

956th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 962, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 4/20
UPDATED BEST PRACTICE GUIDE ON DEACTIVATION OF SMALL
ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS**

The Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC),

Fulfilling the mandate given by Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/17 on small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), adopted in Vienna in December 2017, and encouraged by the acknowledgement of the 2018 Milan Ministerial Council Declaration on OSCE Efforts in the Field of Norms and Best Practices on SALW and SCA of “the need for the OSCE to continue to enhance its SALW- and SCA-related norms and best practices and their implementation”,

Recognizing the outcomes of the Third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which took place in New York from 18 to 29 June 2018,

Acknowledging that the updated best practice guide could also serve as a guide for national policy-making on the part of participating States and encourage the voluntary implementation of higher common standards of practice among all participating States,

Noting that the updated best practice guide could also be useful to OSCE Partners for Co-operation and other United Nations Member States in their efforts to tackle the risks and challenges caused by reactivated, converted or otherwise illegally modified small arms,

Decides to:

1. Welcome, giving it its full title, the updated Best Practice Guide on Minimum Standards for National Procedures for the Deactivation of Small Arms and Light Weapons, which presents examples of best practices aimed at ensuring that the deactivation of small arms and light weapons renders them permanently inoperable (FSC.DEL/250/17/Rev.4);
2. Endorse the publication of the updated best practice guide in all six OSCE languages and to encourage participating States to make the guide available as appropriate;

3. Task the Conflict Prevention Centre with ensuring the widest possible circulation of the updated best practice guide, including to the OSCE Partners for Co-operation and the United Nations;
4. Request that the updated best practice guide be presented at the Seventh Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

This decision supersedes FSC Decision No. 1/18 (FSC.DEC/1/18/Corr.2) on the best practice guide on deactivation of small arms and light weapons dated 21 February 2018.

FSC.DEC/4/20
30 September 2020
Attachment

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

**INTERPRETATIVE STATEMENT UNDER
PARAGRAPH IV.1(A)6 OF THE RULES OF PROCEDURE
OF THE ORGANIZATION FOR SECURITY AND
CO-OPERATION IN EUROPE**

By the delegation of the Russian Federation:

“Having joined the consensus regarding the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) decision adopted today on the updated best practice guide on deactivation of small arms and light weapons (SALW), the delegation of the Russian Federation feels it necessary to make the following interpretative statement under paragraph IV.1(A)6 of the Rules of Procedure of the OSCE.

In welcoming the adoption of the updated best practice guide on deactivation of SALW, the Russian Federation takes the position that the implementation of this document shall be of a voluntary nature.

We request that this statement be attached to the adopted decision.”