



PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

Preamble

Underscoring the urgent need to take appropriate measures, on national, regional, and global levels, to prevent and eradicate the uncontrolled and excessive proliferation of small arms and light weapons;

Stressing the firm commitment to unite parliamentarians, national and, in certain cases, supranational parliaments, for the referred stated purposes;

Recalling that the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons, was established as an institution in Madrid in 2002 after an initiative of the Parliaments of Spain, Sweden and Central America, and with support from the Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation; and

Reaffirming that the principal task of the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons, to create a political culture of disarmament, is a joint parliamentary endeavour between and within all nations and societies;

The Representatives at the Third Annual Meeting of Representatives of the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons, held in Mexico City, adopted, on October 21st 2005, the following

STATUTES

Article 1: Objective

Stemming from the conviction that establishing a culture of peace and assuring human security are tasks that require prompt attention, the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons (hereinafter the Forum), has as objective to further, channel and concert the parliamentary action regarding disarmament and the prevention of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in all our societies.

Article 2: Sphere of activities

With the aim of strengthening the role of parliamentarians and the parliamentary work to impede the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and favour a culture of disarmament, the Forum shall realize the following activities in that area:

- parliamentary capacity-building;
- awareness-raising and sensibilization;
- production, compilation and diffusion of information material from a parliamentary perspective, among others, diffuse the results obtained in countries with Forum members;
- accompaniment of and support to co-ordination and harmonization of initiatives, *inter alia* regarding legislation aspects;
- coverage and recommendation of ratification, implementation and adoption of international instruments, as well as of new instruments related to the previously mentioned objectives; and
- accompaniment and strengthening of the inter-institutional dialogue between parliaments, civil society, governments, authorities, and international institutions and organs.

Article 3: Membership

The Forum is composed of:

- regular Members, which are divided into institutional, for Parliaments, and individual, for parliamentarians; and
- affiliate members, in which are counted parliamentary organizations and institutions – such as parliamentary associations and inter-parliamentary organizations and co-operations – as well as non-governmental organizations and other associations working in the same area as the Forum.

Membership in the Forum is acquired at the Assembly or at the Regional Meetings.

The Forum may invite as observers to its meetings, those persons and institutions whose participation it deems convenient.

Article 4: Organs

The organs of the Forum are the Assembly, the Regional Meetings, the Board and the Secretariat.

1. The Assembly is the highest organ of the Forum. It is constituted by the regular Members, presided by the Presidency of the Forum and the Parliament of the host country, adopts its decisions by acclamation, and is celebrated biyearly. The additional Members and duly designated Observers, may attend the Assembly. The Assembly is convened by the Board.

Regional Meetings may be held for the purposes of defining and implementing the regional work of the Forum. The Regional Meetings are convened by the Board.

2. The Board is the general organ for the direction of the Forum. The Board is entrusted to implement the agreements adopted by the Assembly and to fulfill those other tasks that the present Statutes indicate. The Board is composed by a President, a Vice-President and regular members, may have a minimum of five and maximum of nine members, elected by the Assembly between the members of the Forum for a term of two years; the Assembly will likewise elect the Presidency and Vice-Presidency of the Board for the same period. By-elections may be held to cover vacancies in the Board.

3. The Secretariat is the administrative organ of the Forum. The Secretariat is entrusted to implement the decisions adopted by the Board, including technical assistance to the members, and to fulfill those other tasks that the present Statutes indicate. The Secretariat is appointed by the Board.

Article 5: Miscellaneous

The Board may convene an Extraordinary Assembly, if it deems appropriate, which will follow the same norms as the ordinary Assembly.

The Forum is of indefinite duration and may only be dissolved by an Assembly, Annual or Extraordinary.

The provisions in the present Statutes may only be altered by an Assembly, Annual or Extraordinary.