (Phase II)	<b>1,057,106</b> (01.2022 – 07.2026)									
<b>Uzbekistan</b>	Strengthening of the Resilience of Uzbekistan to Address Cross-Border Challenges Emanating from Afghanistan	<b>3,053,122</b> (09.2022 – 08.2025)									
<b>Central Asia</b>	Integrated co-operation on Explosive Hazards Programme (ICExH Programme)	<b>2,949,911</b> (04.2024 – 03.2027)									

## PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW **EASTERN EUROPE** and **OSCE REGION**

PARTICIPATING STATE	TITLE OF THE PROJECT	PROJECT BUDGET (TIMEFRAME)	NORMATIVE ASPECTS	PHYSICAL SECURITY AND STOCKPILE MANAGEMENT (PSSM)				COMBATTING ILLICIT TRAFFICKING			VISIBILITY
				Improving infrastructure	Addressing all life-cycle management	Destruction and Disposal, incl. rocket fuel	Explosive ordnance disposal	Enhancing capabilities in countering illicit trafficking	Enhancing canine (K-9) capacities	Deactivation or destruction of firearms	
		<b>EUR</b>	Improving legislation and regulations								Awareness-raising
<b>Moldova</b>	Explosive risk mitigation at SALW and CA depots in the Republic of Moldova	<b>665,530</b> (07.2018 – 12.2025)									
<b>Moldova</b>	Support to the Law Enforcement Agencies in Moldova in Response to the Security Challenges in the Region	<b>3,266,988</b> (12.2022 – 11.2025)									
<b>Ukraine</b>	In support of strengthening capacities of Ukrainian authorities in preventing and combating illicit trafficking in weapons, ammunition and explosives in all aspects	<b>9,807,660</b> (09.2018 – 12.2024)									
<b>OSCE Region</b>	Support to the implementation of OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA	<b>339,169</b> (03.2022 – 03.2025)									
<b>OSCE Region</b>	Strengthening OSCE Action against the Illicit Proliferation of Small Arms & Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) - Phase 3	<b>2,626,926</b> (01.2023 – 12.2025)									