

Second day of the Twenty-Fifth Meeting
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**DECLARATION ON
OSCE EFFORTS IN THE FIELD OF NORMS AND BEST PRACTICES
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF
CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION**

1. We, the Ministers for Foreign Affairs of the participating States of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe, recognize the importance of OSCE norms and best practices aimed at combating illicit trafficking in all its aspects with regard to small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA) and their contribution to the reduction and prevention of the excessive and destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread thereof.
2. We reaffirm all OSCE commitments related to SALW and SCA, including the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA, which establish *inter alia* relevant norms and best practices.
3. We stress the importance of continuing the implementation of Ministerial Council Decision No. 10/17 on SALW and SCA.
4. We are concerned about the negative impact of illicit trafficking in SALW on our societies, noting in particular the impact on women and children.
5. We recognize the OSCE's contribution to and note 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 SALW in All Its Aspects (Programme of Action), also reviewing progress made in the implementation of its International Tracing Instrument, which took place from 18 to 29 June 2018.
6. We welcome the commencing of biennial meetings to assess the implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA in order to ensure that OSCE's SALW- and SCA-related efforts are more targeted and integral to facilitating implementation of the Programme of Action, and we welcome the conduct of the first such meeting which took place in Vienna on 2 and 3 October 2018, which served as a platform for stocktaking of existing OSCE norms and best practices, and areas for their improvement, and co-operation.
7. We appreciate the adoption of the OSCE Best Practice Guide on Minimum Standards for National Procedures for the Deactivation of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

8. We recognize the contribution of such OSCE efforts to the effective implementation of the Programme of Action, and the pursuit of relevant UN Sustainable Development Goals.
9. We acknowledge the need for the OSCE to continue to enhance its SALW- and SCA-related norms and best practices and their implementation.
10. We underline our resolve to jointly address the risks and threats by making full use of the OSCE norms and best practices.
11. We welcome the broad range of OSCE assistance in the field of SALW- and SCA-related norms and best practices and we acknowledge the valuable contributions of the recipient OSCE participating States to the successful implementation of these assistance projects. We recognize the ongoing efforts with regard to the establishment of appropriate sustainable national management processes, including the respective structures and procedures.
12. We encourage participating States, on a voluntary basis, to continue providing expertise, extrabudgetary contributions and resources to support the work within the FSC on upgrading and further developing norms and best practices on SALW and SCA.
13. We invite the OSCE Partners for Co-operation to voluntarily implement OSCE commitments on SALW and SCA.