

Best Practices for Export Controls / Disposal of Surplus or Demilitarised Military Equipment

(Agreed at the WA Plenary, 1 December 2000* and amended at the 2019 Plenary)

Participating States of the Wassenaar Arrangement,

Having regard to the "Initial Elements" of the Wassenaar Arrangement; and in particular the objectives of:

- (i) greater responsibility in transfers of conventional arms;
- (ii) the prevention of destabilising accumulations of such arms; and
- (iii) the need to prevent the acquisition of conventional arms by terrorists groups and organisations, as well as by individual terrorists;

Bearing in mind the "Best Practice Guidelines for Exports of Small Arms and Light Weapons" as adopted by the 2002 Plenary Meeting and amended at the 2007 Plenary Meeting, the "Elements for Export Controls of Man-Portable Air Defence Systems (MANPADS)" as adopted at the 2000 Plenary Meeting and amended by the 2003 and 2007 Plenary Meetings, the "Best Practice Guidelines on Subsequent Transfer (Re-Export) Controls for Conventional Weapons Systems contained in Appendix 3 to the WA Initial Elements" as agreed at the 2011 Plenary Meeting;

Recognising international commitments such as the 2001 "UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All its Aspects (UNPOA)", and, where appropriate, the relevant provisions of the 2000 OSCE Document and other regional initiatives that Participating States are party to;

Affirming that the export of surplus/demilitarised military equipment shall be evaluated carefully against the Wassenaar Arrangement Initial Elements and the "Elements for Objective Analysis and Advice concerning Potentially Destabilising Accumulations of Conventional Weapons" and any subsequent amendments thereto;

Have agreed to the following Best Practices:

- To subject items of surplus military equipment (including small arms and light weapons), i.e., items designed for military use but no longer needed, to the same export controls as new equipment.
- To ensure that safeguards are in place to prevent illicit resale and export of items of surplus military equipment sold or otherwise transferred domestically.
- To ensure that physical security measures and inventory controls are sufficient to prevent theft/diversion of items in storage.
- To subject previously demilitarised military equipment capable of being re-militarised to stringent export controls, comparable or identical to those controls applied to new military equipment.
- To apply the "Best Practices for Effective Enforcement", including preventive enforcement, investigation, effective penalties, and international cooperation, to ensure effective control of surplus/demilitarised military equipment.

* Best Practices for disposal of surplus/demilitarised military equipment