



PARLIAMENTARY FORUM
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

TARGETING SMALL ARMS
Building more peaceful, inclusive societies by
overcoming obstacles to development and human security

REPORT

April 1st 2016 – December 31st 2016

**Project support from the Swedish International Development and
Cooperation Agency (Sida)**



www.parliamentaryforum.org

Hammarby Allé 93, 4 tr, 120 63 Stockholm, Sweden

+46 8 653 2543 – secretariat@parlforum.org

Executive summary

The state of the world underlines the need to prioritise the prevention and reduction of armed violence. 2016 was marked by an upsurge of armed violence, as reflected by, for example, the Syrian civil war, as well as the spread of global terrorism and organised crime. The number of forcibly displaced people reached over 65 million, the highest number since records began. Armed violence, independent of its scale, is perpetuated by the availability of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), increasing the need for concise and effective steps to tackle its proliferation.

This report accounts for results achieved based on activities implemented between 1st of April 2016 to 31st of December 2016 by the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons. All expected results and targets in relation to the Results Framework were reached and in some cases exceeded. Considerable progress was made, both thematically and organisationally, noteworthy as it coincided with a period having limited staff resources at the Secretariat.¹

Key highlights:

- Holding 2 regional seminars, 8 national seminars as well as a series of other activities, reaching out to 97 parliamentarians and 104 stakeholders from the Civil Society, the Government and International Organisations
- Securing parliamentary presence at international arms control fora e.g. ATT, UNPoA, 2030 Agenda and advancing the peace and security agenda at parliamentary fora e.g. EuroLat, IPU, Parlatino
- Attending 10 member requests for individual policy and technical support; providing indirect expertise to a wide range of parliamentarians by distributing 192 publications; adoption of 2 policy statements on SDG 16 and Women Peace and Security, and 2 final declarations
- Increased communication and out-reach efforts; adoption of Communication Strategy, featuring in media on national and regional activities in Cameroon, Sweden and Uruguay and active on social media via Twitter and Facebook
- Substantial institutional strengthening; adoption of revised Statutes and Regulations, adoption of new Strategic Plan 2016-2018, as well as other measures for improved financial and organisational sustainability
- Secured funding 2017-2018 from UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation

Overall, the conclusion drawn is that the proliferation of SALW together with the prevention and reduction of armed violence, despite the urgency and dimension of the problem, is an under-prioritised area on the international disarmament agenda. Parliamentarians are underutilised actors in development despite their evident role in armed violence prevention and reduction through their legislative, oversight and awareness-raising functions.

Women's participation as active agents in decision-making on peace and security is low which means fundamental contributions to peace-building are not utilised. The peace and security sector is hence missing out on important contributions from parliamentarians, men and women, who are in continued need of policy and technical support with tools and knowledge for effective parliamentary action.

In sum, the state of the world in combination with the untapped potential of parliamentary action underpins the relevance of the continued determined work of the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons.

¹ April – August 2016: 2 instead of normal 3,5 annual man power; August – December 2016: 3 annual man power.

Contents

1. Introduction.....	4
2. Description and Analysis of Results Achievement.....	7
a. Objectives and Outcomes.....	7
Overall objective.....	7
Specific objectives	7
b. Presentation & Analysis of results achieved	7
Specific Objective 1: Improving, refining and harmonizing the policy framework for SALW control at national level and regionally harmonize laws on SALW.....	8
Specific Objective 2: Developing parliamentarians’ capacities to address SALW issues	12
Specific Objective 3: Consensus-building on SALW at international level	16
Specific Objective 4: Awareness-raising on SALW-related violence, its impacts, and parliamentary action	24
Specific Objective 5: Consolidate the financial and operational sustainability.....	28
c. Concluding analysis - Overall Objective.....	31
3. Implementation of Results Achievement.....	33
a. The Forum.....	33
i. Parliamentary Forum	33
ii. Members of the Forum	33
iii. Partner organisations.....	33
b. Targeted groups.....	34
iv. Final beneficiaries	34
v. Direct beneficiaries	35
c. Risk Analysis & Contingency Strategy.....	35
d. Communication	39
e. Monitoring, Evaluation & Sustainability.....	39
4. Lessons learned - Final words.....	41
vi. List of activities 2016.....	42
vii. Appendices.....	44

1. Introduction

This is the report for the results achieved and activities implemented from the project support agreement “TARGETING SMALL ARMS - Building more peaceful, inclusive societies by overcoming obstacles to development and human security” 2016-2018 between Sida and the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons (hereinafter “The Forum”).² The report covers the period from 1st of April 2016 to 31st of December 2016.³

The overall objective of the project is to contribute to the achievement of more peaceful and developed societies by parliamentary action against armed violence to increase human security. Based on this objective, the operational purpose of the organisation is to utilise the three key roles of a parliamentarian; the legislative, over-sight and awareness-raising functions. In this regard, the Forum constitutes a platform for inter-parliamentary dialogue, consensus building, parliamentary capacity-building, public awareness-raising, exchange of best practices and harmonisation of initiatives.

Armed violence has wide-spread human, economic and social costs and is an obstacle to development and human security. 875 million SALW are circulating worldwide where 535,000 persons die yearly of lethal violence and millions more are affected by violence. Globally, firearms were used in an estimated 46 % of all violent deaths in 2010–15 – resulting in an average of 214,000 deaths per year. Specifically, they were used in 50 % of homicides and 32 % of conflict deaths. The use of firearms in lethal violence is particularly prevalent in the Americas, as well as Southern Africa and Southern Europe.⁴ In developing and transitional societies, the use of SALW is associated with enormous suffering and insecurity, with high social and economic costs. While SALW are not the source of conflict they are violence and conflict multipliers. Efforts to reduce the spread of SALW are thus a strong component in conflict prevention.

Despite the dimension and urgency of the problem the spread of SALW is an under-prioritised area on the international disarmament agenda, where much focus is on nuclear, biological and chemical weapons.

As of 2016 the Forum has a new Strategic Plan⁵, decided by the Board in August 2016, which centres on the following priorities; the role of parliamentarians in implementation of 2030 Agenda, specifically Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG16), target 16.4, “by 2030 significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen recovery and return of stolen assets, and combat all forms of organized crime”⁶; strengthen the policy-shaping role for parliamentary action and strengthen the gender equality perspective of the Forum. This Plan will guide the work of the Forum for coming years, keeping the Forum focused and relevant in order to achieve its overall

² The results accounted for derive from the support provided by Sida complemented by funds from the Folke Bernadotte Academy as well as limited in-kind contributions from parliaments.

³ Cost extension period of the core support from Sida for 2014-2015: 1st January 2016 to 31st March 2016.

⁴ Small Arms Survey. Firearms and Violent Deaths. 2016: http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/H-Research_Notes/SAS-Research-Note-60.pdf

⁵ Appendix 1

⁶ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg16>

objective of more peaceful and developed societies by parliamentary action against armed violence to increase human security.

The period has been marked by key thematic activities and institutional consolidation, both concerning strengthened financial overall management as well as consolidation of financial and administrative policies and routines by everyday implementation at the Secretariat.

Methodology - Policy shaping and capacity building

The Forum's work and overall objective rests on two pillars: policy-shaping and capacity-building. The point of departure for the pillars are the three key roles of a parliamentarian; the legislative, over-sight and awareness-raising functions. The former attends to the function of common political construction between the members, whereas the latter on enhancing knowledge and enabling resources. The aims of policy-shaping and capacity-building are complementary, mutually reinforcing and underpin the parliamentary identity of the Forum and its added value.

The methodology of the Forum's activities related to policy making and capacity building is to enable an exchange between parliamentarians, and liaising with Governmental Organisations, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) and International Organisations.

The policy statements are a democratic tool for policymaking, allowing the members to discuss and agree on policy guidance for the Forum and once in place they give space for the Board, individual members and the Secretariat to act on behalf of the Forum within the guidelines set. They are initiated by the members and consolidate the decision-making function of the Forum while at the same time making it more politically relevant. When members take part in national and international fora, they speak not only for themselves but on behalf of a large group of parliamentarians from all over the world, after having deliberated together and decided on a shared position. The policy statements should serve in the political guidance and debate at the national, regional and international level for the Forum members.

The policy statements reflect the political competence and commitment of parliamentarians from different countries and context coming together to reflect on how the problems identified could be addressed. Hence, a new policy statement is an advice to other parliamentarians on current issues and concerns. It is also a tool, which can guide parliamentarians in their own policy making, inspire to introduce new legislation, write op-eds, give speeches or seek cooperation on specific issues with CSOs.

In addition to the policy statements, the Forum elaborates, compiles, shares and tracks the usage of final declarations, a political document that expresses the views, concerns and lines of action agreed by parliamentarians attending Forum seminars on various SALW control related topics.

In terms of developing capacity among parliamentarians in order to effectively tackle problems with SALW, the Forum has since the very beginning focused on providing thematic and technical policy support to parliaments and parliamentarians. Support ranges from drafting texts, speeches or talking points for presentation in national floor debates, interpellations, international conferences and newspaper articles to expert help in renewing and improving national legislation.

Gender equality – mainstreaming and targeted approach

Women's participation is key to sustainable peace. Nevertheless, women's participation as active agents in decision-making on peace and security is low, which means valuable contributions to peace-building are lost.

Ensuring women's equal and full participation as active agents in peace and security has permeated the Forum's whole operation since its inception. In efforts to further strengthen this commitment, the new Strategic Plan includes gender equality as one of three strategic priorities.

While the majority of Forum's members are men, reflecting the global parliamentary situation, the Forum has a proven track record of involving women politicians, despite women being underrepresented in Parliament as a whole and especially in parliamentary work most relevant to the Forum's membership profile that is on Defence, Security, Interior and Foreign Affairs Committees.

In addition to mainstreaming a gender perspective into all of its work, the Forum takes targeted initiatives to approach and involve women politicians. This includes women who initially may not be engaged in this type of parliamentary work, and the aim is to raise the profile, knowledge and experience of the individual of these specific issues with an increased chance of future commitment and inclusion, of which the Forum shows solid examples.

Internally, in the history of the Forum there have been 4 women Presidents. According to the Statutes and Regulations the Board may not consist of more than 70% of the same gender. The Board serving for the period (2014-2016) had 4 women and 5 men lead by a woman President – Ala Talabani from Iraq. The new Board, elected in November 2016, has 4 women and 3 men with again a woman President – Senator Daisy Tourné from Uruguay.

As a result, the ambition of gender equality is evident in the thematic content as well as internally in the Forum. The Forum is increasing efforts to address gender equality and women, peace and security, given the structural and political relevance of this within the sector. For example, the Forum has developed its methodology and content to better identify the needs to properly address the issue of gender equality and the under-representation of women in Peace and Security, as reflected in the Results Framework and its work.

National, Regional and International work

In 2016, regional seminars were held where parliamentarians participated in policy and capacity building workshops. Aside from topics especially aimed at the regional context where the seminar was held, recurring topics were 2030 Agenda and SDG16, the Women, Peace and Security Agenda. National mechanisms for SALW control and the implementation of international instruments such as the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPoA) and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) were also part of the agenda. Between the regional thematic events and on a day-to-day basis,

several national activities were also held to ensure and support parliamentary action on the ground, as well as Forum member's participation in the international SALW-process, particularly in the UN process.

2. Description and Analysis of Results Achievement

'Targeting Small Arms' was developed with the aim of enabling parliamentarians to act at national, regional and international levels. The intervention sought to provide parliamentarians and their staff with policy expertise, specialised support, capacity building, as well as a platform for dialogue and exchange. In this report, the Forum summarises the results achieved related to the activities organised to reach the proposed objectives, based on the established Results Framework.

Based on the above described underlying working methodology, the Forum has developed specific objectives structured around its overall objective.

a. Objectives and Outcomes

Overall objective

To contribute to the achievement of more peaceful and developed societies by parliamentary action against armed violence to increase human security

Specific objectives

1. Improving, refining and harmonizing the policy framework for SALW control at national level and regionally harmonize laws on SALW.
2. Develop further parliamentarians' capacities to address SALW issues.
3. Contribute to the building of an international consensus on SALW and armed violence through parliamentary exchange and intervention.
4. Increase public awareness of SALW violence, its impacts, and parliamentary action.
5. Consolidate the financial and operational sustainability.

b. Presentation & Analysis of results achieved

The project was structured around the five specific objectives mentioned above, whose logics are described below. The results achieved during the implementation period are presented after each specific objective; starting with a presentation of the objective and proposed action, followed by an overview of results achieved in relation to set Results Framework, continuing with an overall analysis of results achievement and ending with conclusions indicating the way forward.

The Secretariat is responsible for compiling and documenting results achieved. Efforts are made to follow up and gather evidence of actions taken. In some cases, especially in developing countries, public sources are not always available and the Secretariat relies on reports directly from members or partners. Given parliamentarians' busy schedules, there is a considerable risk that actions go unreported. Considerable efforts have been made recently to strengthen the results compilation.

Hence, in 2016, a new improved method was introduced and is described and evaluated in section e.

Specific Objective 1: Improving, refining and harmonizing the policy framework for SALW control at national level and regionally harmonize laws on SALW

Proposed action

This specific objective is built to enable sustainability to past and current achievements of the Parliamentary Forum with regards to the development of the policy framework for SALW-related violence reduction at national and regional levels. Its aim is to reach common standards that would facilitate legislative work according to regional and specific needs in terms of SALW and armed violence control.

Priorities:

- *Publication and usage of policy statements and final declarations to guide parliamentary work.*
- *Increase and support parliamentary processes by parliamentarians requesting a legislative or oversight change.*

Overview of results achieved in relation to set Results Framework

Specific Objective 1: Improving, refining and harmonizing the policy framework for SALW control at national level and regionally harmonize laws on SALW		
Baseline end of 2015	Indicators end of 2016	Achieved results for the period 2016
Adopted policy statements: 34.	Adopted policy statements: 36.	Two policy statements adopted, 36 in total. Adopted Policy Statement on SDG 16. Adopted Policy Statement on Women, Peace and Security

	<p>3 Parliamentary processes by parliamentarians requesting a legislative or oversight change (1-2 of them promoted by women parliamentarians).</p>	<p>6 in total, 3 processes expected.</p> <p>Benin - Forum Member, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee is working on the passing of the bill on firearms and ammunition.</p> <p>Cameroon - Forum Member from the Committee of Constitutional Law worked on the approval of the recently published bill of weapons and ammunitions, insisting on necessity of the conformity of this bill with the international conventions to which Cameroon have subscribed.</p> <p>Lebanon - Forum Member follows up and oversight of ATT ratification in the Defence Committee before and after the recent election of the new President of Lebanon.</p> <p>Liberia - members worked on advancing the ATT and CCM⁷ after attending a capacity building-awareness raising workshop organised by the Forum.</p> <p>Mexico – Forum Member tabled a question to the Secretary of Defence on the issue of diversions of weapons purchased by the Ministry, in</p>
--	---	--

⁷ Convention on Cluster Munitions

		<p>light of the ATT.</p> <p>Zimbabwe - Forum Member tabled a question to the Minister of Defence on the issue of ATT ratification, as the Bill has not been sent to the Parliament.</p>
--	--	---

Overall analysis

During the period, all set targets were achieved or exceeded in relation to Specific Objective 1. A key result achieved was the adoption of two policy statements relevant to the political context in 2016, on 2030 Agenda SDG 16 and Women, Peace and Security. This gave parliamentarians a useful up to date political-technical tool for their work.

The thematic focus of the statements – SDG 16 and Women, Peace and Security⁸ – are closely related to two of the three strategic priorities outlined in the Strategic Plan, serving to further strengthen work throughout the project and will accompany the member’s activities in the specific topics, providing technical expertise and political guidance. Introduced in 2007, the Forum has to date, as planned for, adopted a total of 36 policy statements. Today the Forum adopts 1-2 statements per year on current and relevant topics.

Long-term impact of the usage of the policy tools will naturally be monitored further on. However, indications from the Forum members during the General Assembly showed that the policy statements and the final declarations are useful to guide and support parliamentary work at the national and regional level. The end of the year survey showed that members had intervened on several of the topics covered by Forum policy statements, where the ATT was mentioned the most.

In terms of members requesting a legislative or oversight change, highlights include the weapons legislation bill in Cameroon which was passed into law and where Forum members took part at different levels. This is an important step in ensuring the country with the necessary legislative framework in the efforts against armed violence and the challenges posed by terrorist groups as Boko Haram. Members have since 2011 voiced a great concern of the increasingly strong presence of the group in the poor Far North region of the country, using it as a safe haven and recruitment base and where attacks are also taking place.

Another key achievement is the continued progress made in negotiations by Forum members on the ATT in Zimbabwe, which is one of the sceptic countries to the Treaty facing serious issues in the development of democracy. The target was exceeded as 6 concrete actions were reported of

⁸ Appendix 2

which two were promoted by a woman (Mexico and Zimbabwe), all in countries that faced serious issues of SALW related violence but in which Forum members remain committed.

Conclusions and way forward

In conclusion, the results in Specific Objective 1 were satisfactory, as targets were reached and relevant thematic tools were developed to support parliamentary work, in line with the Strategic Plan of the Forum and addressing the challenges faced by the Forum membership on armed violence prevention and reduction.

The statements continue to be vital policy-building tools, but while there was a wide range of areas related to armed violence to cover at the start, it has been assessed as a natural methodological refinement that the pace of production has decreased for the benefit of further strengthening the follow up methodology on a selection of statements, their usage and to increase the visibility of the impact of the statements.

Evidence gathered show that Forum members take action to prevent and reduce armed violence, using the tools and knowledge gained from the Forum, example of this are the different parliamentary processes where members have intervened on issues of armed violence reduction and prevention, such as Benin, Cameroon, Lebanon, Liberia, Mexico and Zimbabwe. Accumulated experience shows that increased support from the Forum and its Secretariat leads to increased parliamentary action. The method of improving data collection is important, not only for reporting and evaluation purposes but to show the combined strength of the Forum which would lead to higher levels of policy influence.

For 2017 and 2018, work will continue to strengthen the dialogue between parliamentarians from producing and affected countries. With regards to Forum membership, this includes many European countries but also countries which are both producers of weapons and also heavily affected by armed violence. At the Forum's General Assembly, observations were made on how the traffic of SALW is mostly intraregional, which means weapons that are produced locally tend to be the ones that are trafficked. The United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime presented a study on the matter, mentioning Argentina and Brazil as example of the relation between SALW trafficking and production. Thus, the dialogue between producing and affecting countries will take place with a broader understanding of the reach and meaning of producers and affected countries, as well as the development of a more consolidated mechanism of dialogue and interchange between these countries within the Forum's scope of action.

Challenges are related to how to mobilise and balance the Forum membership needs between different topics, as some issues are common denominators and other countries have specific SALW violence issues, implying parliamentarians react accordingly. However, the Forum addresses this challenge that is also an opportunity, by applying a qualitative methodology at its events which combines generic SALW-relevant topics with national parliamentary contributions. Another way to address this is by means of improvement of the communication methodology, creation of campaigns and to interact more actively through social media.

The new Communication Strategy will be key in this process. With increased visibility of the Forum, members will have continuously access to the Forum tools, facilitating the visibility of the issues of the respective Members efforts and contexts as well as the services provided by the Forum, with an increase in request for assistance and traceable long-term impact as a result.

Specific Objective 2: Developing parliamentarians’ capacities to address SALW issues

Proposed action

This objective ensures that parliamentarians, are well equipped to address SALW-related issues within their national legislature and in regional and international arenas. In order to build their capacities, parliamentarians will be provided with expert knowledge and policy material to guide their action. It refers to actions taken by parliamentarians in their respective home parliament and the support given to them by the Forum in this endeavour – both to the individual member as well as making tools and material available to the membership as a whole.

Priorities:

- *Attend members request to receive policy and technical support for parliamentary initiatives and legislative action.*
- *Increase awareness raising through interventions or media activities at national, regional or international levels.*
- *Continued and increased technical/policy/capacity building support to members and other parliamentarians.*

Overview of results achieved in relation to set Results Framework

Specific Objective 2- Developing parliamentary capacities to address SALW issues		
Baseline end of 2015	Indicators end of 2016	Achieved results for the period 2016
1 more publication 130 copies distributed per year.	Publications distributed for Parliamentary audience on Gender, ATT, UN SDG 16 and UNPoA issues (50 per year).	192 publications distributed for Parliamentary audience on Gender, ATT, UN SDG 16 and UNPoA, in English, French and Spanish.

<p>10 members request and are given support.</p>	<p>3 member requests are attended and followed-up by the Secretariat.</p>	<p>The Secretariat has attended 10 member requests for support on topics such as 2030 Agenda, ATT ratification, UNPoA and armed violence prevention and reduction. Members request were from Argentina, Ecuador, Germany, Nicaragua, Sweden, Uruguay and Zimbabwe.⁹</p>
	<p>Interventions or media activities at national, regional or international levels, on the publication's subject by Forum members (2 per/year).</p>	<p>In total 5 articles, 2 expected. 4 debate articles Swedish media.¹⁰ 1 article Cameroon seminar on ATT and National Commission on SALW.</p>
<p>5 national and regional activities are held upon member's request.</p>	<p>Number of parliamentarians participating in national, regional and international capacity-building seminars. 30 in 2016.</p>	<p>97 parliamentarians participated in total, 30 expected. -10 MPs Sweden seminar on arms export controls April -1 MP round-table in preparation for Sixth Biennial Meeting of States on the UNPoA (BMS6). -23 Renewal of Burkinabe national parliamentary network on SALW. - 1 MP Global Week of Action Against Armed Violence. -6 MPs MENA seminar. -16 MPs Liberia seminar on ATT. -3 MPs side event at BMS6 on UNPoA, SDG 16 and Health. -16 MPs Cameroon seminar on a SALW National Commission the Ratification UN Arms</p>

⁹ See appendix 3

¹⁰ 1 article was published twice by different media. See appendix 4.

		<p>Trade Treaty (ATT).</p> <p>-At least 2 MPs Sweden seminar at 'Almedalen' on violence prevention and 2030 Agenda.</p> <p>-At least 3 Forum members at the¹¹ EuroLat Political Affairs Committee presentation.</p> <p>-2 MPs Sweden seminar on Small Arms Control in Light of 2030 Agenda November.</p> <p>-15 MPs Regional Meeting Latin America.</p>
	<p>Interventions on the seminar topic(s) by parliamentarians who participated in the capacity-building seminar at national level.</p>	<p>Swedish Member intervention in Parliamentary Debate Budget Proposition for 2017 on the importance to work against armed violence and SALW proliferation.</p> <p>Cameroonian Member participated in Parliamentary Debate for the discussion of the Firearms and Ammunition Bill recently adopted.</p>

Overall analysis

For the second specific objective, the Forum's work exceeded all expected targets in terms of content, activities and numbers yielding concrete and important political results in different contexts.

The outreach of materials took place on a regular basis during activities organised by the Forum. In total, the Forum distributed 192 copies of various publications on topics related to SALW control and international instruments. On most occasions, parliamentarians asked to have more materials to take with them and distribute at their parliaments. The Forum has received indications from several members that the material has been of use in different contexts in relevant SALW-related processes, serving to enhance the knowledge upon the matter and facilitating political action.

¹¹ The list of participants was requested but EuroLat could only provide the list of participants from the European Parliament, since the Latin American component confirmed late before the meeting.

A key result in this regard is the ability of the Forum to distribute a large number of relevant publications to its members, in three languages. Translating technical, policy and political documents facilitates the transmission of information and entails a message of inclusiveness and ownership of different processes. Very often, the difference between a policy well and timely implemented is the quality and quantity of information available for decisions makers in their own language, as not all states have the necessary capacity. This was noted by the evident demand of the material by members, surpassing the Forum's calculations. However, a high ambition on translation services requires vast staff resources and competence. The official working language of the Forum is English which means that future translation has to be assessed in relation to other priorities and staff resources available.

The Forum also offered these services in relation to international processes and contexts such as the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States on the UNPoA (BMS6) and EuroLat as well as at the national level. By taking home valuable knowledge and tools for parliamentary action from international policy level, members of the Forum subsequently worked hard in their respective national context towards armed violence reduction and prevention.

A total of 10 member's requests from 7 different countries were attended and followed-up by the Secretariat. While the nature of their parliamentary role is to be a communicator for the people they represent, they do not always have the technical knowledge of the specific policy issues. The ability of the Secretariat to provide Forum members with high quality, often tailor-made material, is key both to build trust with the membership and for the member to have a larger impact. Example of this was the distribution of material regarding the ATT to Forum members in Zimbabwe, which supported their outreach and advocacy activities with the Vice-president. Another example is the support provided to parliamentarians from Sweden and Uruguay in their participation at the BMS6, where they were able to contribute the parliamentary perspective in the process, bridging the international policy level discussion with the national parliamentary ownership, the latter is a precondition for political will.

As for the number of parliamentarians participating in national, regional and international capacity building seminars, the targets were exceeded. 97 parliamentarians participated in total in national, regional and international capacity-building seminars, coming from all regions where the Forum has members. This was achieved with a healthy balance among the three levels of participation, aiming for the inclusion of politically relevant actors and interaction with stakeholders outside of parliament. Thus, the Forum managed to include 104 representatives from governments, diplomatic community, CSOs and International Organisations, providing a solid platform for dialogue and exchange of ideas.

It is also worth highlighting the fact that the Forum also reaches out and has a policy impact well beyond its membership. Due to the nature of its methodology, by seeking to include all relevant stakeholders, the Forum contributes to the creation of knowledge, information exchange and policy discussion between parliamentarians and government officials, civil society and International Organisations. Likewise, the work and awareness raising endeavours of our members

also have an impact on fellow members of the parliament, the government and the society in general.

Conclusions and way forward

In conclusion, developing parliamentarians' capacities to address SALW issues is the very foundation of the Forum's work which inter-relates with and underpins the achievement of Specific Objective 1, 3 and 4. That is parliamentarians gain the necessary knowledge to intervene for improved policy framework, are able to contribute at international level towards a consensus, making well-informed statements in various forms of media and public debate. In sum, this provides a foundation for political will and the realisation of the three key role of the parliamentarians; legislative, oversight and awareness raising functions.

Results from a membership survey conducted in late 2016 and feedback received during the regional seminars and General Assembly show that members are overall content with the support provided by the Secretariat, as it provides members with a solid foundation to work at the national and regional levels. However, members would appreciate a stronger presence at the local level and the provision of parliamentary roadmaps/action plans for implementation and ratification of the different instruments available on SALW control. Other feedback shows that female members would like to see more gender specific focus and women only seminars. The Secretariat already started to immerse lessons learned in planning for the future.

Challenges are the need for the Forum to, as part of its refinement of the Results, Monitoring and Evaluation System, systematise the follow-up of the use of the publications and material provided in order to track and make visible more long-term results. The same is true with regards to the interventions on the seminar topic that members who participated in the capacity-building seminar at national level are expected to make. Although all the targets were met and the survey helped to gather evidence on usage the Forum will continue its work to secure long term impact and subsequent the ownership by the members of the topics and issues that form part of the Forum.

As achieving results towards Specific Objective 2 requires comparatively larger resources, efforts have been made to increase capacity; diversify funding and prioritise more efficiently. Funding has already been secured for a series of capacity building regional seminars in 2017 and 2018, but there is still room for further strengthening the financial base as to implement qualitative activities and reach the impact expected.

Specific Objective 3: Consensus-building on SALW at international level

Proposed Action

The specific objective realises the provision of a platform for parliamentary exchange and dialogue, as well as securing parliamentary engagement in international fora. Forum members come from diverse backgrounds and various political convictions, but they all experience the

problems caused by the wide availability of SALW and their misuse. While the problems sometimes differ in relation to the national and regional contexts, parliamentarians can learn from measures implemented in other countries. International treaties envisage and highlight various parliamentary tasks, such as legislation, oversight and awareness-raising. Thus, parliamentary inclusion is essential, in order to support national ownership and full implementation of international treaties. This objective aims at ensuring the flow of information among members and enabling the building of common policies and action.

The nature of the work is two-fold; in disarmament fora, the Forum ensures that parliamentarians are present and active and take national ownership of the various processes such as the ATT, UNPoA, 2030 Agenda, and others.

With regards to the international parliamentary organisations the Forum advances the SALW-issue as integrated part of the broader peace and security agenda by collaborating with important institutions, where the Forum is well respected.

Priorities:

- *Maintain and further develop parliamentary work on SALW related armed violence reduction and prevention with international parliamentary organisations such as the Latin American Parliament, the EuroLat and the IPU.*
- *Promote and secure parliamentary engagement in UN processes related to SALW and disarmament such as the ATT, the CCM and the UNPoA.*
- *Facilitate regional parliamentary work and interchange on issues of SALW related armed violence reduction and prevention.*

Overview of results achieved in relation to set Results Framework

Specific Objective 3 - Consensus on SALW at international level		
Baseline end of 2015	Indicators end of 2016	Achieved results for the period 2016
The Forum engaged with the United Nations, Inter-Parliamentary Union, regional parliamentary assemblies in Africa, Europe and Latin America as well as ad hoc disarmament initiatives 17 times in 2015.	The Forum continues to engage with same actors and facilitates parliamentary participation in international processes, at least 2 times per year.	In total 5 events, 2 expected. Side event at BMS6 on UNPoA, SDG 16 and Health. Forum Member panellist at seminar on advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda, UN Conference.

		<p>Presentation on arms trafficking at EuroLat Sep 2016 by Forum members from Germany, Mexico and Uruguay.</p> <p>Policy support to Forum members participating in IPU Assembly Oct 2016.</p> <p>Dialogue with Swedish delegation in preparation for UN 1st Committee.</p>
	<p>Number of parliamentary initiatives for ATT-signatory or ratification where Forum members have been active (2per/year).</p>	<p>In total 2 initiatives, 2 expected.</p> <p>Brazil - Forum Member presented the report and bill for approval of the ATT at the Justice Committee, the bill was approved at the Committee on August 23 2016.</p> <p>Benin - Forum Member, Chairman of the Foreign Affairs and Defence Committee, presented the project bill for the Approval of the ATT at the plenary.</p>
	<p>Number of common positions, policy briefs adopted referring to an international process related to SALW (e.g. UN or IPU), 2per/year.</p>	<p>In total 3 positions, 2 expected.</p> <p>Alexandria Declaration.</p> <p>Montevideo Declaration.</p> <p>Referral on the policy framework for Swedish development cooperation.</p>
	<p>Number of meetings of Forum members with state representatives or international-regional organisations working</p>	<p>In total 5 meetings, 2-3 expected.</p> <p>Cameroon multi-stakeholder</p>

	<p>on armed violence related issues (e.g. ATT or Programme of Action) (2-3per year).</p>	<p>seminar on a SALW National Commission the Ratification UN Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).</p> <p>Cameroon – Forum members met with officials from the Ministry of Defence, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Women affairs and the Folke Bernadotte Academy.</p> <p>Preparatory meetings with Swedish MFA disarmament branch before BMS6 on UNPoA.</p> <p>Seminar Swedish Parliament on ‘Arms Exports Control in light of 2030 Agenda’.</p> <p>Zimbabwe – Member met with the Vice-president on the issue of ATT ratification.</p>
	<p>Number of events and participants organised by the Forum with ATT or Programme of Action as focus (1-2 event, 40% of participants are women, targeted outreach activities of gender equality among participants).</p>	<p>In total 6 events, 1-2 expected.</p> <p>Seminar Swedish Parliament on ‘Parliamentary Role on Arms Exports Control (KEX) in light of 2030 Agenda’ (50% women).</p> <p>Liberia ATT seminar (11 % women).</p> <p>Regional seminar MENA (44.4% women).</p> <p>BMS6 Side Event on UNPoA, SDG 16 and Health (50% women).</p> <p>Seminar Swedish Parliament “Small Arms Control in Light of 2030 Agenda” (59%).</p>

		Regional seminar Montevideo “Small Arms and Light Weapons in light of the 2030 Agenda” (32%).
	General Assembly (biennial)1-2 board meetings.	General Assembly successfully held 22-23 November 2016. 2 Board meetings held.
	The Forum starts to use Twitter and Facebook to complement its website and make outreach monitoring.	148 followers on twitter, around 21 000 people reached out to. 14 900 people reached out to via Facebook.
	Newsletter 3 times per year.	2 newsletters published in April – December 2016.
	Target 2016: 10 new members for 2016.	16 new members joined in 2016.

Overall analysis

For Specific Objective 3, the Forum reached and in some cases exceeded the target results set. Concrete highlights are the engagement of the Forum with International Organisations or regional parliamentary assemblies. The Forum successfully participated at the BMS6 meeting, holding a side event and publishing a policy brief, as well as the intervention by 3 Forum members on SALW proliferation during the Euro-Latin America Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLat) meeting in Montevideo. In addition, the Forum successfully held its General Assembly and regional seminar, as well as two Board Meetings, where Statutes, Regulations and other steering documents were discussed, updated and approved.

With the two-fold approach aimed at achieving positive results both in terms of thematic focus as well as the actor in question – parliamentarians - the work of the Forum is hence highly relevant. Evident results were secured throughout the year, engaging at the international level on SALW related issues, from a parliamentary perspective.

At the BMS6, in June 2016, the Forum held a side event on the topic of connecting the dots between relevant international policy frameworks on Sustainable Development, Security and Health. Held together with International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) and the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations, the seminar focused on how parliamentarians and health professionals can work towards the UNPoA and the implementation of SDG 16.4. A policy brief was developed with concrete suggestions to support the UNPoA and

the SDG, and Forum members were able to actively participate at the meeting, sharing the importance of parliamentary inclusion and participation in international SALW control processes.

The Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU) continues to be an important partner of the Forum and it is evident that the IPU perceives the Forum as a relevant player, a source of information and expertise. For 2016, due to calendar clashes and a heavy workload in relation to the Forum's General Assembly, presence on behalf of the Secretariat was deemed impossible. Nevertheless, the Forum had a solid presence through its members who were given preparatory policy support to promote the SALW agenda.

Since 2013 the EuroLat has taken an interest in the Forum's work by invitations to take part in its activities, holding presentations and addressing relevant committees on SALW related topics. In 2016, a member, representing the Latin American region, addressed the Committee on Political Affairs, Security and Human Rights on the topic of arms trafficking. In addition, two other Forum members from Germany and Mexico participated and presented the perspective from their countries.

International treaties envisage and highlight various parliamentary tasks, such as legislation, oversight and awareness-raising. Therefore, parliamentary inclusion in the national delegations is essential, especially considering the expertise of Forum members. Hence, the Secretariat actively promotes, prepares and coordinates parliamentary inclusion. As previous years, members were contacted prior to the conferences and strongly encouraged to contact their delegation. The Forum also communicated with various Heads of Delegation in order to support their inclusion. As a result, members from Sweden and Uruguay were invited to form part of their delegations at the BMS6. The Forum continues to strive for parliamentary inclusion in ATT, UNPoA and other relevant processes, given the lack of parliamentary involvement and ownership in these fora.

Forum members in Benin and Brazil made considerable advances, where the first ratified the Arms Trade Treaty, while in Brazil, despite the difficult political situation, the Treaty was approved at the Justice Committee and moved forward to the Public Security Committee for further discussion, signalling progress amidst the political turmoil that faced the country during 2016.

The interventions were also reinforced by the adoption of two final declarations – the Alexandria Declaration and the Montevideo Declaration¹² - which are the result of parliamentary deliberations and priorities around SALW control related topics in specific contexts and with a regional/global focus.

The Board of the Forum also submitted a referral on the proposal for policy framework for Swedish development cooperation by the Swedish government. Generally positive to the conclusions of the proposal of the Government, the Forum found that armed violence as an obstacle to development in non-conflict settings had not fully been taken into account. The importance of political will to achieve the goals under 2030 Agenda and hence the need for parliamentary ownership was also highlighted.

¹² Appendix 5

Members from Cameroon, Mexico, Sweden and Zimbabwe met with state representatives and International Organisations on ATT and UNPoA, discussing the steps necessary for signing and ratifying the ATT in the case of Zimbabwe, and follow up on implementation of the ATT and UNPoA in the case of Mexico and Sweden. All these countries faced different levels of armed violence by SALW, where parliamentary work is proving fundamental to achieve a change.

The Forum's General Assembly and regional seminar were successfully held at the Parliament of Uruguay in November where parliamentarians from 13 countries in Africa, Europe and Latin America and the Caribbean took part. The main conclusions are that the illicit trade and proliferation of SALW continue to pose a threat and an obstacle to human security and sustainable development and that SDG16 presents a unique opportunity for working against SALW proliferation and armed violence. The adopted 'Montevideo Declaration' emphasizes the legislative, oversight and awareness raising role of parliamentarians in transforming the SDGs to enforceable laws, regulations and building national ownership.

In order to reinforce communication and out-reach in relation to its thematic core, the Forum has started to use Twitter and Facebook to complement its website and make outreach monitoring. This has showed very positive results, as the Forum has been able to reach out to 21 000 persons via twitter and 14 900 via Facebook. The use of these tools has allowed the Forum to have a continuous and immediate interaction with its members, as well as facilitating the communication of activities and impact of the Forum's work during the year. Although a continuous widened out-reach and increased interaction remains a challenge, the Forum is now involved and active in the political dialogue that also takes place through the social media.

With regards to membership, 16 new members joined the Forum in 2016, exceeding the target in relation to the planned and stated in the Results Framework. At the same time members left their parliaments due to political turnover or new assignments e.g. Spanish Board member became Vice Minister for Defence and Ugandan Board Member became a Cabinet Minister, bringing the Forum's global membership to a total of 200. Compared to 2015 which ended on an all-time high in membership, 2016 represents a minor decline which is natural given election turn-over aspects; less international activities compared to previous years, as 2016 was a year for institutional consolidation. However, the continued interest for the Forum and its issues in combination with future planned initiatives, for example within the new UNSCAR grant are predicted to facilitate reaching a large number of new potential members in 2017-2018. The new Board has also been encouraged to take part in out-reach to potential members, given their vast international parliamentary network and the ownership of the question.

A minor deviation was the one related to the number of newsletters, but given that activities did not start until April, it was concluded that only two newsletters were needed (August and December) in order to adequately report on progress to members, as well as to avoid e-mail fatigue related to the other diverse outreach initiatives that were introduced during the year.

Conclusions and way forward

In conclusion, SALW needs to be prioritised on the international disarmament agenda where much focus is still on nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. Today, despite widespread high level recognition that SALW is the conventional arm category causing the highest amounts of deaths per year, is a facilitator behind massive human rights violations, and an overall obstacle to development and human security, it continues to be an under-prioritised area on the international disarmament agenda. The arrival of the Arms Trade Treaty is an achievement but it must be remembered that the ATT is not a disarmament instrument and SALW constitute only a part of the treaty.

The Forum has noted that an unfortunate side effect has been that the UNPoA – the key global instrument to tackle SALW – has been somewhat overshadowed in favour of the ATT. The UNPoA includes a broad range of control measures and activities. In contrast, ATT covers a broader spectrum of arms but only deals with a limited scope of control mechanisms (trade). The Forum tried to overcome this side effect by giving thematic priority to both instruments in relation to the overall 2030 Agenda in its capacity building, policy building and outreach efforts. The complementary aspects of the three instruments will continue to be an important part in the subsequent work of the Forum.

The results in Specific Objective 3 were more than satisfactory, as the Forum could cover a wide range of actors at the international level, proactively bringing the parliamentary perspective in high level dialogue and interchanges related to armed violence. This allowed identifying synergies, nurturing contacts and establishing the Forum as a reliable partner at the international level when engaging with parliamentarians.

It is also vital to strengthen the effort to increase parliamentary presence in international conventional disarmament conferences. To raise awareness among government officials on the benefits of including key parliamentarians in their delegations is important for the purposes of following up negotiations and implementation at their home parliaments. Another challenge, and a reality of political processes, is that in some occasions governments oversee the importance of parliamentary participation in international events, maintaining the traditional practice that diplomats and in some instances officials take part in such events. Thus, the Forum can play an important role in facilitating governments considering the inclusion of parliamentarians.

Challenges under this specific objective are first, to further systematise the follow-up of the participation in international fora as to improve the tracking and reporting of more long-term results. Secondly, prioritisation focus on ATT over the UNPoA, in terms of availability of funds and thematic preference needs to be addressed. Also, while targets were reached overall, there is a need to continue to involve and encourage women parliamentarians to participate in every activity.

The Forum has consequently included the UNPoA in its ATT related activities, and further seeks to reinforce the importance of the programme in its future activities. Hence, it is satisfactory that during late 2016, funding was secured for work in 2017-2018 to strengthen the parliamentary

perspective and commitment towards SDG 16, the ATT and the UNPoA. The approval is confirming the rationale: political will, including the parliamentary ownership, is crucial for implementation of international instruments.

Specific Objective 4: Awareness-raising on SALW-related violence, its impacts, and parliamentary action

Proposed Action

This specific objective aims at enhancing the general public knowledge of the SALW issue, their negative effects on societies and the ways to prevent and reduce SALW-related violence. This work is conducted by parliamentarians in their constituencies as well as through national and international media.

Priorities:

- *Increase impact of parliamentary work through better dialogue and awareness raising with the general public.*
- *Prepare parliamentarians for media interventions and encourage the use of social media as an awareness raising tool.*
- *Encourage parliamentary contributions through articles, Op-Eds and interviews to reach out a wider audience.*

Overview of results achieved in relation to set Results Framework

Specific Objective 4 - Increased public awareness of SALW violence, its impacts, and parliamentary action		
Baseline end of 2015	Indicators end of 2016	Achieved results for the period 2016

<p>2 trainings are held per year as well as ad hoc support sessions with individual members</p>	<p>Number of publications covering/about/relating the work of the Forum or its individual members (5 per/year).</p>	<p>In total 7 publications, 5 expected.</p> <p>Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) 2016 - ATT-related outreach and assistance activities in Sub-Saharan Africa.</p> <p>Control Arms - ATT Monitor Report 2016.</p> <p>Outcome document Cameroon seminar on a SALW National Commission the Ratification UN Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).</p> <p>3 articles on General Assembly and Regional Seminar in Montevideo.</p> <p>Policy Brief UNPoA SDG16.</p>
	<p>Elaborate a provisional Communication Strategy for the Forum.</p>	<p>Communication Strategy adopted by the Board in November 24 2016.¹³</p>
	<p>Number of request by civil society to initiate dialogue on SALW issue with a Forum member (3-5per/ year).</p>	<p>In total 6 request, 3-5 expected.</p> <p>Group for Research and Information on Peace and Security (GRIP) field research in Cameroon, meeting with Forum Member.</p> <p>GRIP meeting with Board Member during EU-Outreach Programme seminar on ATT in Burkina Faso.</p> <p>Internationella Kvinnoförbundet för Fred and</p>

¹³ See appendix 6

		<p>Frihet (IKFF) - Multi-stakeholder round table discussion in Sweden, meeting with Swedish Member.</p> <p>Saferworld field research in Liberia.</p> <p>Soudapaz - meeting with Brazilian Forum Member on ATT ratification and SALW legislation.</p> <p>WILPF Seminar in Cameroon, meeting with Forum member.</p>
--	--	---

Overall analysis

All targets were achieved for this objective. As this objective has been more complex regarding documenting results, the Forum has taken measures to strengthen work in this area, especially the new Strategic Plan 2016-2018 and Communication Strategy which are crucial tools for consolidating this specific objective. Given that results achievement has increased in comparison to previous years, it is concluded that measures taken have been effective as to increase awareness-raising aspects of the work.

The work of the Forum was published in 7 occasions during the year, three times by external and well recognised actors such as SIPRI and Control Arms, by the coverage of the General Assembly, and the one policy brief the Forum made available during and after BMS6.

Communication is one key area where the Forum has worked systematically to improve in 2016 in order to better serve its members, highlight their activities as well as reaching a wider audience with the overall objective. A Communication Strategy was approved by the Board in November 2016. However, work began earlier in the year, starting with a campaign to highlight members globally and increasing social media work (Facebook and Twitter). The aim is to highlight what can be achieved as a Forum by the strength in a global membership base. Many members regularly taking part in media activities are continuously encouraged to speak up about armed violence and to follow the Forum on Twitter and Facebook, interact and keep in the Secretariat informed.

One important aspect in this area of work is the method of reporting. While members are expected to have engaged with media since the beginning, the Secretariat has been lacking capacity to adequately capture and measure this work and results hence go unnoticed. Parliamentarians’ busy schedule has meant that this type of work has historically often gone unreported to the Forum. Part of the strategy to strengthen work is therefore also to improve

methods for gathering information which can later be shared with the membership to inspire more parliamentary action. Hence, the methodology to gather reports from members has been strengthened. An annual survey takes place, together with a follow-up and evaluation on different topics related to specific activities. In addition, the Forum has compiled information from twitter and parliamentary websites.

By making this adjustment, a larger part of members' individual work is captured. However, it was also necessary to improve the quality and quantity of work itself. The Forum also started using social media services such as Facebook and Twitter, which gives the Forum a stronger presence online and increases awareness-raising on the issues.

Cooperation between parliamentarians and civil society is an essential component in work to prevent and reduce armed violence. Civil Society Organisations are invited to participate in all Forum activities with the aim of fostering productive discussions between parliamentarians and civil society. The cooperation is mutually beneficial. It serves to strengthening the thematic outreach and enhancing results of CSOs by creating a platform to discuss how legislators can work on SALW related issues in their home parliament and actively engage with civil society partners – organisations which work closely with the communities and have the knowledge of the underlying causes of conflict and ideas on how to prevent violence.

Parliamentarians on the other side, have the power and mandate to formulate policy and create legislative measures but need the input from civil society on what the situation is like on the ground. At the same time, civil society needs the understanding, support and assistance of its elected representatives to translate their knowledge and ideas into concrete policy and law, leading to effective measures and implementation of said laws and policies, to address armed violence. An example of this has been the role of civil society in achieving ATT universalisation, for instance the Forum Member from Brazil met in different occasions with Soudapaz, or the role of civil society and the Latin American and Caribbean parliament in the approval and consequent use in different countries of the Parlatino Model Law on Firearms and Ammunition. Forum members successfully met with CSOs in Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Liberia and Sweden, discussing relevant topics of armed violence prevention and reduction. Overall, cooperation with civil society will enhance the role of parliamentarians in relation to oversight and accountability and hence contribute to strengthen the social contract between the citizens and political representatives.

Conclusions and way forward

In conclusion, the year 2016 has seen a remarkable improvement regarding awareness-raising work in terms of the Forum's abilities to communicate and have an online presence, primarily via Facebook and Twitter. This has been achieved by more efficient use of human resources and interaction with members for multiplied efforts. However, in a long-term perspective, specific additional resources have to be ensured for this purpose, as communication is an integral part of any development initiative. Resources were also set aside to develop project proposals in order to

secure funding for communication staff in 2017-2018. Further data and analysis on this issue is available in section d and e ‘Communication’ and “Monitoring”.

While the Forum reached its targets in terms of visibility in the media, more can be done in this regard. For instance, encouraging members to make interventions in newspapers on specific topics or participating in campaigns to raise awareness on SALW related violence. As stated before, this aspect is also related to a general need to improve capacity to monitor parliamentary action and results. The approved Communication Strategy of the Forum will serve for the systematisation of the ability of the Forum to reach out, monitor and report parliamentary action on SALW.

Specific Objective 5: Consolidate the financial and operational sustainability

Proposed Action

This last objective was introduced in the Strategic Plan, and hence, in the Results Framework. It aims to address the refinement of the financial and operational management and control of the Forum. It was identified as a vital part following the precarious financial situation identified in September 2015 and thus in need of formal acknowledgment and subsequently added to the new Strategic Plan adopted in late 2016.

A solid financial and operational management is key for achieving the objectives of the Forum. As part of its fundamental work, the Forum has in the past year, engaged in a series of efforts to strengthen, institutionalise and further develop financial and operational routines, as well as adopted policies to address specific issues. This work is based on lessons learned within the organisation and recommendations from external auditors.

Priorities:

- *Secure a robust financial management platform for the Forum, including an adequate process for budget planning, follow-up, reporting and institutionalised administrative and operational routines within the organisation.*
- *Secure financial sustainability, including steps towards donor diversification.*
- *Implement policies related to anti-corruption, per diems and procurement.*

Overview of results achieved in relation to set Results Framework

Specific Objective 5 - Consolidate the financial and operational sustainability	
Baseline end of 2015	Achieved results for the period 2016
Precarious financial situation.	KPMG study completed with approved audit January

<p>Secretariat composed of; Secretary General (100%), Programme Manager (100%), Programme Officer (100%), Finance Officer (50%).¹⁴</p> <p>Funding received from FBA, Sida and in-kind contributions from parliaments and partners.</p>	<p>– March 2016 and recommendations which have all been adequately addressed.</p> <p>Statutes and Regulations amended to clarify the roles and responsibilities of the different organs of the Forum, including strengthening the overall responsibility of the Board.¹⁵</p> <p>Implementation of new financial and administrative policies, routines and measures, including Anti-Corruption, Per Diem and Procurement Policies.</p> <p>New Strategic Plan adopted, new format/process for Operational Planning, strengthened budget planning, follow-up and accounting processes.</p> <p>Secured funding for 2017-2018 from additional donor (UNSCAR), several ongoing donor processes.</p>
---	--

Overall analysis

The organisation faced challenges but also developed significantly during the period. A robust organisational and financial management platform for the Forum has been introduced which includes an adequate process for budget planning, follow-up and reporting. Institutionalised administrative and operational routines and policies are applied within the organisation.

In late 2015 and beginning of year 2016 the Forum faced a precarious financial situation, identified at the Secretariat in September 2015. The main reasons for the situation were the six-month leadership vacuum due to the process of recruiting a new Secretary General, expected support not materialised from long-term donor, as well as change in management that resulted in a significant budget overdraft year 2015. At the financial closure of 2015, the Forum managed the situation by balancing with its equity capital. Measures were taken immediately at the Secretariat involving the Board to manage the situation. Since September 2015 financial austerity was applied: prioritising core operational costs of the Secretariat and key activities already planned.

Main conclusions identified from the situation occurred have served as basis for the work during the period to ensure organisational and financial sustainability of operations.

The first conclusion concerns the importance of strengthening the financial management of the Forum. Measures have been taken for more regular, systematic budget-planning and follow up, and a new project accounting system was introduced to strengthen the financial accountability

¹⁴ April – August 2016: 2 instead of normal 3,5 annual man power; August – December 2016: 3 annual man power.

¹⁵ Appendix 7

and transparency, connecting donor funds with respective expenditures. This process has been in line with the recommendations from the external studies on internal steering and control. Increased cost-efficiency and cost awareness have also been part of the running work of the Secretariat; in-house as well as in planning and implementation of activities. Throughout the period, a continuous Risk Analysis has been realised, including mitigation measures, a process where the Board has been involved actively. A vital aspect has been the strengthening of the role of the Board concerning overall financial and organisational responsibility. In November 2016, at the General Assembly of the Forum, a new Board was elected. The Board is competent and committed, showing maturity to take on strengthened responsibility, which is indeed promising for further consolidation of the organisation.

Secondly, the need for a more long-term, strategic and sustainable planning, was identified. This has mainly been addressed by elaboration and approval of a Strategic Plan; a new improved format and process for operational planning in coherence with the Results Framework and other steering documents relevant. Internal organisational aspects as division of labour, working processes, meeting routines have been clarified as part of the implementation of the office and financial manuals.

Thirdly, for sustainability and quality assurance of impact, diversification of donor funding during the period has been key to intensify the ambition. Progress has been made as in November 2016, the Forum was confirmed two-year support from the UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR) for the 2017-2018 period.

Several other initiatives are taken for further diversifying funding. Three major proposals were developed and submitted in late 2016 to the Folke Bernadotte Academy, which has supported the Forum since 2010 with project funding both in Sweden and internationally.¹⁶ The three proposals include a request for core support especially related to communication as well as resources towards advancing the Women, Peace and Security agenda and gender equality within the Forum as well as continued support for international capacity building work. The decisions are expected in the first months of 2017.

The Forum has re-established contact with the Spanish government, including strengthened relationship with its diplomatic representative to Sweden. The aim is to resume cooperation with one of its founding countries and previous donor. As Spain is one of the founding countries, the Board of the Forum has included one Spanish MP throughout the years. Given the political stalemate in Spain, it was not possible to identify a Board Member for the period 2016-2018. The goal is to identify a candidate during the upcoming period, which is deemed feasible as the overall relationship is being consolidated between the Forum and Spain.

In sum, the overall financial situation is currently assessed as stabilised. As confirmed by the external study on internal management and control realised recently by professional services company KPMG, the financial management and control of the Forum is adequate and has been strengthened by application of policies, routines and measures identified.¹⁷ The study concluded

¹⁶ See Appendix 8 Donor Pipeline

¹⁷ See Appendix 9 KPMG Study

on a positive account, that the Forum has a well-defined management structure with clear roles and responsibilities adapted to its size.

A key area identified with need for improvement was to clarify the role of the Board regarding e.g. risk management and overall financial responsibility. This confirmed the Forum's own assessment and the issue has been fully addressed with the revised and adopted new Statutes and Regulations and various guidelines have been developed to ensure the quality of the organisation's activities.

A vital aspect for financial and operational sustainability of the Forum's work and a precondition for thematic impact is the role of the Secretariat. As the Board of the Forum emphasizes, the size of the Secretariat; its resources and capacity is key as to respond to members' requests and for qualitative planning, implementation and follow-up of our activities. The staff of the Secretariat is professional, competent and committed. As indicated in the Executive Summary, all expected results for the period have been achieved and to some extent exceeded. This achievement is assessed as noteworthy, especially since it was achieved during a period with limited staff resources due to vacancy and parental leave.

Indeed, this is a sign of high degree of professionalism and has been facilitated by the new Strategic Plan, and the different policies and working manuals, which facilitate prioritisation and efficient use of human and financial resources. However, this also meant an unreasonable work load for the team occasionally. In a long-term perspective, it is not a sustainable approach for thematic impact, nor organisationally or individually. In order to address the high political relevance of our objective, as shown in the growing interest from the Forum membership, and to comply with donor requirements, the organisation needs to have an adequate and solid staff situation. For a qualitative operational and strategic functioning, this implies that the core staff team needs to be gradually expanded during the upcoming period.

Conclusions and way forward

In conclusion, evident progress has been made, as explained above and as confirmed in the recent external KPMG study. Consolidation of the financial management and strict budget compliance of the organisation will remain a key priority onwards. Solid and transparent financial management policies and routines are part of the ongoing, continuous work of any organisation, and is the foundation for the impact that the Forum aims to achieve.

Donor diversification will also remain a key priority in order to increase sustainability, decrease vulnerability and further stabilise the financial foundation. Realistic budgeting, taking into account core costs, including adequate, satisfactory staff resources is vital to this process and for the long-term functioning of the Forum. The role of the Board is crucial in this process.

c. Concluding analysis - Overall Objective

The spread of SALW is an under-prioritised area on the international disarmament agenda and parliamentarians underutilised actors in development. The Forum is a unique organisation, well placed to generate positive impact in the field.

Given the dimension and urgency of the problem, conventional arms - particularly SALW - need to be prioritised on the international disarmament agenda where much focus is on nuclear, biological and chemical weapons. As highlighted by SDG 16, strong institutions are key for sustainable development. Parliaments have a crucial role in armed violence prevention by their legislative and oversight function and interaction with the public, in translating contemporary concerns into policies. Adaption of international disarmament policies to the national implementation level must be improved – where parliamentarians have a key role to ensure national parliamentary ownership. However, scarce attention from development programmes means low parliamentary capacity in many developing countries.

At the same time, women's participation as active agents in decision-making on peace and security is low which means valuable contributions to peace-building are not utilised. Only one in five of the world's parliamentarians are women and regarding parliamentary work on Defence and Security, the numbers are even lower. In addition to this, recent research by the IPU shows that many of women MPs face widespread sexism, harassment and violence which further undermine gender equality as well as democracy as a whole.

The lack of inclusion of the parliamentary component in several significant development reports is also evident e.g. the Global Study on UNSCR 1325. Although highlighting the importance of women representatives, it does not cover parliamentary work *per se*.

A vital report bearing evidence is the British International Development Committee inquiry into Parliamentary Strengthening which concludes that working with parliaments is 'key to long term development' and that parliaments need to be more central to development programmes. It recognises that work to promote democracy focused solely on ensuring free and fair elections is of scarce value without effective parliaments.

Hence, parliaments are particularly important for building sustainable peace and providing a platform for different interests to express views.

In sum, the sector on peace and security is missing out on important contributions from parliamentarians and especially from women parliamentarian, while scarce attention in the development field means low parliamentary capacity.

Parliamentarians, men and women, need continued policy and technical support with tools and knowledge for effective parliamentary action and full participation in international and national work related to peace and security. The Forum, with its global network, is a solid platform with evident added value for reaching results on bridging this gap.

3. Implementation of Results Achievement

a. The Forum

i. Parliamentary Forum

The Parliamentary Forum has been responsible for the implementation of the operations as described in relation to the specific objectives. The executive organ of the Parliamentary Forum, the Secretariat, is responsible for the implementation of operations and projects, while the Board provides for strategic guidance and oversight.

ii. Members of the Forum

Today, the Forum has approximately 200 members representing the whole political spectrum. Members are spread in different countries or regional entities, on four continents and membership is growing steadily. The Forum has strong representation in sub-Saharan Africa (35%), Americas (38%) and Europe (18%), as well as an increasing presence in Asia (3%) and the MENA region (6%).

75% of the Forum's members are men, which is a reflection of the situation in most of the world's parliaments. However, the Forum approaches and involves women politicians in its work. The Forum's Board currently consists of 4 women and 3 men, where two of which occupy the highest positions, the president of the Board Senator Daisy Tourné from Uruguay, followed by Vice-president Maria Andersson Willner from Sweden.

iii. Partner organisations

The Parliamentary Forum pursues a comprehensive approach towards achieving goals, which means expanding cooperation between parliamentarians, government officials, International Organisations and CSOs. The Forum has built a vast network, where the most relevant cooperation partners are the Euro-Latin American Parliamentary Assembly (EuroLat), the International Parliamentary Union (IPU), the Latin American Parliament (PARLATINO), governmental organisations such as the League of Arab States, South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) and UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC), civil society initiatives such as Control Arms, Cluster Munition Coalition (CMC), Danish Demining Group (DDG), International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW) various research institutes including Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) and Small Arms Survey.

Cooperation with parliamentary networks takes place in terms of the political outreach and the dissemination of the work done by the Forum. Governmental, academic and civil society partners

provide resources and thematic and regional expertise to expand and enhance the quality of the Forum's work.

In the recent period, the Forum has worked on strengthening partnerships with old and new partners, in line with the priorities set in the Strategic Plan, to secure long term impact and maximise the policy-shaping role in the Forum's work. For a complete list of partners and nature of cooperation see appendix 10.

b. Targeted groups

iv. Final beneficiaries

The Forum supports and assists parliamentarians in their work towards preventing SALW violence by providing necessary policy, technical and legislative tools at regional, national and international levels. The final outcome of this project will result in prevention and reduction of SALW-related violence contributing to more peaceful societies and increased human security.

SALW violence is underreported, which makes it difficult to present accurate accounts on victims of this type of violence. It is however clear through the data available that civilians are severely affected by either being direct victims themselves or indirectly through family members who have died or been injured by armed violence. It is important to highlight that armed violence is not always related to conflict as the majority of armed violence acts take place in non-conflict settings.

Developing countries especially suffer to large extents by the negative social, political and economic consequences of SALW violence. Men are often the most affected group of direct victims shown in high rates of homicide. Nevertheless, it is crucial to note that femicide is as serious problem which remarkably often goes unreported as a result of fear and insecurity. Women and girls are targets of gender-based violence and are abused sexually, physically and mentally. This abuse is underpinned and facilitated by access to SALW.

Beyond the direct victims and their relatives, SALW-related violence has tremendous impacts on societies in socio-economic as well as developmental ways by being a hinder to sustainable development, to peace and human security.

This project aims to benefit the most affected groups that are the poor and marginalised. It also serves to safeguard those who financially contribute to development efforts in countries that are affected by SALW-related violence i.e. companies and other form of investors. Presence of armed violence negatively affects investments and hinders their financial resources from reaching targets. It hampers international humanitarian aid from achieving the development goals by not being able to maximise its impact and cost efficiency.

By providing a platform for policy dialogue and exchange, the Forum enables parliamentarians to learn from other countries' best practices and experiences. Also, it contributes to the strengthening of democratic practices in developing and transition countries. As the Forum groups members of various political parties, discussions contribute to the building of a culture of political consensus. Further, as the Forum promotes collaboration with civil society, the citizens of countries in which the Forum conducts its activities will benefit from increased transparency and accountability of parliaments.

v. *Direct beneficiaries*

The Parliamentary Forum is an organisation for parliamentarians. It enables them to share knowledge and experience and to collaborate in preventing and reducing SALW-related violence. Parliamentarians are thus the main target group of the Parliamentary Forum and the current member base consists of approximately 200 parliamentarians across political parties and from regions around the world. Members have various levels of expertise on SALW issues and come from different educational and professional backgrounds.

The Forum affirms that parliamentarians are key actors for action on armed violence. Parliamentarians have the ability to take the necessary measures towards prevention and reduction of SALW violence by for example controlling the civilian acquisition and possession and addressing the demand for SALW at national, regional and international levels.

The Forum organises policy shaping and capacity building activities including seminars, round-tables, and individual meetings or by promoting parliamentary presence at inter-governmental fora, to give members an opportunity to meet each other but also to reach out to new potential members. Publications, the website of the Forum, social media and other contacts in form of newsletters are some tools used to keep members and partners up to date. Moreover, the Forum has close direct engagements with other important stakeholders such as parliamentary advisors and government representatives.

Direct beneficiaries are also CSOs, research institutions and other relevant stakeholders, which benefit from exposure to the parliamentary debates, and take advantage of the structure of the Forum to reach out to parliamentarians with research results as well as advocating for intervention on SALW matters.

The existing partners of the Forum are important communication assets that will be consulted to further increase its network with potential new partners and members. The Forum is constantly working on reaching out to parliamentarians with an interest in armed violence prevention and reduction who are not yet members, as well as other politicians and government official to involve as many as possible and to keep SALW related violence high on the political agenda.

c. Risk Analysis & Contingency Strategy

The Parliamentary Forum works to achieve its objectives and goals, nevertheless the following risks have been identified; political risks, high turnover among parliamentarians; lack of engagement of the Forum's members; lack of parliamentarians' engagement due to conflicting priorities; limited impact of parliamentarians on their government and on regional and international initiatives and lack of capacity at Secretariat based on increased membership requests and a heavy workload.

The Forum is actively taking measures to diminish and eliminate risks. The Strategic Plan with its overall framework, is the main tool to address all risks by strengthening and guiding efforts. Another measure was to update the Forum's Statutes and Regulations, by including risk analysis and management in the latter as well as strengthening the role of the Board.

The turnover challenges sustainability of efforts and resources invested in each parliamentarian. The Forum therefore engages also with permanent parliaments' staff and carefully documents all work. To handle the busy schedule of a parliamentarian, activities are well planned, guaranteeing quality and relevance of activities.

The member base of the Forum is spread over 80 different countries and regional entities around the world including non-conflict and conflict-affected regions. This means that the security situation at the locations of the Forum's activities are sometimes another risk to consider. Flexibility in operational planning with alternative scenarios and continuous context analysis in consultation with members help mitigate this risk. The Forum carefully documents and reports all activities, meetings and seminars. Policy documents and reports are available on the Forum's webpage for transparency and easy access.

Furthermore, lack of engagement of the Forum members is another risk. Due to the limited financial resources of the Forum, it is not possible to sponsor all members' participation in every event. Generally, a careful selection process takes place, where more active and committed members are prioritised. Events, however, are not the only way for members to engage and stay active, as many carry on with their work on armed violence prevention and reduction at the local and regional level. The Forum is strengthening its communication through social media efforts where all members are encouraged to participate and interact. Moreover, many former members, who often continue to be active within their community, choose to remain active with the Forum by becoming "Friends of the Forum". As friends, former members are kept updated through newsletters, webpage and social media platforms. They are also welcomed at Forum's workshops and seminars, although at their own expense. Also, close contact with parliamentary advisors is maintained as they have longer terms in the parliaments and often achieve high levels of expertise regarding armed violence issues.

The Forum does not seek new members aggressively, instead, outreach relies on information from existing members and entrusted partners in order to attract dedicated members. The risk of low engagement is taken into consideration when organising meetings and seminars. Therefore, close collaboration with host countries' parliaments is of utmost importance as it contributes to higher ownership and institutionalisation of the interventions. Moreover, some members may be eager to advance and work based on their role within the Forum, which is natural given the working environment of parliamentarians where individual efforts are important. This is understandable and the Forum offers alternative ways to combine the individual and collective agenda, encouraging MPs by highlighting the benefits of collaboration in order to achieve results effectively.

Individual support to parliamentarians on ad-hoc basis is important; however, as to achieve sustainability it is crucial to have an institutional, collective approach. The Forum membership includes well established and high profile members whose efforts can have a strong impact on their own government as well as in regional and international contexts. It is however important to invest in the wider membership as effective capacity building raises the profile of members. By equipping parliamentarians with expertise and tools, such as policy statements, expert advice and

handbooks, the level of professionalism with which they approach a SALW-related question raises, and this ensures that their opinion and work will be better valued. As member of the Forum, parliamentarians benefit from the excellent reputation of the Forum and additional weight and credit in support of the positions they defend. This significantly contributes to multiplying their impact in negotiation with governments or International Organisations.

The limited size of the Secretariat poses a challenge in terms of capacity as membership grows – reaching an all-time high in 2015. Mitigation measures are to review and strengthen core capacity, including the Communication Strategy and increase policy support role. For sustainability, the Forum will also continue to consolidate regional and national institutional anchorage in the respective parliaments by identifying focal points and collaboration with speakers of parliaments and diversify its funding base.

Efforts made towards increasing the Secretariat’s core capacity will allow the Forum to 1) guarantee results reporting to the relevant stakeholders, 2) give a proper follow up and secure sustainability of policy knowledge, capabilities and results achieved, 3) consolidate cooperation with parliamentarians and parliamentary institutions and 4) cover the gap and continue work when individual parliamentarians leave office.

A final risk is financial instability, which was made even more apparent following the precarious financial situation of 2015. Subsequently the financial sustainability aspect was added to the new Strategic Plan adopted in late 2016.

Since then, measures have been taken to strengthen, institutionalise and further develop financial and operational routines. This work is based on lessons learned within the organisation and recommendations from external auditors.

The table below summarises the risks and Forum’s contingency strategy. Management measures stated in the following table are in accordance with the Strategic Plan 2016-2018 and the Communication Strategy.

Risk	Likelihood (H/M/L)	Impact (H/M/L)	Management/Mitigation measures
Political, conflict and security related aspects hinder the realisation of planned activities	L/M	H	Continuous context analysis in consultation with country-based members and partners. Flexibility in operational planning, including alternative scenarios and plans.
Lack of engagement of the Forum’s members	L	H	The Forum’s rules for engagement ensure the commitment of its members. New Strategic Plan and Communication Strategy include measures and

			recommendations on this issue.
High turnover among parliamentarians	M	H	<p>The Forum engages also with permanent parliaments' staff, document its activities and make report available through its website. The Forum has developed a mechanism of engagement with former members.</p> <p>New Strategic Plan and Communication Strategy include measures and recommendations on this issue.</p>
Lack of parliamentarians' engagement due to conflicting priorities	L	H	<p>The Forum schedules activities in convenient time and guarantee the quality and relevance of its activities to the parliamentarians' agendas.</p> <p>New Strategic Plan and Communication Strategy include measures and recommendations on this issue.</p>
Limited impact of parliamentarians on governments, regional and International Organisations	M	H	<p>The Forum provides capacity building to raise the level of professionalism and consequently increase the impact of parliamentarians' interventions.</p> <p>New Strategic Plan and Communication Strategy include measures and recommendations on this issue.</p>
Lack of capacity (time & resources) at Secretariat to address increasing demands of members	M	M	<p>New Strategic Plan and Communication Strategy will include recommendations on this; facilitating prioritisation and efficient use of human and financial resources.</p> <p>Realistic budget submitted to donors as to enable continuity and sustainability of operations.</p>

d. Communication

Communication is a vital tool for the Forums' work towards its overall objective. With an approved Communication Strategy, for the first time, the Forum is strengthening communication to members, partner organisations and the general public. The strategy aims to improve outreach to present contacts but also to highlight the work and progress done by the Forum and its members.

Moreover, the Communication Strategy supports the Forums underlying working method by assisting policy-shaping and capacity-building role through raising further awareness about SALW related violence. It allows the Forum to attend to and interact with an increasing membership base by actively involving them in its work in an adequate way. It is also relevant for the tracking, measuring and reporting of the results of the Forum and its members.

As part of this strategy, operational work has been improved by qualitative planning. Social media platforms are updated weekly with information on the activities of the Forum and posts directed to members, the Board or the general public. These two methods have proven to be effective reaching out to over 21 000 people since 1st of April 2016 through Twitter and over 14 000 people through Facebook. The Forums' Twitter account has been steadily gaining a follower base of approximately 150 new followers since January 2016. Newsletters including more detailed reports on activities and achievements are sent out 3 times per year: For this, an e-mail based tool (Mail Chimp) is used which allows for data collection and analysis on outreach, as it reports on the number of recipients who opened the letter. Newsletters are e-mailed to 478 recipients on average and are seen by around 30% of them, well above of the average set for the industry which is 21.9 %, according to Mail Chimp. Other e-mail contact with members and partners is maintained as part of operational work on daily basis.

Frequent notifications and contact with members increase members' activity in SALW-related work. Newsletters are sent out to members as well as friends of the Forum to keep them updated on the events, meetings and progress that have been made.

e. Monitoring, Evaluation & Sustainability

Considerable efforts have been made during the period to strengthen the methodology and level of monitoring, reporting and evaluation. The Forum has introduced and is in the process of planning and systematising online surveys, to detect areas of improvement and better capture the results of its members work. The organisation is also developing and streamlining narrative and financial reports, has approved a Communication Strategy and is strengthening the strategic steering and evaluation role of the Board.

The Forum's projects are monitored, evaluated, and reported on by the Secretariat of the Parliamentary Forum. Narrative and financial reports are provided as agreed with specific donors. Staff meetings are held every two weeks to plan and review implementation. Meanwhile the Board provides strategic guidance and advice on further approving implementation of activities. This is done when Board meetings are held, aiming for at least 1-2 meetings a year. During these

meetings, a formal review of the Forums progress and achievement of objectives is provided in form of the Secretary General Report and news from individual Board members.

The Secretariat also monitors the activities of all members of the Forum. Members are contacted regularly requesting updates on their progress in forms of new legislation, parliamentary resolution, debates and media appearances. Outreach to members is done using many different means such as the Forums' social media platforms; Facebook and Twitter, newsletters, surveys and regular e-mail.

As to systematise results, an annual survey is used to collect reports on members' activity throughout the year. This was previously done via e-mail only, however, considering the busy schedules of parliamentarians it proved an ineffective method. On-line surveys are less time consuming as they are mostly consisted of multiple choice questions instead of blank pages to fill in. Moreover, the survey method simplifies data collection and makes it easier for the Secretariat to gather and follow up data and statistic.

This years' survey showed a reply rate of 10% of the Forums' total member base. As this was the first time the method was used it is expected that the reply rate will increase as members get used to the tool. A few areas for improvement have already been identified which will make future data collection more efficient. The gender division of the replies was 60% male and 40% female. The survey also provided the geographical whereabouts of members who replied showing a reasonable spread of following countries: Belgium, Cameroon, Comoros, Germany, Liberia, Mali, Mexico, Morocco, Nicaragua, Peru, Portugal, Serbia, South Africa, United Kingdom, Uruguay, Tanzania and Zimbabwe. Information provided by members in surveys helps the Secretariat follow progress and dedication of individual members, as well as to report the overall achievements of the Forum.

The survey method used for collecting progress reports provides some evaluation questions as well. This method will be used to provide improved Results, Monitoring and Evaluation approach tools that can be distributed to all members and other important stakeholders. The aim is to improve tracking and reporting methods and provide more sustainable data on the results of the activities of the Forum.

Members of the Forum and partner organisations also participate in evaluations and reporting processes. Seminars and workshops are subject to participants' evaluation. The Secretariat provides the necessary assessment tools that can be used at the end of these types of events. It is crucial that the Forum receives feedback in order to improve upcoming events and guarantee that any future intervention addresses correctly the needs expressed by its members.

The Forums' Communication Strategy aims to strengthen out-reach capacity and to develop methods adequate to satisfy needs of members while being compatible with the capacity of the Secretariat. Evident progress was made in this matter, nevertheless, the Forum will continue working hard to develop long-term sustainable means of communication that strengthen the Secretariats ability to monitor, track and follow-up activities of the growing members base.

The Secretariat and the Board conduct regular self-evaluations to track progress on achieving the objectives of the Forum. These are done in consideration to risks and challenges encountered in

addition to how flexible and sustainable the Forum is in planning and logistics. The Forum did plan an External Impact Evaluation; however, due to reduced funding it had to be down prioritised.

The Forum uses the Strategic Plan 2016-2018 to strengthen its long-term planning and the financial management, and has introduced policies to regulate financial and administrative practices, constantly evaluating results and challenges on a yearly basis, in order to secure the long-term impact of its work. These efforts will ultimately ensure organisational and thematic sustainability and accountability.

4. Lessons learned - Final words

As reflected in this narrative report, 2016 was a productive year both thematically and organisationally and all set targets have been achieved and in some cases exceeded.

While 2016 started with a precarious financial situation the year ends with an overall stable situation as new policies, routines and measures have been implemented. Considerable efforts were made to diversify funding and quality assure budget planning and follow up in order to guarantee the sustainability of the results and the further consolidation of the Forum 's mandate.

The overall assessment of the outcome of the different specific objectives shows that the variations between the specific objectives are more even compared to previous years. Specific Objective 4 relating to awareness-raising and communication, which historically has been the most challenging, as it was not prioritised among the other objectives, has seen remarkable improvements, given the new emphasis and efforts towards achieving better results in the objective. Specific Objective 2, which relates to capacity-building, together with Objective 3 for consensus-building at international level have been the most successful surpassing expected results.

Key lessons learned include the need to further institutionalise and strengthening the work of the Forum by to a larger extent applying regional representatives of the Forum membership as to better coordinate efforts and reach more substantial results. Drawing on the appreciated working methodology of policy statements on relevant issues, a natural development will be the introduction of parliamentary action plans which has been requested by members and are even more conducive to generate concrete action and political leverage. These will gradually become another tool for the Forum to secure parliamentary action and mid-long term impact in achieving the Forum 's overall goal. Another method of tracking results on the ground is by the creation of national parliamentary networks. In the history of the Forum, a handful of these have been created and had a proven track record of results.

Thematically, the main lesson learned is that the proliferation of SALW, despite the urgency and dimension of the problem, continues to be an under-prioritised area on the international disarmament agenda. The UNPoA has become second priority in favour of the ATT. The Forum therefore see the need to make serious efforts to advance work on the UNPoA in coming years and concrete plans are already in place for the next two years.

The legislative, over-sight and awareness-raising functions of a parliamentarian are key to successful armed violence prevention and reduction. Given that parliamentarians continue to be underutilised actors, the Forum will continue to champion the need for parliamentary inclusion in all relevant conventional arms control initiative, at national, regional and international level, in order to enhance results and ensure democratic anchorage.

Similarly, women’s participation as active agents in decision-making on peace and security, including women in parliament, especially regarding parliamentary work on Defence and Security, is low which means that the sector on peace and security is missing out on important contributions.

Measuring and reporting results is a complex process, given the political character. A salient challenge, that the Forum is working to improve, is the difficulty to track, measure and report mid-and long-term qualitative impact of policy-oriented and legislative processes.

As of 2016 the results approach has been clarified and a refinement work of the Results, Monitoring & Evaluation has been consolidated. This work is underpinned by the new Strategic Plan for 2016 -2018 and the Communication Strategy. The ongoing strengthening of the financial management of the Forum is also vital for planning, monitoring and results achievement and is based on the recommendations from external audit studies.

In sum, parliamentarians, men and women, are in continued need of a network that provides political leverage, policy and technical support with tools and knowledge for effective parliamentary action. The Forum is currently undergoing a consolidation of its role, functioning and management. The aim is to further enhance the quality; accountability and visibility of its impact by strengthen the communication, results and strategic elements of the Forum.

vi. List of activities 2016

2016			
Time	Activity	Place	Partner/organiser
Apr			
14	Seminar on ‘The role of parliamentarians in Swedish arms exports in light of the KEX-committee’s final report and 2030 Agenda’ ¹⁸	Stockholm, Sweden	Hosted by Swedish members at the Parliament
28	Round –table in preparation for BMS6 on UN Programme of Action on SALW	Stockholm, Sweden	Hosted by Swedish members at the Parliament IKFF
May			

¹⁸ Project related activity complemented by funds from the Folke Bernadotte Academy as well as limited in-kind contributions from parliaments

26-27	Regional meeting for Middle East and North Africa ¹⁹	Alexandria, Egypt	Swedish Institute Alexandria
27	Seminar on ATT implementation for Liberian legislators	Monrovia, Liberia	Hosted by Liberian members at the Parliament
Jun			
8	Side event on “The role of parliamentarians and health professionals in connecting the dots between the UNPoA and SDG16” at the BMS6	New York, USA	Swedish Mission to the United Nations IPPNW
21	Members co-organise seminar on SALW management and ATT ratification in Cameroon	Yaoundé, Cameroon	CAMYOSFOP RECSA
Jul			
6	Seminar on ‘Consequences of Gun Violence - violence prevention and 2030 Agenda’ ²⁰	Visby, Sweden	Individuell Människohjälp
7-8	Board member panellist at seminar ‘Advancing the Women, Peace and Security Agenda’	New York, USA	WILPF
Sep			
19-22	Euro-Latin Parliamentary Assembly – Board member hold presentation on illicit trade in SALW	Montevideo, Uruguay	EuroLat
Nov			
9	Seminar on ‘Seminar Small Arms Control in Light of 2030 Agenda’	Stockholm, Sweden	Hosted by Swedish members at the Parliament Individuell Människohjälp
22-23	Regional Seminar Latin America	Montevideo, Uruguay	Parliament of Uruguay
23	General Assembly of Parliamentary Forum on SALW	Montevideo, Uruguay	Parliament of Uruguay

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ Ibid

24	Board meeting	Montevideo, Uruguay	Parliament of Uruguay
----	---------------	------------------------	--------------------------

vii. Appendices

1. Strategic Plan 2016-2018
2. Policy Statements
3. List of tailor-made materials for Forum Members in 2016
4. Media articles 2016
5. Final declarations
6. Communication strategy
7. Statutes & Regulations
8. Donor Pipeline
9. KPMG Study PFSALW 2016
10. List of partner organisations
11. Reports national seminars
12. Reports regional meetings & General Assembly
13. Newsletters
14. Swedish government referral
15. Reports Board meetings
16. Secretary General's reports

For more information and pictures, please visit the Forum's platforms
www.parliamentaryforum.org - Twitter: [@ParlForumSalw](https://twitter.com/ParlForumSalw) - www.facebook.com/PFSALW/