

**981st Plenary Meeting**

FSC Journal No. 987, Agenda item 2

**DECISION No. 4/21  
UPDATED BEST PRACTICE GUIDE ON NATIONAL PROCEDURES  
FOR THE DESTRUCTION 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 National Procedures for the Destruction of Small Arms and Light Weapons, which presents examples of best practices aimed at providing information and analysis for developing policy and designing general guidelines and procedures for the destruction of SALW from the time of identification for destruction until the final disposal of scrap material (FSC.DEL/264/20/Rev.1);
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 updated Best Practice Guide replaces the Best Practice Guide on National Procedures for the Destruction of Small Arms and Light Weapons (FSC.GAL/26/03/Rev.2, 19 September 2003) welcomed by the FSC Decision No. 5/03 on the Best Practice Guides on Small Arms and Light Weapons dated 18 June 2003.

FSC.DEC/4/21

30 June 2021

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 National Procedures for the Destruction of Small Arms and Light Weapons, 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 National Procedures for the Destruction of Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Russian Federation takes the position that the implementation of this document will be of a voluntary nature.

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