

Chairmanship: Austria

996th PLENARY MEETING OF THE FORUM

1. Date: Wednesday, 15 December 2021 (in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference)

Opened: 11 a.m.
Closed: 1.35 p.m.

2. Chairperson: Ambassador F. Raunig

3. Subjects discussed – Statements – Decisions/documents adopted:

Agenda item 1: CLOSING OF THE AUSTRIAN FSC CHAIRMANSHIP:
STATEMENT BY DIETER KANDLHOFER, SECRETARY
GENERAL, FEDERAL MINISTRY OF DEFENCE,
AUSTRIA

Chairperson, Secretary General of the Federal Ministry of Defence of Austria
(FSC.DEL/453/21 OSCE+)

Agenda item 2: ADDRESS BY OSCE
SECRETARY GENERAL HELGA MARIA SCHMID

Secretary General (SEC.GAL/180/21)

Agenda item 3: GENERAL STATEMENTS

Slovenia-European Union (with the candidate countries Albania, Montenegro and North Macedonia; the European Free Trade Association countries Iceland and Liechtenstein, members of the European Economic Area; as well as Andorra, Georgia, Moldova, San Marino and Ukraine, in alignment) (FSC.DEL/440/21), Sweden (Annex 1), Germany (Annex 2), Azerbaijan (FSC.DEL/448/21 OSCE+) (FSC.DEL/449/21 OSCE+), Armenia (Annex 3), United States of America (Annex 4), Turkey (Annex 5), Switzerland (Annex 6), Canada (Annex 7), Norway (FSC.DEL/439/21), Belgium (FSC.DEL/451/21 OSCE+), Belarus (FSC.DEL/444/21 OSCE+), United

Kingdom (Annex 8), Ukraine (FSC.DEL/441/21), Poland, OSCE
Parliamentary Assembly, Russian Federation (Annex 9), Georgia

Agenda item 4: DECISION ON THE UPDATED BEST PRACTICE GUIDE
ON NATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR MANAGEMENT,
SECURITY AND DESTRUCTION OF MAN-PORTABLE
AIR DEFENCE SYSTEMS

Decision: The Forum for Security Co-operation adopted Decision No. 7/21 (FSC.DEC/7/21) on the updated Best Practice Guide on National Procedures for Management, Security and Destruction of Man-Portable Air Defence Systems, the text of the decision is appended to this journal.

Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision)

Agenda item 5: DECISION ON THE UPDATED BEST PRACTICE GUIDE
ON PROCEDURES FOR MANAGEMENT OF STOCKPILES
OF CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION

Decision: The Forum for Security Co-operation adopted Decision No. 8/21 (FSC.DEC/8/21) on the updated Best Practice Guide on Procedures for Management of Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, the text of the decision is appended to this journal.

Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision)

Agenda item 6: DECISION ON THE UPDATED BEST PRACTICE GUIDE
ON NATIONAL PROCEDURES FOR STOCKPILE
MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY OF SMALL ARMS AND
LIGHT WEAPONS

Decision: The Forum for Security Co-operation adopted Decision No. 9/21 (FSC.DEC/9/21) on the updated Best Practice Guide on National Procedures for Stockpile Management and Security of Small Arms and Light Weapons, the text of the decision is appended to this journal.

Russian Federation (interpretative statement, see attachment to the decision),
Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends on Small Arms and Light
Weapons and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (Latvia) (Annex 10)

Agenda item 7: ANY OTHER BUSINESS

- (a) *Performance of a musical composition in honour of the OSCE Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security, composed by Mr. A. Lambert: Switzerland (FSC.DEL/446/21 OSCE+), Chairperson*
- (b) *Financial contribution to the FSC e-learning course on conventional arms control and confidence- and security-building measures: Ireland*

- (c) *19th Annual Consultation on the review of the implementation of the Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in the Naval Field in the Black Sea, held on 9 December 2021: Russian Federation (Annex 11), Ukraine (FSC.DEL/442/21)*
- (d) *Handover of the Chairmanship of the Forum for Security and Co-operation: Chairperson, Azerbaijan*

4. Next meeting:

Wednesday, 19 January 2022, at 10 a.m., in the Neuer Saal and via video teleconference



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/1002
15 December 2021
Annex 1

Original: ENGLISH

996th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1002, Agenda item 3

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF SWEDEN**

Dear Secretary General Kandlhofer,
Dear Secretary General Helga Schmid,
Dear Florian,
Dear colleagues,

Sweden fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, but would in its capacity as Chairmanship state the following:

First, also from my side I would like to thank both Secretary Generals for their insightful presentations.

As Austria's Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) now comes to an end, this coincides with the final days of Sweden chairing the OSCE. Let me therefore take this opportunity to thank you for the excellent co-operation and strong engagement during the last trimester. I commend your strong efforts and important work during your Chairmanship.

The last month in the FSC was heavily influenced by the preparations ahead of the Ministerial Council meeting in Stockholm. I highly appreciate that Austria spared no efforts in the negotiations on four important texts, three in your national capacity, but also a text on the Code of Conduct and women in the armed forces together with Sweden. This was sincerely important to us and you did this with huge commitment and a clear aim to succeed.

All the texts would from our perspective have been of great added value for the OSCE and within the FSC's field of work in particular. We deeply regret that we were not able to reach consensus on any of them, despite the fact that an overwhelming majority of participating States showed courage, flexibility and a willingness to make compromises. Sometimes the process is also as important as the end result. Even if we were not able to succeed on these topics, just by discussing them in such great detail and from a variety of perspectives, I am convinced that we made important progress for future use. Let us continue to build on these efforts next year.

Mr. Chairperson,

We have during your leadership also experienced important and enlightening Security Dialogues, which have deepened our knowledge in many important areas and provided a solid foundation leading up to the Ministerial Council.

Your strong efforts on conventional arms control was one of several important topics, with a valuable review of where we come from in this respect, where we stand and what a possible way forward could be. As is well known, the discussion on, for example, the modernization of the Vienna Document very much coincides with our priorities as Chairmanship of the OSCE. We are pleased that 46 participating States supported a statement on modernization of the Vienna Document at the Ministerial Council in Stockholm.

We were very pleased and supportive that you involved the women, peace and security agenda on all the Security Dialogues. This lies at the heart of Swedish priorities and contributed to the fact that we were able to keep this important topic high on the agenda and also supported the effort to put a strong statement on the table in Stockholm.

The Security Dialogue on the Code of Conduct on 20 October was a good example in this respect, which focused on the appropriate integration of all armed forces personnel. It very well summarized a variety of aspects highlighted during the Code of Conduct event in Sweden at the beginning of October.

Mr. Chairperson,

Sweden has pursued three main priorities during our time as Chairmanship, namely to defend the European security order, to uphold the concept of comprehensive security, with a focus on the respect for fundamental rights and freedoms, including gender equality, and finally to contribute to conflict resolution in line with our commitments and principles and international law.

To support these goals, there can be no doubt that as Chairmanship of the OSCE you need the strong support of the OSCE executive structures, including the independent institutions, but also the support of participating States whose work on politico-military aspects of security in the FSC is essential.

We have had the pleasure to co-operate with supportive and constructive partners in every aspect of this work throughout the year, the last trimester with Austria being an excellent example of this, as was the case with the United States of America and Armenia prior to that.

I congratulate you, Florian, and your able team on a very successful Chairmanship and I wish you good luck for your coming endeavours. I also use this opportunity to welcome Azerbaijan as the new Chairmanship of the FSC.

Finally, since this is Sweden's last attendance in the FSC as OSCE Chairmanship, I would also in this Forum like to thank all participating States for their support and hard work for the good of our common security. It has been an incredible journey and a privilege to chair this Organization – challenging but also extremely rewarding in many respects,

especially in a time when we experience that our common security is threatened. We must continue to work together to overcome these challenges – the OSCE can only be as effective as we, the participating States, allow it to be. The mantra for our Chairmanship is as valid as ever – what we do here in Vienna concerns “Our commitments, our security and our OSCE”.

Thank you. I kindly request this statement to be attached to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/1002
15 December 2021
Annex 2

ENGLISH
Original: GERMAN

996th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 1002, Agenda item 3

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF GERMANY**

Mr. Secretary General,
Madam Secretary General, dear Helga,
Mr. Chairperson, dear Florian,
Esteemed colleagues, dear delegates,

Germany fully aligns itself with the statement by the European Union. Allow me nevertheless to supplement the EU statement with a few additional words about the conclusion of this year of activities of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC).

The purpose of the FSC is the exchange of views on pressing and important politico-military issues. It is such an exchange that turns our co-operation into something more than a zero-sum game.

The building of mutual trust through dialogue, respect and transparency; the work on full implementation of our jointly undertaken agreements; and the further enhancement of our instruments – all these make the FSC an important pillar of our collective security.

In view of this, two aspects of the United States FSC Chairmanship in the first trimester were particularly important for us. The first is that, during the Security Dialogue on modernization of the Vienna Document, we discussed, albeit not without controversy, the urgently required further development of our tools. Moreover, the holding of the ninth High-Level Military Doctrine Seminar and the 31st Annual Implementation Assessment Meeting contributed decisively to the strengthening of our common security and to the promotion of military contacts.

We also very much welcomed the fact that both under the Armenian Chairmanship and in the later course of the year the important Code of Conduct on Politico-Military Aspects of Security featured on the FSC's agenda. Germany will continue to work towards the further development and strengthening of the Code of Conduct; to that end, it will pay 60,000 euros into the repository fund in 2022, as it already has done this year.

We greatly welcomed the particular focus accorded by Austria – 25 years on from Lisbon – to one of the FSC's core pillars, namely conventional arms control, and to its future.

Unfortunately, we could not help noticing a further hardening of the tone at the FSC in the course of the year. On the one hand, this was – and still is – due to the current situation in regional conflicts, which have caused us increasing concern this year. On the other hand, the implacable attitude of individual participating States, but also their lack of willingness to compromise, has undoubtedly been a contributing factor. For example, the main annual conference in the first dimension, that is, the Annual Security Review Conference, should be able to take place on schedule as a matter of course.

When intensive negotiations on small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), military-to-military contacts, the anniversary of the Lisbon Framework for Arms Control, and the equal participation of women in the armed forces were initiated, under the leadership of our Austrian colleagues together with the Swedish OSCE Chairmanship, with a view to reaching consensus for the Ministerial Council, we unfortunately saw individual participating States raising obstacles that caused the consensus to falter despite its having seemed a real possibility. It is more than disappointing that none of the four carefully prepared draft decisions and declarations could be adopted this year.

We urge all the participating States to return to a more constructive and goal-oriented attitude in 2022. Similarly, the gender mainstreaming carried out by all the Security Dialogues should serve as a model for us next year so that we are able to jointly advance the women, peace and security agenda further at the OSCE.

We are relying in this respect on the constructive spirit and good will of the next FSC Chairmanships to work towards ensuring that we can drive the Forum forward thematically, strengthen our tools further, and achieve satisfactory results at the Ministerial Council meeting in Łódź together and on the basis of constructive co-operation.

I should here once again like to expressly thank the Spanish Chairmanship for the Structured Dialogue over the past two years. Since 2017, Germany has supported the Structured Dialogue with contributions totalling 300,000 euros. We have pledged an additional 120,000 euros for 2022 in order to, *inter alia*, strengthen the Structured Dialogue-related expertise in the OSCE Conflict Prevention Centre. We are certain that Poland as the holder of the OSCE Chairmanship next year will select an equally competent and dedicated partner to lead the Structured Dialogue so as to ensure that the exchanges in that framework, too, continue to be constructive and inclusive.

Mr. Chairperson,

In addition to the known challenges lying before us in relation to the security situation in the OSCE area, we are also faced with new challenges in Central Asia.

Since the Taliban's seizure of power in Afghanistan, the illegal proliferation of SALW and conventional ammunition – an issue with which we have occupied ourselves intensively at the FSC this year – has been posing a direct risk to neighbouring States and, beyond these, to the entire OSCE area. It is the obligation and responsibility of us all to contribute to the containment of this risk and to support the Central Asian States through

capacity-building (for their border protection agencies and ammunition storage facilities, for example), the strengthening of institutional co-operation, and information exchange.

The OSCE assistance mechanism provides an appropriate framework to that end. For the next three years, in addition to further projects in the first dimension, for which we are providing financial and technical support, Germany is therefore allocating 2 million euros to the OSCE SALW/SCA Trust Fund, which is double the amount of its contribution this year. SALW/SCA should be an important topic for all the participating States – one on which we work together constructively and without politicization so as to achieve our common goals.

In closing, allow me to thank also the Conflict Prevention Centre and the FSC Support Section – in particular, Mr. Robin Mossinkoff, who has now moved to another post in the Secretariat – for their great dedication and active support this year. We will continue to support their work next year as well.

Mr. Chairperson,

The challenges remain manifold and substantial – both in the OSCE area and within our Organization.

I should like to thank the Austrian FSC Chairmanship along with the US and Armenian Chairmanships for their excellent work this year. Accordingly, I wish the incoming Polish OSCE Chairmanship and Azerbaijan as the next holder of the FSC Chairmanship a good start and plenty of energy and optimism for the tasks related to the functions they will be exercising, so that dialogue and constructive co-operation at the Forum can attain their full potential, thereby strengthening confidence and security.

Thank you.

Mr. Chairperson, I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/1002
15 December 2021
Annex 3

Original: ENGLISH

996th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 1002, Agenda item 3

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF ARMENIA**

Mr. Chairperson,

At the outset allow me to thank Mr. Dieter Kandlhofer, Secretary General of the Federal Ministry of Defence of Austria, for his closing remarks and Secretary General Ms. Helga Maria Schmid for her statement.

The delegation of Armenia congratulates Austria on its successful Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). We commend its dedicated efforts aimed at rebuilding trust and revitalizing the spirit of co-operation through the promotion of military transparency and predictability. In this vein, we particularly appreciate the conduct of the Security Dialogues on the past, present and future of conventional arms control and note with deep regret that despite Austria's tireless efforts the adoption of the Commemorative Declaration on the Lisbon Framework for Arms Control was not possible.

Arms control and confidence- and security-building measures are essential for promoting security and stability. The failure to adopt any decision in this field is an indicator of the adverse security situation in the OSCE area, which has resulted from an open disregard for our shared commitments and a lack of consensus among the participating States on their common responsibility for addressing violations on the basis of the concept of common, equal and indivisible security. A selective approach to the implementation of our commitments, as exemplified in recent years in the field of small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition, cannot be accepted and has already undermined the Organization's effectiveness.

The delegation of Armenia has always taken a constructive stance and demonstrated flexibility, guided by the criterion of strengthening the capabilities of the OSCE. But the responsible behaviour of Armenia cannot be misused for promoting or endorsing the manipulative exercises of some participating States.

My delegation would also like to recommend certain newly appeared advocates of the full and unconditional implementation of OSCE commitments, to show, at the very least, a certain degree of integrity and not forget its malpractices, such as hijacking the whole Organization and impeding its activities with the sole purpose of hindering the co-operation of other participating States. So, in this context and taking into account the continued and

persistent violations of its politico-military commitments, one should ask whether that country is capable of leading the Forum for Security Co-operation in the months to come and indeed if it is really in a position to do so. In this respect, the coming year is set to be a major challenge for the FSC and its credibility.

Mr. Chairperson,

In his opening address Mr. Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal, Secretary General for Foreign Affairs of Austria, underlined the importance of discussing the politico-military aspects of the unresolved conflicts in the OSCE area, including military activities, arms build-up and violations of international law. Regrettably, Austria's Chairmanship has witnessed further provocative and destructive actions aimed at destabilizing the already extremely fragile security situation in the Nagorno-Karabakh conflict zone. On the line of contact with Artsakh and along the borderline with Armenia, the armed forces of Azerbaijan have continued to violate the ceasefire regime and deliberately attack civilians. As the result of these attacks three civilians have been killed. On 16 November, as a continuation of the policy of occupation of Armenian territories which began on 12 May 2021, the armed forces of Azerbaijan, using artillery and armoured vehicles, launched a large-scale attack in the eastern direction of the Armenian border and infiltrated our sovereign territory, bringing about numerous casualties on both sides. As a result of another military provocation undertaken by the armed forces of Azerbaijan on 9 and 10 December, one serviceman of the armed forces of Armenia was fatally wounded and eight others were wounded.

Mr. Chairperson,

It is against this background that Austria's Chairmanship has come to an end. We hope that the incoming and forthcoming FSC Chairmanships will be guided by Austria's forthright dedication to contributing to security and stability in the OSCE area, and that we will not encounter new provocations and irresponsible actions in the period to come.

In conclusion, since Armenia is leaving the FSC Troika, I would like to take this opportunity to thank the Swedish OSCE Chairpersonship and the US and Austrian FSC Chairmanships for their excellent co-operation throughout the year, as well as the delegations of participating States and the Secretariat for all the assistance and support provided to our Chairmanship. And of course I would also like to thank our distinguished colleague Ambassador Raunig for his professionalism, dedication and tireless efforts. Finally, we welcome Belarus as the new FSC Troika member and wish it every success.

I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/1002
15 December 2021
Annex 4

Original: ENGLISH

996th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 1002, Agenda item 3

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

It is a pleasure to welcome Ministry of Defence Secretary General Kandlhofer and Secretary General Schmid to the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). The United States would like to join others in warmly congratulating Austria on a successful FSC Chairmanship. Yours was an ambitious agenda beginning with a triumvirate of security dialogues on the past, present, and future of arms control and confidence- and security-building measures, as well as a joint meeting of the FSC and the Permanent Council on the Structured Dialogue in November. By recalling our past accomplishments, you sought to derive lessons for today's challenging security environment and chart the way forward to reinvigorate our OSCE politico-military commitments.

Foremost among those commitments was and is the Vienna Document, which we regret was not reissued at the special session in October, as one participating State again blocked consensus. We now mark a decade since its last reissuance. Yet our deliberations in this Forum continued to underscore the urgent need for substantial modernization of the Vienna Document as the critical step forward for ensuring military transparency, risk reduction and predictability. It remains our primary tool, in short, for de-escalation.

There is no greater challenge for de-escalation of tensions in Europe than the conflict in Ukraine. The Austrian Chairmanship coincided with the latest, concerning Russian military build-up in and around Ukraine, which is the source of this tension. We urge Russia to make full use of the tools at our disposal to de-escalate militarily and engage in a diplomatic resolution of this conflict. Further escalation would come at an incalculable cost with severe consequences.

Mr. Chairperson,

We also applaud Austria's leadership on tackling illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA) and are gratified to end this session with the adoption of three updated Best Practice Guides (BPGs) sponsored by the United States and United Kingdom. We would like to acknowledge the work of the Informal Group of Friends co-ordinator and the Conflict Prevention Centre in co-ordinating

the BPG process. Our collaborative work on BPGs should serve as a model for other aspects of the FSC's work.

From start to finish during your Chairmanship, Austria held true to its commitment to mainstream gender in all aspects of the FSC's work. In every security dialogue on every topic, from SALW to the Code of Conduct, you ably demonstrated that the full, equal, and meaningful participation of women is indispensable to the execution of the FSC's mandate and the core work of this Forum.

Mr. Chairperson,

We know that you would have preferred to promote our work in these key areas through the adoption of Ministerial Council texts on the Framework for Arms Control, periodic military dialogues, SALW, and women in the armed forces. We also would have preferred to achieve consensus on these important texts, and as we noted last week, your extraordinary team spared no effort in trying. Those efforts advanced our collective agenda despite the lack of consensus, as we saw with the joint statements on Vienna Document modernization, SALW, and women, peace and security.

Austria gets an "A" for its agenda as well as for effort. We sincerely thank you for your commitment to, and stewardship of, this Forum over the last trimester. We look forward to Azerbaijan's Chairmanship in the new year, and we wish Armenia well as it leaves the Troika.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. Please attach this statement to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/1002
15 December 2021
Annex 5

Original: ENGLISH

996th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1002, Agenda item 3

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF TURKEY**

Mr. Chairperson,

Firstly, I would like to thank Mr. Dieter Kandlhofer, Secretary General of the Federal Ministry of Defence of Austria, for his comprehensive closing statement.

I also congratulate Ambassador Raunig and his able team on a successful Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) Chairmanship.

Despite the difficulties posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Austria governed the FSC meticulously. Our dialogue was kept alive and vivid.

I also wish to emphasize the role played by the Conflict Prevention Centre and in particular by its FSC Support Section in ensuring the success of FSC Chairmanships through the years.

We also thank the Swedish OSCE Chairmanship for their excellent collaboration.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Austrian Chairmanship designed a balanced and relevant agenda that included both current and prospective issues.

The participating States found ample opportunity for a comprehensive exchange of views throughout the Security Dialogue sessions.

Austria's focus on the ongoing initiatives in the field of small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition was highly important. In this regard, the demonstration activity was particularly noteworthy.

We also engaged in a broad discussion of the OSCE Framework for Arms Control spread over three consecutive sessions.

The session on military-to-military contacts on doctrines was also fruitful.

We believe that the discussions during these sessions generated important added value on the matters we elaborate in the FSC field.

Turkey, for its part, engaged actively and constructively in all these sessions.

Mr. Chairperson,

On the other hand, we regret that despite all the valuable efforts of the Austrian Chairmanship we did not reach consensus within the FSC on the draft decisions for the Stockholm Ministerial Council.

We have to admit that for two years in succession we have not been able to adopt an agreed FSC text for the Ministerial Council. This is a disturbing reality.

As has always been the case in the past, Turkey will continue to actively and constructively contribute to next year's negotiations.

Mr. Chairperson,

We look forward to co-operating with the incoming Azerbaijani Chairmanship.

I wish Ambassador Sadigbayli and his team every success. The delegation of Azerbaijan can count on our full support.

I would also like to welcome Belarus to the FSC Troika.

We thank you once again, Mr. Chairperson, for all your efforts.

I kindly ask that my statement be attached to the journal of the day.

Thank you.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/1002
15 December 2021
Annex 6

ENGLISH
Original: GERMAN

996th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 1002, Agenda item 3

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF SWITZERLAND**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson, dear Florian,
Esteemed colleagues,

Switzerland warmly welcomes Mr. Dieter Kandlhofer, Secretary General of the Federal Ministry of Defence, and Ms. Helga Schmid, Secretary General of the OSCE. We thank them both for their valuable observations.

The Austrian Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) and the year 2021 are already drawing to a close. The Swiss delegation would like to express its sincere gratitude to you and your team for the excellent leadership of the FSC in these truly difficult and challenging times.

In the Chairmanship's opening statement, your Secretary-General for Foreign Affairs, Ambassador Peter Launsky-Tieffenthal, reminded us of the high standards to which we should hold ourselves. I quote:

“There is a need once again to make predictability, a solution-based approach and confidence-building the focus of our actions and considerations, as fundamental elements of effective co-operation.”

However, it is once again clear after this year's negotiations that the conditions for this are not currently in place. So how can we create these conditions?

Through dialogue.

As our Organization's host State and in your role as the FSC Chairmanship over the past few months, you have, in our view, made a substantial contribution to maintaining this dialogue. This dialogue must continue to be held on the basis of co-operation, transparency and mutual understanding.

In times of insecurity and growing tension between States, it is our task to offer, if not solutions, then at least a space or platform to maintain dialogue and facilitate mediation. It is our belief that Austria has once again lived up to its role as a bridge-builder.

Mr. Chairperson,

The Security Dialogues organized by the Austrian Chairmanship were intended to focus in particular on the basic building blocks and actual *raison d'être* of the FSC – a welcome decision from our point of view. The three sessions concerning the Framework for Arms Control reminded us of the important role and the unique success story of conventional arms control as regards European security. As is so often the case: “You can’t really know where you are going until you know where you have been.” In this respect, the interesting side event held on the Kahlenberg and the accompanying publication “Framework of Arms Control” have, in our view, served their purpose by presenting new perspectives, proposing new approaches and stimulating discussions.

Both Switzerland and Austria treat small arms and light weapons, the storage of ammunition stockpiles and the assistance mechanism as priorities. For this reason, we welcome the decision to give these topics a prominent place in the Chairmanship programme.

The discussions on military-to-military contacts on doctrines, with Switzerland participating in the panel, and the negotiation of a decision on this topic have once again highlighted the tensions that currently plague the OSCE area. We regret the failure to reach agreement on a Ministerial Council decision, as Switzerland continues to believe that exchanges between high-ranking armed forces personnel offer tangible added value to intergovernmental dialogue.

Switzerland also welcomes the Chairmanship’s decision to include the implementation of the women, peace and security agenda as a cross-cutting principle in all FSC debates. No FSC Chairmanship has ever addressed so systematically the issue of the full, equal and meaningful participation of women. Austria has done pioneering work here, so to speak.

In this context, my delegation would like once again to expressly thank the Swedish OSCE Chairmanship for having organized an informative Code of Conduct seminar in Stockholm at the end of September on the integration of women in the armed forces.

As already noted last week, Switzerland deeply regrets that it was not possible to adopt any of the draft decisions or declarations. All four texts were relevant from a normative as well as an operational point of view. Just as you had wished in your role as FSC Chairmanship, we believe that most participating States contributed actively and constructively. However, the unwillingness of the parties to compromise on a few fundamental issues resulted in failure. Nevertheless, there was a real dialogue and that is an encouraging sign.

Mr. Chairperson,

Decisions are made about the future of security and peace in Europe at every level of the political and security structure of our States. Our level, that of the delegations of the

57 participating States in Vienna, has an important task in that regard. People can hold different opinions. It is important, however, to have an open exchange of views, to convey an objective and realistic picture of events to our capitals, but also to win our governments over to supporting workable compromise solutions.

The year 2022 is already shaping up to be a challenging period for the FSC and for the future of security and stability in Europe. To this end – as Switzerland also emphasized last year in the same place – we must focus on our common interests, on the basis of our shared commitments and principles.

Mr. Chairperson,

The dynamism and commitment shown by your FSC Chairmanship team over the past weeks and months have been truly remarkable and should be a source of inspiration for the incoming Chairmanships and for all of us as well.

The Swiss delegation would like to bid farewell to Armenia as it leaves the Troika, and looks forward to working with the incoming 2022 FSC Chairmanships, Azerbaijan, Belarus and Belgium, and with the Polish 2022 OSCE Chairmanship. We assure you all of our utmost support.

Thank you for your attention.

I request that this statement be attached to the FSC journal of the day. Thank you.



996th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1002, Agenda item 3

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF CANADA**

Mr. Chairperson,

Canada would like to thank you and your entire team at the Austrian delegation for their efforts during your term as Chairperson of the Forum for Security Co-operation. We genuinely appreciate the value placed on progressing topics that enjoy the support of a large number of participating States and clearly have a prominent place in our work. We regret that reaching consensus was not possible despite the tremendous effort exerted by the Chairmanship's team and a clear willingness to compromise from the majority of participating States. We know that your team made every possible effort to seek common ground and we hope that the progress made this year can be further advanced in the year to come.

Canada remains deeply concerned about Russia's destabilizing and escalatory build-up of troops and equipment along its border with Ukraine and in the temporarily occupied Crimean peninsula. We continue to closely monitor this situation and reiterate the value of our shared OSCE tools in the lowering of tensions, a critical first step in de-escalation; it is disappointing that Russia still refuses to address the justified concerns of neighbouring States and others in the region through honest engagement with OSCE transparency mechanisms.

Instead, Russia continues to deploy a narrative of increasingly belligerent and ominous rhetoric, to obfuscate and to actively seek to stoke tensions, in a thinly veiled attempt to intimidate its neighbours and reassert a sphere of influence. We will continue every effort to deter Russian aggression and call on Russia to defuse this dangerous situation.

Mr. Chairperson,

In this time of heightened tensions, it is ever more apparent that our confidence- and security-building measures toolbox, in particular the Vienna Document, needs to be modernized to ensure it effectively provides the necessary transparency required to reduce risks and de-escalate tensions. We were pleased to see strong support for the joint declaration on the Vienna Document, 46 participating States this year, and believe that depoliticizing this dialogue could be of great value to us all and serve as a key first step in de-escalation of tensions.

Now is not the time for “new arms control” regimes, as stability within the current paradigm remains a prerequisite for any future developments.

Mr. Chairperson,

United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 and the women, peace and security agenda are cornerstones of Canada’s feminist foreign policy and we greatly appreciated the Austrian Chairmanship’s efforts to implement gender mainstreaming throughout the semester. The need for the full, equal and meaningful participation of women, at all levels and in all aspects within peace processes figured prominently in each of the various security dialogues, and this was reflected in the four Forum for Security Co-operation draft texts. We believe that the appropriate gender elements within the various texts served to enhance the quality of the output and better reflect the reality of the world we live in.

We were proud to be supporters of the strong joint statement on women, peace and security at this year’s Ministerial Council, and think that the broad support it has across participating States warrants its continued prominent inclusion in future agendas of the Forum for Security Co-operation.

Mr. Chairperson,

Canada notes with concern the ongoing restrictions to the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM)’s freedom of movement, in particular in the non-government-controlled area, and continual interference with its technical assets. The SMM requires full and unimpeded access throughout the entirety of the territory of Ukraine, including the temporarily occupied Crimean peninsula. We reiterate our call on the Russian Federation to use the undeniable influence it has over the armed formations it equips, trains and fights alongside to cease their obstruction of SMM patrols and their blatant interference with its technical assets.

We continue to regard the Russian Federation’s instigation of armed conflict in Donbas and its ongoing illegal militarization of the temporarily occupied Crimean peninsula and the city of Sevastopol as violations of its Helsinki commitments, international law, and our shared OSCE principles and commitments.

Canada remains unwavering in its support for Ukraine’s sovereignty and its territorial integrity, including its navigational rights in its territorial waters and continues to condemn Russia’s violation of Ukrainian sovereignty.

In conclusion, let me once again thank the Chairmanship of Austria for their efforts this past semester and take this opportunity to assure the incoming Chairmanship of Azerbaijan that Canada looks forward to the opportunity to be an active, positive and meaningful contributor to the dialogue.

Thank you.



996th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 1002, Agenda item 3

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE UNITED KINGDOM**

I would like to begin by thanking you, Mr. Chairperson, and your able team for your stewardship of the Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC) this trimester. In addition to the usual rigours of chairing the FSC through the Ministerial Council, you have also had to navigate the additional challenges posed by COVID-19.

The United Kingdom welcomes the fact that you made the Framework for Arms Control, military-to-military contacts and small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition the main themes of your FSC Chairmanship this trimester, including by presenting texts on all three for the Stockholm Ministerial Council. We also welcome your commitment to mainstreaming gender throughout the work of the FSC, and for working with the Swedish Chairmanship to table a text intended to promote the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the armed forces. At last week's FSC, we joined you and many other participating States in expressing both our disappointment that it was not possible to reach consensus on any of these four issues, and our hope that it would be possible to build on your work to make meaningful progress against all those agendas next year. I echo the United States of America's hope that the three best practice guides on small arms and light weapons and stockpiles of conventional ammunition will be adopted later today.

Mr. Chairperson, enhancing security in the OSCE area begins with the restoration of respect for the fundamental principles enshrined in the Helsinki Final Act and Paris Charter, and full implementation, in letter and spirit, of our existing politico-military instruments. And it continues with ensuring those instruments are fit for current purpose. Modernization of the Vienna Document, an urgent priority acknowledged by 46 participating States at the Stockholm Ministerial Council, could help to increase reciprocal military transparency, and reduce military risk to the benefit of all participating States. As we have said many times, we do not need to reinvent the wheel. Rather we need political will from all participating States to make best use of OSCE platforms, particularly the FSC, and the instruments we already have at our disposal.

Russia's blatant violation of OSCE principles and commitments, through its ongoing aggression against Ukraine, and its illegal annexation of Crimea, has rightly remained at the forefront of our discussions at the FSC this trimester.

The United Kingdom remains increasingly concerned at Russia's pattern of military build-ups on Ukraine's border and in illegally annexed Crimea. Russian military activity near Ukraine heightens tensions, with implications for the security of the Euro-Atlantic area. These tensions and the lack of transparency from Russia to date have raised the risk of miscalculation.

This situation demonstrates the vital importance of safe, secure and unimpeded access for the Special Monitoring Mission to Ukraine (SMM) so that it can provide its impartial, facts-based reporting in accordance with its mandate. We therefore repeat our call on Russia to use its influence over the armed formations it backs to bring an end to the systematic restrictions on SMM patrols and technical assets in areas held by those armed formations.

Mr. Chairperson, we continue to fully support Ukraine's sovereignty and territorial integrity. Russia's lack of transparency over its military build-up heightens tensions in the region and degrades trust. This threatening behaviour is unacceptable. And the United Kingdom is closely monitoring events on the ground with our partners and Allies. We are very clear: any action by Russia, including military incursion, to undermine freedom and democracy in Ukraine, would be a strategic mistake, incur high cost and have catastrophic consequences. It is critical that we avoid miscalculation. We urge Russia again to use the OSCE processes and mechanisms available to provide the necessary transparency over its activities and to de-escalate the situation immediately.

Mr. Chairperson, this past year has demonstrated that the work of the FSC remains relevant and important. The United Kingdom looks forward to working with the incoming Azerbaijani Chairmanship of the FSC in the first trimester of 2022.

I would like to end by thanking Austria again for its Chairmanship of the Forum for Security Co-operation this trimester.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/1002
15 December 2021
Annex 9

ENGLISH
Original: RUSSIAN

996th Plenary Meeting
FSC Journal No. 1002, Agenda item 3

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,
Ambassador Raunig,

Allow us, too, to warmly congratulate the delegation of Austria on the successful conclusion of its Chairmanship of the OSCE Forum for Security Co-operation (FSC). We welcome His Excellency Mr. Dieter Kandlhofer, Secretary General of the Federal Ministry of Defence of Austria, and Her Excellency Ms. Helga Schmid, Secretary General of the OSCE, and thank them for their comprehensive summaries of the latest round of negotiations at the FSC.

The tenure of the Austrian Chairmanship coincided with an extremely difficult period in the FSC's history. There are increasingly clear signs of a weakening of the conceptual foundations of pan-European security. The proclaimed principles regarding its indivisibility and interdependence, and likewise the principle of refraining from strengthening one's own security to the detriment of other States' interests, are not being duly reflected in political practice. An escalation of disagreements is taking place, not least as a result of attempts to use the Forum to advance the narrow interests of individual States and associations of States. The situation in Europe is highly complex and associated with heightened risks of destabilization.

In these circumstances a frank conversation on the politico-military aspects of security acquires particular significance and relevance. In line with that approach, our Austrian colleagues focused the work of our autonomous decision-making body on the topics of conventional arms control, the prevention of illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons (SALW) and stockpiles of conventional ammunition (SCA), and the development of military contacts in the OSCE area. We note the high level of organization of the Meeting to Review the Implementation of OSCE Assistance Projects in the Field of SALW and SCA, and likewise of the event for researchers and practitioners that was devoted to the Lisbon Framework for Arms Control. We regret that insurmountable differences among the participating States have prevented, for the second year in a row, consensus from being reached on the draft politico-military documents for the OSCE Ministerial Council meeting. We greatly appreciate and pay tribute to the efforts of the Austrian Chairmanship team, which deployed all resources to work out compromise wording.

Mr. Chairperson,

It would be no exaggeration to say that the state of affairs at the FSC in many ways mirrors the worrying situation with regard to European security. For decades, the NATO countries have been ignoring fundamental concerns and objections of the Russian Federation and refusing to acknowledge that our country has its own legitimate interests on the international stage, and that it is interested in finding a sound balance, rather than joining the ranks, so to speak, of its Western counterparts.

Stopping NATO from moving closer to the Russian Federation's borders was one of the commitments undertaken by the Alliance in the 1990s. In the intervening period, we have already become accustomed to the way in which the NATO partners, having signed up to many documents, including the NATO-Russia Founding Act of 1997 and the Charter for European Security of 1999, proceeded to systematically ignore them. And when we proposed that the OSCE cornerstone principle of the indivisibility of security be reaffirmed, they avoided responding. That is what happened in 2009, when we put forward a draft treaty on European security.

It is also worth recalling that the North Atlantic Alliance has for years been refusing to consider our initiatives for de-escalation and the reduction of military risks in Europe. For example, at a meeting of the NATO-Russia Council in July 2016, representatives of the Russian Ministry of Defence proposed a number of steps aimed at building trust and enhancing aviation safety in the Baltic. In September 2017, the Chief of the General Staff of the Armed Forces of the Russian Federation, Valery Gerasimov, forwarded to the Chairman of the NATO Military Committee, Petr Pavel, some measures for resuming co-operation with the Alliance in the military sphere. At a meeting of the NATO-Russia Council in May 2018, specific proposals were submitted by the Russian Ministry of Defence for the de-escalation of military tensions. In July 2019, we put forward additional measures in this field. In May 2020, in view of the COVID-19 pandemic, Russia presented a proposal on observing military restraint.

Despite all the efforts undertaken, we have yet to see any response from the NATO countries signalling their willingness to co-operate. This lack of a response invites an obvious conclusion, namely that they have malicious plans vis-à-vis the Russian Federation.

The politico-military practice of the Western countries confirms that they are seeking to destabilize the situation in Russian border areas. Every year, around forty major NATO military exercises are conducted in the immediate vicinity of our borders. After the conclusion of the large-scale "Defender Europe 2021" exercise, in which non-NATO countries were also involved, significant contingents of troops were restationed on the "eastern flank". The exercise has been completed, yet part of the United States equipment has to this day not been withdrawn from Europe.

We are carefully monitoring the constant movement of NATO infrastructure and various types of weapons ever closer to Russia's borders. For us it is evident that the bloc's policy of "swallowing" Ukraine and Georgia will lead to systems of strike missiles with a very short flight time to Central Russia turning up there. This irresponsible behaviour is posing unacceptable threats to our country's national security and stoking significant military risks for all parties.

The ongoing military support for Ukraine – including arms deliveries, the deployment of instructors, joint military manoeuvres with NATO countries and the establishment of a European Union military training mission – not only does not facilitate a peaceful settlement of the conflict but is also inciting the Ukrainian Government to try to resolve it by force. That is categorically unacceptable and contradicts the Minsk agreements, which are the sole possible legal framework for an internal Ukrainian settlement.

To verify the extent to which our Western colleagues are prepared to establish normal relations with Russia, specific actions are required. As President Putin stated, we shall be insisting on the development of substantive legal guarantees – based on the principle of equal and indivisible security – that rule out NATO’s further eastward expansion and the deployment on Russia’s western borders of weapon systems that pose a threat to us. We also insist on receiving a specific response from the Alliance to the proposals put forward by us for de-escalating the situation in Europe, including moving the areas of operational exercises away from the Russia-NATO line of contact, resuming regular military contacts, and agreeing on a minimum approach distance between warships and combat aircraft so as to prevent dangerous incidents in the Baltic Sea and Black Sea.

As in the human community, so it is the case that in inter-State relations the freedom of one ends where it encroaches on the freedom of another. We will not put up with attempts to “test” our security. We advocate the setting out of well-defined boundaries of responsible behaviour and clear rules of play. If the United States of America and NATO do not react to Russia’s demand for security guarantees, our response will not be long in coming. We do not rule out a new spiral of confrontation in Europe.

Mr. Chairperson,

The time has come to attend to the truly important issues of European security. Resolving them will make it possible to pave the way towards modernization of the Vienna Document 2011, as our Western partners insistently call for (we hope that they realize that, in the present circumstances, there is no place for discussions on “gender” or climate at the FSC). The Structured Dialogue on challenges to security launched at the Ministerial Council meeting in Hamburg in 2016 can also contribute to creating the necessary conditions for the normalization of the politico-military situation in the Euro-Atlantic area.

In closing, allow me once again to express my sincere gratitude to all members of the Austrian Chairmanship team for their professionalism and diplomatic expertise and for their efforts to return our negotiating platform to its relevant politico-military origins.

We warmly welcome Azerbaijan as the next Chairmanship of the Forum and wish it great success in this highly responsible function.

We are most grateful to Armenia, which is leaving the Troika, and welcome Belarus as the new member of the Troika.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I request that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



996th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1002, Agenda item 6

**STATEMENT BY
THE CHAIRPERSON OF THE INFORMAL GROUP OF FRIENDS ON
SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILES OF
CONVENTIONAL AMMUNITION (LATVIA)**

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson.

Dear colleagues,

In my capacity as Chairperson of the Informal Group of Friends (IGoF) on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (SCA), I should like to express my greatest pleasure at the adoption of the decisions on the three updated best practice guides (BPGs), namely:

- BPG on National Procedures for Management, Security and Destruction of Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS);
- BPG on Procedures for Management of Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition;
- BPG on National Procedures for Stockpile Management and Security of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

I would like to thank all the participating States who were involved in and supported the updating of these BPGs. First of all, I would like to commend the United States of America and the United Kingdom for their leading role, and Germany, the Russian Federation, Spain, Switzerland for contributing with expertise. The OSCE field offices in Dushanbe, Skopje, Serbia, and Bosnia and Herzegovina also contributed to this process by providing input and recommendations based on experiences and lessons learned from practical implementation of OSCE assistance projects.

With regard to the importance of these and other BPGs, I as Chairperson of the IGoF on SALW and SCA would like to reiterate that the BPGs on SALW and conventional ammunition, although not binding in nature, are endorsed and generally accepted by all 57 OSCE participating States and provide a common understanding of the relevant approaches, procedures and terminology. They are not intended to be prescriptive or to provide a “one size fits all” solution. Rather, they aim to present flexible and effective measures that can be

tailored to the unique circumstances of each project in the implementation of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA.

I invite the OSCE participating States and the Partners for Co-operation to use the BPGs as a source of guidance for national policymaking.

Dear colleagues,

This year the Forum for Security Co-operation has adopted four updates of OSCE best practice guides on SALW and conventional ammunition. I am very pleased to note that work on updating the OSCE BPGs on SALW and conventional ammunition continues apace. In total, the updates of five out of the seventeen BPGs have been adopted, and an additional four BPGs are in various stages of the review process. At the most recent meeting of the IGoF on SALW and SCA on 9 December 2021, the participating States expressed their willingness to take a lead in reviewing the remaining BPGs. In addition to the updating of the OSCE BPGs on SALW and conventional ammunition, participating States are also engaged in the development of the new OSCE BPGs and initiatives such as the reference guide on combating illicit trafficking of SALW and conventional ammunition in the OSCE area, which is aimed at facilitating the implementation and further operationalization of the OSCE Documents on SALW and SCA. I wish to commend the work of the participating States actively involved in the update process for the existing OSCE BPGs on SALW and conventional ammunition or in developing the new ones, and invite others to join in these efforts.

I look very much forward to another fruitful year in the SALW and SCA normative area.

Thank you for your attention. I kindly ask that this statement be attached to the journal of the day.



**Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
Forum for Security Co-operation**

FSC.JOUR/1002
15 December 2021
Annex 11

Original: ENGLISH

996th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1002, Agenda item 7(c)

**STATEMENT BY
THE DELEGATION OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION**

Mr. Chairperson,

In accordance with the provisions of the Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in the Naval Field in the Black Sea, the Participating States – Bulgaria, Georgia, Romania, the Russian Federation, Turkey and Ukraine – held the 19th annual consultations on the review of the implementation of the Document on 9 December 2021. The meeting took place via video teleconference under the Chairmanship of the Russian Federation.

The Participating States reviewed the implementation of the Document in the course of 2021 and concluded that it remained on the same level as in the previous year, focusing mainly on information exchange.

The Participating States to the Document acknowledged that the situation in the Black Sea region remains volatile and that serious challenges to security and stability persist. Despite the different assessments as to the causes of the destabilization of regional security, there was a common understanding that the Document has relevance as an important instrument for enhancing confidence- and security-building in the Black Sea.

On the eve of the 20th anniversary of the approval of the Document on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures in the Naval Field in the Black Sea, the Participating States expressed their willingness to continue its implementation and discussed the calendar of events for 2022.

Pursuant to the provisions of the Document, Turkey will assume the next Chairmanship in 2022.

We wish our Turkish colleagues every success.

Thank you, Mr. Chairperson. I would like to ask you to attach this statement to the journal of today's plenary meeting.

996th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1002, Agenda item 4

DECISION No. 7/21
UPDATED BEST PRACTICE GUIDE ON NATIONAL PROCEDURES
FOR MANAGEMENT, SECURITY AND DESTRUCTION OF
MAN-PORTABLE AIR DEFENCE SYSTEMS

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 United Nations 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, which took place in New York from 26 to 30 July 2021,

Acknowledging that the updated best practice guide could also serve as a guide for national policymaking 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 strengthen procedures for management, security and destruction of man-portable air defence systems,

Taking into account the following FSC decisions:

- FSC Decision No. 7/03 which recognized that MANPADS should be given special attention and urged participating States to propose projects for tackling MANPADS-related problems including, *inter alia*, stockpile security and management,
- FSC Decision No. 3/04 which recognized the threat posed by the unauthorized proliferation and use of MANPADS, adopted measures to enhance the effective export control of MANPADS in the OSCE area and made specific reference to

assessment of the recipient government's physical security arrangements for MANPADS,

Decides to:

1. Welcome, giving it its full title, the updated Best Practice Guide on National Procedures for Management, Security and Destruction of Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS), which provides best practice guidance on weapons and ammunition management for MANPADS (FSC.DEL/262/20/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 Eighth 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. 3/06 on Annex C: Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS) dated 29 March 2006.

FSC.DEC/7/21
15 December 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 decision adopted today on the updated Best Practice Guide on National Procedures for Management, Security and Destruction of Man-Portable Air Defence Systems, the delegation of the Russian Federation deems 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 Management, Security and Destruction of Man-Portable Air Defence Systems, the Russian Federation proceeds on the basis that the implementation of this document will be of a voluntary nature.

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

996th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1002, Agenda item 5

**DECISION No. 8/21
UPDATED BEST PRACTICE GUIDE ON PROCEDURES FOR
MANAGEMENT OF STOCKPILES OF CONVENTIONAL
AMMUNITION**

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 United Nations 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, which took place in New York from 26 to 30 July 2021,

Acknowledging that the updated best practice guide could also serve as a guide for national policymaking 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 establish procedures for management of stockpiles of conventional ammunition,

Decides to:

1. Welcome, giving it its full title, the updated Best Practice Guide on Procedures for Management of Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, which provides recommended best practices that will facilitate and enhance proper management of national stockpiles of conventional ammunition, explosive material and detonating devices (FSC.DEL/263/20/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 Eighth 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 Procedures for Management of Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (FSC.DEL/187/05/Rev3, 14 July 2006) welcomed by the FSC Decision No. 6/08 on the Handbook of Best Practices on Conventional Ammunition dated 18 June 2003.

FSC.DEC/8/21
15 December 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 decision adopted today on the updated Best Practice Guide on Procedures for Management of Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, the delegation of the Russian Federation deems 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 Procedures for Management of Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition, the Russian Federation proceeds on the basis that the implementation of this document will be of a voluntary nature.

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

996th Plenary Meeting

FSC Journal No. 1002, Agenda item 6

**DECISION No. 9/21
UPDATED BEST PRACTICE GUIDE ON NATIONAL PROCEDURES
FOR STOCKPILE MANAGEMENT AND SECURITY 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 United Nations 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, which took place in New York from 26 to 30 July 2021,

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 address SALW stockpile management and security issues,

Decides to:

1. Welcome, giving it its full title, the updated Best Practice Guide on National Procedures for Stockpile Management and Security of Small Arms and Light Weapons, which provides guidance for the effective management and security of national SALW stockpiles (FSC.DEL/363/21);
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 United Nations Eighth 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 Stockpile Management and Security (FSC.GAL/14/03/Rev.2, dated 19 September 2003) developed based on FSC Decision No. 5/03 on the Best Practice Guide on Small Arms and Light Weapons dated 18 June 2003.

FSC.DEC/9/21
15 December 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 decision adopted today on the updated Best Practice Guide on National Procedures for Stockpile Management and Security of Small Arms and Light Weapons, the delegation of the Russian Federation deems 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 Stockpile Management and Security of Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Russian Federation proceeds on the basis that the implementation of this document will be of a voluntary nature.

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