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

**THE CONTINUING IMPLEMENTATION OF THE OSCE DOCUMENT
ON STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION**



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Executive Summary

In the reporting period, the OSCE implemented a total of 23 practical assistance projects in the area of stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), not only in support of 12 participating States which requested assistance, but also of States throughout the OSCE area. Moreover, an additional six assistance requests and/or letters of interest for co-operation were submitted to the OSCE.

The present progress report provides factual information on the current status of implementation of projects under the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition in the period from November 2017 to November 2018. The report indicates specific areas where action or assistance has been, and still is, most critically needed and requirements for additional financial resources.

In the reporting period, the OSCE assistance projects encompassed a wide array of security and safety risks related to the following: the presence of conventional ammunition, explosive material and detonating devices, and highly toxic rocket fuel components; degraded physical infrastructure and poor stockpile management and security practices; and the presence of explosive remnants of war (ERW) and landmines.

The assistance projects are among the most tangible, visible and successful endeavours in the OSCE's spectrum of operations. Quite apart from their intrinsic value, the fact that their results are measurable and comprehensible means that they possess high public relations value and are thus of great importance to the OSCE.

Additionally, the OSCE Comprehensive Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition Repository Programme has continued to remain in operation, in order to promote greater efficiency and effectiveness in the management of donor contributions, as necessitated by the increased number of practical assistance projects. Managed by the FSC Support Section of the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre (CPC), it serves as a trust fund and provides an instrument for the operation of a centralized system for the management – planning, co-ordination, distribution, and control – of financial resources allocated to the OSCE SALW/SCA programmes/projects.

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1. Introduction

The present progress report on the implementation of projects under the OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA) covers ongoing efforts over the past year to address the challenges posed by stockpiles of ammunition. The report provides a factual update on the implementation of the commitments regarding conventional ammunition agreed to by all the participating States under the OSCE Document on SCA. It also describes the progress achieved in project activities on conventional ammunition carried out in response to requests for assistance from participating States. The report covers the period from November 2017 to November 2018.

2. OSCE assistance pursuant to the Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition

In line with the OSCE Document on SCA, the OSCE has continued with project work in Eastern Europe, South-Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus and Central Asia.

The assistance projects have addressed security and safety risks by taking the following measures:

- Destruction of surplus conventional ammunition, explosive material and detonating devices;

- Disposal of rocket fuel components;
- Upgrading of physical infrastructure and practices in the field of physical security and stockpile management (PSSM);
- Clearance and disposal of explosive remnants of war (ERW) and landmines.

The practical assistance projects are being implemented by the CPC / FSC Support Section or by OSCE field operations.

Armenia

On the basis of the justified request addressed to the OSCE in June 2014, the removal and disposal of stockpiles of 150 tonnes of highly toxic rocket fuel components (notably samin) in Armenia was incorporated into the OSCE Secretariat extrabudgetary project “Regional Programme on Liquid Rocket Fuel Components Disposal” (#1101542). This regional project was started in December 2014.

The preparations for the operational phase of the project, which included an additional technical feasibility visit to Armenia, commenced in September 2018; it resulted in a re-examination of the technical data for tendering and contracting procedures for the removal/disposal of rocket fuel components as well as the discussion of the legal framework for project implementation with the host country.

The project has been financed to the level of 44 per cent and is still in need of additional financial resources.

Additionally, in November 2015 Armenia submitted a request, which is still open, regarding assistance in meeting basic safety and security standards at two storage sites and in promoting personnel safety and occupational health by raising risk awareness and other training activities; the request was supplemented with additional information and further justification in December 2016 and July 2018.

Belarus

On the basis of the justified request addressed to the OSCE in April 2013, the removal and disposal of stockpiles of almost 700 tonnes of highly toxic rocket fuel components (mélange, samin, TM-185) in Belarus was incorporated into the OSCE Secretariat extrabudgetary project “Regional Programme on Liquid Rocket Fuel Components Disposal” (#1101542).

In December 2016, following international tendering, two trilateral contracts were signed between the OSCE, the Ministry of Defence (MoD) of Belarus, and, as the contractor, the research and production enterprise TECHNOAZOT LTD, for the disposal of the rocket fuel components.

The stockpiles with highly toxic liquid rocket fuel components (mélange, samin, TM-185) were concentrated in one storage site near the town of Kalinkovich some 300 km south of

Minsk. Subsequently, a total of 401.86 tonnes of mélange were shipped in five cycles to the disposal facility of the Khimtech enterprise in the city of Cheboksary, Russian Federation; furthermore, a total of 196.36 tonnes of samin and 90.97 of TM-185 were shipped in four cycles to the disposal facility of Fortum Waste Solutions AG in the city of Kumla, Sweden. The disposal was carried out in the period from July 2017 to January 2018.

In September 2018, the Republic of Belarus submitted an assistance request on “Capacity Development for Safe and Secure SALW and Conventional Ammunition Stockpile Management in the Republic of Belarus”.

Bosnia and Herzegovina

In September 2017 a justified request addressed to the OSCE materialized in the development of the extrabudgetary project “Safety and Security Upgrade of Bosnia and Herzegovina Ammunition and Weapons Storage Sites (SAFE-UP)” (#2200393). The three-year project was started in January 2017.

The project contributed to the further upgrade of the security and safety infrastructure of prospective ammunition and weapons storage sites of Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) in accordance with internationally accepted standards.

The following main results have been achieved:

- Establishing and equipping the laboratory for the chemical and thermal analysis of ammunition at TROM Dobož, and provision of training;
- Providing fire protection and fire-fighting equipment at six prospective storage sites of the MoD of BiH;
- Installing an “Intruder Detection System” (IDS) package and improving street illumination at the Ammunition Storage Site (ASS) Kula II;
- Supporting maintenance and repair services for the IDS package at ASS Krupa and ASS Kula, and funding spare parts for maintenance interventions provided to the MoD of BiH in 2018.

The project has been financed to the level of 77 per cent and is still in need of additional financial resources.

Bulgaria

On the basis of the justified request addressed to the OSCE in October 2012, the removal and disposal of stockpiles of some 1,200 tonnes of highly toxic rocket fuel components (mélange, samin, TM-185) in Bulgaria was incorporated into the OSCE Secretariat extrabudgetary project “Regional Programme on Liquid Rocket Fuel Components Disposal” (#1101542).

The legal framework (MoU) between Bulgaria and the OSCE on project implementation had already been agreed upon, signed and ratified by the Bulgarian parliament in October 2015.

In November 2017, the Government of Bulgaria informed the OSCE that it would like to self-finance the disposal activities within the OSCE project and issued the pledge letter for EUR 2.44 million in November 2017. The OSCE immediately initiated preparations for the operational phase of the project. However, in July 2018 the Government of Bulgaria unexpectedly informed the OSCE of the withdrawal of its request for assistance. Consequently, the OSCE project activities were put on hold.

Georgia

A justified request addressed to the OSCE in January 2016 was followed by the development of the extrabudgetary project “Disposal of cluster and aviation bombs, artillery rounds and shells in Georgia” (#1101787). The project was started in July 2016, with its completion being foreseen for December 2018.

The project has been implemented in partnership with the State Military Scientific and Technical Centre “Delta” as the local implementing partner. The project’s explosive ordnance demilitarization activities, implemented in the period from December 2016 to March 2018, resulted in the disposal of a total of 10,817 pieces of surplus explosive ordnance with a total weight of 461,077.5 kg.

The Ministry of Defence of Georgia has already expressed its interest in continuing co-operation with the

OSCE in support of their demilitarization programme.

Kyrgyzstan

A justified and modified request addressed to the OSCE in February 2010 led to the development of the extrabudgetary project “Upgrading Kyrgyz Republic’s capabilities for storage of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Conventional Ammunition (CA) in Buzhum, Gul’cha and Koy-Tash” (#5300431).

Almost all the project activities, which designed to give support to the Committee on Defence Affairs, were concluded by December 2017, having resulted in:

- Building of new and/or upgrading of existing explosives storage houses (ESHs) in Buzhum, Gul’cha and Koy-Tash;
- Destruction of over 1,348 surplus and/or unserviceable SALW, man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS) and anti-tank guided missiles (ATGMs);
- Creation of national capacity for the destruction of SALW;
- Improvement of the national regulatory/normative framework for SALW and CA management.

In June 2018, the Kyrgyz Republic submitted a request for assistance on the construction and refurbishment of SALW/SCA ESHs. The initial technical visit to clarify the request was carried out at the end of August 2018.

Additionally, on the basis of a justified request addressed to the OSCE in

2013, the removal and disposal of stockpiles of some 142 tonnes of highly toxic rocket fuel components (mélange, samin) in Kyrgyzstan was incorporated into the OSCE Secretariat extrabudgetary project “Regional Programme on Liquid Rocket Fuel Components Disposal” (#1101542). The assistance request was renewed in June 2018.

Even though the OSCE procurement procedures for the rocket fuel components removal and disposal service were already completed in December 2015, lack of financial resources has seriously delayed operational activities.

Moldova

In the reporting period, the OSCE successfully concluded two extrabudgetary projects in Moldova: “PSSM [= physical security and stockpile management] activities related to the development and introduction of the new ammunition in Moldova. Phase 2” (#3100255) and “Increasing Security at SALW and CA storage facilities in Moldova. Phase 3” (#3100257). The projects were in implementation from April 2015 to June 2018 and from April 2015 to February 2018 respectively.

While the first project contributed to establishing training capacity in the field of SALW/SCA, the second project contributed to the upgrades of the explosive storage houses at SALW and SCA storages in Chisinau and Cahul, and to the installation of intruder alarm systems at the ammunition depots in

Chisinau and Cahul and a video surveillance system in Balti.

On the basis of the justified request addressed to the OSCE in February 2018, the extrabudgetary project “Explosive risk mitigation at SALW and CA depots in the Republic of Moldova” (#3100306) was developed and started in July 2018.

The project aims to contribute to the:

- Execution of 100% physical inspection at all ammunition depots by 2020;
- Digitalization of the ammunition record-keeping system by 2020;
- Upgrading of the firefighting safety and security systems of 3 ammunition storage sites (Floresti, Cahul, Chişinău);
- Enhancement of the knowledge, skills and attitudes of MoD experts on ammunition life-cycle management, with application in daily operations and training courses;
- Aligning of MoD PSSM Standard Operational Procedures with OSCE and international best practices, with application in daily operations and in training courses;
- Establishment of the ammunition chemical analysis laboratory, operating on a daily basis by the end of the project;
- Establishment of a regular international co-ordination mechanism on SALW and CA.

The project (#3100306) has been financed to the level of 26 per cent and

is still in need of additional financial resources.

Montenegro

By the end of 2018 the MONDEM demilitarization programme in Montenegro will be completed. MONDEM is a comprehensive demilitarization initiative focusing on the following: disposal of toxic and hazardous substances, disposal of surplus ammunition and explosives, upgrading the safety and security of stockpile storage infrastructure, and disposal of heavy weapons. In the framework of the MONDEM programme, two extrabudgetary projects (#2700240 and #2700415) have been implemented in partnership with UNDP Montenegro.

The focus of the MONDEM programme in the reporting period was to increase security of conventional ammunition storage at the Brezovik Ammunition Depot by procuring and installing upgraded perimeter fencing at the site.

The Ministry of Defence of Montenegro has already expressed interest in continuing co-operation with the OSCE in supporting the transparent disposal of surplus weapons and explosive ordnance (WEO) and the development of a sustainable life-cycle management system for WEO.

Serbia

On the basis of the justified request addressed to the OSCE in June 2011, the Capacity Development Programme for Conventional Ammunition Stockpile Management (CASM) for the Republic of Serbia was developed in a tripartite partnership between the Government of the Republic of Serbia, the OSCE and the UNDP.

The end of October 2018 saw the successful conclusion of the OSCE extrabudgetary project “Assistance to the Government of Serbia in Demilitarization of White Phosphorous Filled Ammunition and Napalm Powder” (#1101215), which had started as long ago as May 2012. The project was jointly implemented by the OSCE and the UNDP.

In the reporting period, the project focused on enhancing the safety of the demilitarization process at TRZ Kragujevac by upgrading the fire protection system (“sprinkler system”).

The Ministry of Defence of Serbia has already expressed the interest in continuing co-operation with the OSCE in the field of conventional ammunition stockpile management.

Tajikistan

In the reporting period, the OSCE has been implementing three extra-budgetary projects requested by the government of Tajikistan.

The extrabudgetary project “Improvement of SALW physical security in Tajikistan” (#5500502), which was

launched in January 2015, aims to upgrade the MoD joint SALW depots in accordance with OSCE best practices on SALW and SCA. The procurement procedure for the construction works has been completed and the contracts will be awarded by the end of December 2018. The project is planned to end in December 2019.

The project (#5500502) has been financed to the level of 47 per cent and is still in need of additional financial resources.

The extra-budgetary project “Accelerated National Humanitarian Demining Capacity Development” (#5500532), which was launched in January 2016, contributed to the demining of up to 160,000 square metres of lands on the Tajik-Afghan border contaminated with anti-personnel landmines and unexploded ordnance. It also provided support to the day-to-day management and co-ordination of humanitarian demining operations carried out by the Tajikistan National Mine Action Centre (TNMAC). The project was implemented in co-operation with the MoD and TNMAC and will be concluded at the end of December 2018.

The extrabudgetary regional project “Integrated Cooperation on Explosive Hazards Programme” (ICExH Programme, #5500426) is a multi-year regional initiative which was launched in January 2013.

In the reporting period the focus of the project was on:

- Implementation of the fourth comprehensive explosive ordnance disposal (EOD) training cycle, including demilitarization as well as first aid and casualty evacuation aspects, for a total of 76 specialists and practitioners from Afghanistan, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan and Turkmenistan;
- Construction of the “Regional Explosive Hazards Training Centre of the Ministry of Defence of the Republic of Tajikistan”, which was initiated in December 2017 and will be concluded in May 2019.

The project (#5500426) has been financed to the level of 42 per cent and is still in need of additional financial resources.

The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

A justified request addressed to the OSCE in December 2015 led to the development of the extrabudgetary project “Reduction of the Risk for Proliferation of Weapons and Ammunition in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia” (#2600896). The two-year project was started in January 2017.

In the reporting period the focus of the project was on:

- Updating construction design and equipment requirements to increase physical and IT security of SALW and ammunition stockpiles in 15 Border Police Stations and one Regional Centre for Border Affairs;

while the international construction tender is planned to be announced by the end of 2018, the start of actual construction works is planned for spring 2019;

- Developing standard operating procedures (SOPs) for SALW/SCA with the working group on SOPs, consisting of the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the OSCE representatives, commencing activities in August 2018; the adoption of the SOPs is foreseen by the end of 2018.

The project (#2600896) is fully financed; however, the project proposal is currently undergoing review in order to realign it with the actual project implementation timeline. The updated proposal will be available by the end of November 2018.

Ukraine

In the reporting period, the OSCE has been implementing five extrabudgetary projects requested by the host government.

The extra-budgetary project “Assistance to the Government of Ukraine in Clearing the Territories in the East of Ukraine from Explosive Remnants of War (ERW)” (#1101646), which was launched in March 2015, is aimed at enhancing the capacity of the State Emergency Service of Ukraine (SESU) to deal with the urgent ERW clean-up tasks in the east of Ukraine. The project has encompassed train-and-equip efforts for the relevant units, improvement of the clearance SOPs and build-

ing the capacities of the training centre. The project is planned to end in December 2018.

The extra-budgetary project “Supporting Demining of Transport Infrastructure in Ukraine” (#3200362), which was launched in November 2016, focused on upgrading Ukraine’s Ministry of Infrastructure training capacities and improving SOPs in line with international standards. Moreover, the Information Management System for Mine Action was introduced within the Ministry, and demining equipment has been modernized. The project was closed in February 2018

The extrabudgetary project “Building Ukrainian Humanitarian Mine Action Capacity” (#3200349), which was launched in April 2016, supports coordination of efforts and provides advisory support in setting up a functioning national mine action authority and a national mine action centre in Ukraine. It supports efforts to develop national mine action standards in line with best international practices and is devoted to expanding the information management system for mine action (IMSMA). Moreover, it provided training capacity support for the mine action training centres in Ukraine. The project will be in implementation until October 2020.

The project (#3200349) has been financed to the level of 71 per cent and is still in need of additional financial resources.

The extra-budgetary project “Needs Assessment for Combatting the Illicit

Trafficking in Weapons, Ammunition and Explosives In and Across Ukraine” (#1101903), which was launched in May 2015, established a baseline for providing technical assistance and institutional support to combat trafficking in weapons, ammunition and explosives (WAE) in Ukraine. Key findings, suggested actions and a proposed roadmap were presented in the need assessment report, which was published in April 2018. The report was confirmed at a high-level meeting with the relevant Government authorities in Ukraine in June 2018. The project is planned to end in December 2018.

The extra-budgetary project “Enhancing State Border Guard Service of Ukraine Capabilities in Combating Illicit Trafficking of Weapons, Ammunitions and Explosives on and across the State Border of Ukraine” (#1102023), which was launched in September 2018, focuses on enhancing training capabilities and operational capabilities to detect illicit trafficking of WAE as well as establishing a mechanism for best practices transfer and information exchange in combating illicit trafficking of WAE. The project is planned to end in August 2021.

The project (#1102023) has been financed to the level of 21 per cent and is still in need of additional financial resources.

OSCE Area

In the reporting period, the OSCE has been implementing one extra-budgetary project developed in accordance with a decision of the Vienna Ministerial Council Decision containing a tasking for the Forum for Security Co-operation in accordance with its mandate.

The extra-budgetary project “Strengthening OSCE Action against the Illicit Proliferation of Small Arms & Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA)” (#1101994), which was launched in February 2018, focuses on the establishment of a baseline for providing technical advice and institutional support to OSCE participating States to supplement the OSCE SALW/SCA normative base and improve implementation of its practical assistance projects. The project is planned to end in December 2019.

The project is financed to the level of 93 per cent and is still in need of additional financial resources.

Additionally, the OSCE Comprehensive Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition Repository Programme continued to be in place, being managed by the OSCE CPC / FSC Support Section. It serves as a Trust Fund and provides an instrument that facilitates a centralized system for management – planning, co-ordination, distribution, and control – of financial resources allocated to the OSCE SALW/SCA programmes/projects be-

ing developed and implemented by the CPC / FSC Support Section or OSCE field operations in Eastern Europe, South-Eastern Europe, the South Caucasus or Central Asia. The donor community can provide earmarked and non-earmarked financial contributions to the OSCE SALW/SCA programmes/projects via this SALW/SCA Repository Programme. In the former case, the “earmarked” financial support can be provided (pledged) to a specific programme/project (registered within the OSCE Integrated Resource Management System with the specific OSCE project number); or it can be provided (pledged) against a request for assistance made by the OSCE participating State and still being developed into specific project proposals. In the latter case, more general, “non-earmarked” contributions (pledges) can be made thematically (e.g., for a specific programmatic field within SALW/SCA work) and/or geographically (by country/region); later, their specific use is based on further donor consent or agreement. Procedural safeguards exist to ensure that any transfer of funds to or from an active project (a so-called reallocation of funds) can only be done with explicit prior agreement from the donor. Every donor may define its own procedures on further use of the pledge, with details on such matters as reporting or usage being laid down in an agreement, Memorandum of Understanding or any other legal document, signed by both the donor and the Secretary General of the OSCE.

3. Co-operation and exchange of information

Co-operation with the United Nations

In the reporting period, the OSCE was engaged in joint project implementation with the UNDP in Belarus, Montenegro and Serbia.

Exchange of information with other international groups and organizations

In the reporting period, the OSCE engaged in exchanges of information with international organizations, centre of excellences and expert platforms on OSCE project activities and on normative achievements in the area of SCA. Such co-ordination makes it possible to take stock of various SALW and SCA projects implemented by other international organizations and individual donors, identifying synergies and lessons learned and avoiding unnecessary duplication.

4. Conclusions

The OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition complements the OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons adopted in November 2000. It has provided an example of what is useful and achievable

at the regional level to enhance security, transparency and solidarity.

It continues to serve as an important framework for dealing with surpluses and stockpiles of ammunition, with a view to reducing the risk of destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled proliferation.

The assistance mechanism envisaged in the OSCE Document on SCA remains a vital tool for providing support to the OSCE participating States in the field of ammunition disposal and stockpile management.

The assistance projects have addressed security and safety risks through the destruction of surplus conventional ammunition, the disposal of rocket fuel components, the upgrading of physical infrastructure and stockpile management and security practices, and the clearance and disposal of explosive remnants of war (ERW) and landmines. These projects are among the most tangible, visible and successful endeavours in the OSCE's spectrum of operations.

Quite apart from their intrinsic value, the fact that their results are measurable and comprehensible means that they possess high public relations value and are therefore of great importance to the OSCE.