



**PARLIAMENTARY FORUM**  
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS



**Inter-parliamentary Conference**  
**21-22 May, Lima, Peru**  
**Venue: United Nations House “Javier Pérez de Cuellar”**

**“Enhancing ATT and UNPoA Implementation  
through South –South Parliamentary Exchange and Cooperation”**

**FINAL REPORT**





## Introduction

The conference was held on the 21 and 22 May 2015 and organised by the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons, in cooperation with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) and the Congress of Peru.

24 Members of Parliament from Argentina, Central African Republic, Costa Rica, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ecuador, Ghana, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Mexico, Nicaragua, Peru, Tanzania, Togo and Zimbabwe participated along with experts from Asociación para Políticas Públicas, Comisión Nacional contra la Fabricación y el Tráfico Ilícito de Armas de Fuego, Municiones y Explosivos (CONATIAF), International Committee of the Red Cross, , International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), Small Arms Survey and Transitions Foundation. A list of participants can be found at the end of the document.

Africa and Latin America are regions heavily affected by armed violence. When the arms trade is unregulated, weapons easily find their way into the wrong hands. The recently adopted Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is a huge step in the right direction to stopping the uncontrolled proliferation of arms. The 2001 United Nations Programme of Action to Combat, Prevent and Eradicate the Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPoA) was established to tackle the issue of the illicit trade. The ATT and the UNPoA are complimentary and mutually reinforcing.

The UNPoA is in its initial stages and while the ATT has been signed by over 130 states, ratification and implementation are the next tasks. Parliamentarians have an important role in legislative measures, parliamentary oversight of the government and awareness-raising. A Final Declaration was adopted at the end of the conference (attached).

The event was funded by the [UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation, UNSCAR](#), a multi-donor funding mechanism designed to fund projects aimed at supporting the implementation of the ATT and the PoA.



**Content**

**Introduction** ..... 2

**Opening session** ..... 4

**Objectives of the Conference - Parliamentarians’ contribution – from N’jamena to Lima**..... 6

**Session I: The Arms Trade Treaty - Why an Arms Trade Treaty? Its history, current status and future** ..... 7

**Session II: Parliamentary Dialogue - Parliamentary dialogue as a tool for responsible arms transfers**..... 10

**Session III: National and regional ratification and implementation - How to achieve results on the ground** ..... 13

**Session IV: Interactive group session: Arms Transfer Practical Exercise - Taking the role of an export control authority in arms transfer scenarios**..... 18

**Session V: The UN Programme of Action - Examining the UN Programme of Action on Illicit SALW and how it relates to other regional instruments for arms control and the Arms Trade Treaty**..... 21

**Session VI: UN PoA, Armed Violence Reduction and Public Health Approaches to Small Arms** 24

**Discussion and adoption of Final Declaration** ..... 27

**Closing remarks** ..... 27

**Round table on armed violence and public health** ..... 28

**List of Participants** ..... 31



## Opening session

**Hon. José Figueroa, MP from Nicaragua and Board Member of the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)** opened the meeting and welcomed all participants.

He gave a brief introduction to the Parliamentary Forum and explained that it is a relatively young organisation which comprises of members from Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. The Forum is led by its member and receives support from the secretariat. He said that the goal is to support parliamentarians the task to achieve better control of arms as well as to fight armed violence.

One important objective has been to work for the signing, ratification and implementation of the [Arms Trade Treaty \(ATT\)](#) as well as to give follow up to the [United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects \(UNPoA\)](#). Armed violence is a serious problem and SALW are multipliers of violence. According to recent studies around 40% of homicides are committed with firearms worldwide. In Latin America the average is closer to 70% and in some countries I reached beyond 90%.<sup>1</sup>

This seminar is one in a series of efforts to create spaces for dialogue and bring in the needs of all regions. He hoped participants would have the opportunity to learn and discuss their own experiences in order to gain knowledge to improve laws and other measures to foster peace and tranquillity.

**Hon. Yonhy Lescano, MP Peru and Member of the Parliamentary Forum on SALW** welcomed all the participants to Peru and the city of Lima. He encouraged them to explore the city of Lima and the rich culture of Peru which is a mix of old native traditions such as the Quechua, and Spanish colonial heritage.

Today Lima is a very large city of 9 million people and all of Peru has experienced economic growth. This has however also come with its problems; some of which are related to armed violence caused by the drugs trade which has huge economic powers behind it and has become very violent. It reaches national political level and people resort to eliminating their political opponents. To this there are still problems with common crimes and blackmailing. Many of the weapons are obtained via the illicit market. Peru is joining the fight against armed violence and is at the final stages of ratification of the ATT. While Peru has made progress economically in recent years, they can't deal with the problems of armed violence alone and therefore he stressed the need for regional and international cooperation.

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<sup>1</sup> [http://www.unodc.org/documents/gsh/pdfs/2014\\_GLOBAL\\_HOMICIDE\\_BOOK\\_web.pdf](http://www.unodc.org/documents/gsh/pdfs/2014_GLOBAL_HOMICIDE_BOOK_web.pdf)



**Melanie Régimbal, Director of UNLIREC** welcomed all participants to the United Nations House “Javier Pérez de Cuellar” and was pleased to be able to offer the facilities to the conference. She noted that a few years ago disarmament was seen as a minor piece and a relic from the Cold War and thus left aside for ‘real’ security threats. However, reports on armed violence are all over the news and there is an increased worry about crime and violence.

Last year, on December 24, 2014, the ATT entered into force after a long journey. The absence of rules for arms control made it easy for groups and individuals to obtain arms, leading to unnecessary suffering due to lack of consistent regulation. The ATT will limit the availability of weapons to criminal groups, and better regulate legal weapons, since many of the arms used in crimes started off as legal.

Melanie Régimbal mentioned that the implementation of such mechanisms would help to better deliver humanitarian assistance, and to the enduring consolidation of peace. The ATT has 67 member states, of which 17 are from Latin America. She also mentioned the news that Peru is close to ratification too, and that the UN has worked with different actors to support the entering into force.

She mentioned that UNLIREC has developed tools and materials that will help parliamentarians with the process of ratification and implementation, mainly training courses and other practical tools that are aimed to support government officials. For instance, in 2014 and 2015 UNLIREC has been implementing specialized courses for the national control authorities in the region, taking into consideration the situation and specific needs of each country.

Melanie Régimbal finalised her intervention by highlighting that parliamentarians have an important role in the ATT process beyond ratification. By exercising parliamentary control, legislators can raise the standard of control for armament, as well establishing national priorities according to the different needs of each country. The main duty of UNLIREC is to put into practice the mandate from the UN for promoting peace, development and disarmament. UNLIREC seeks to cooperate with all countries in the region to further aid in the universalization of the ATT and in effective disarmament mechanisms.



## Objectives of the Conference - *Parliamentarians' contribution – from N'djamena to Lima*

**Teresa Dybeck, Programme Manager, Parliamentary Forum on SALW** gave an overview of the objectives of the conference. She explained that the Parliamentary Forum on SALW is a unique global network of 230 parliamentarians from 80 countries in Africa, Latin America, Europe and the Middle East attracting politicians from all political factions – left, right and centre.

It provides a space for parliamentarians to debate, join forces and contribute to the advancement of the small arms and armed violence reduction agenda. The Forum was founded 13 years ago and has since contributed to strengthening the legislative framework for SALW control; increase the understanding of SALW violence amongst parliamentarians and the development of best-practices on SALW violence reduction and prevention.

An important part of the Forum's work is international treaties and conventions i.e. increasing parliamentary involvement in the work for the Arms Trade Treaty and the UN Programme of Action on Illicit SALW. The ATT is a major achievement and offers a tool to parliamentarians worldwide to improve international standards and praxis to cope with the negative effects of arms transfers.

She stressed the importance of South-South cooperation. Members of the Forum come from diverse backgrounds and various political convictions, but they all experience the problems caused by the wide availability of arms and their misuse. Whilst these problems might differ in relations to the national and regional contexts, parliamentarians can still learn from measures implemented in other countries and share best practices.

This conference is the second of a series of activities on the topic. A similar inter-regional conference was held exactly one year ago in Lomé, Togo (22-23 of May 2014) and in between a number of national activities had been held including; there will be a series of national activities including Benin, Burkina Faso, Benin, Malawi, South Africa, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda and Zimbabwe. She invited the participants from these countries to elaborate on what activities had been held.

She also highlighted other important parliamentary initiatives on the topic. In April the Economic Community for Central African States (ECCAS) and the Centre for Peace, Security and Armed Violence Prevention held a workshop for Central African states in N'Djamena, Chad. She also mentioned Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) which is doing excellent work on the ATT and has a number of tools available. Another very positive development is that the British Group of the IPU is held their annual conference on the ATT in November 2014.





She noted that in addition to a good regional balance, around half of the participants in the Lima conference had participated also in Lomé, giving them an opportunity to share experiences with new-comers.

### **Session I: The Arms Trade Treaty - *Why an Arms Trade Treaty? Its history, current status and future***

**Hon. José Figueroa, MP from Nicaragua and Board Member of the Parliamentary Forum on SALW** facilitated the session.

**Eric Berman, Managing Director, [Small Arms Survey](#)** gave a global view of the ATT, transfer criteria, implementation and what he called “final provisions”, as well as giving a short introduction on the work of Small Arms Survey (SAS). Eric Berman explained that SAS provides reliable and impartial evidence-based policy-relevant analysis on small arms and armed violence, working closely with governments in multilateral forums and receiving support from them too. He explained how SAS works, making use of field-based research, implementing baseline assessments, providing tools of analysis for a wide range of actors and publicizing materials such as books, issue briefs, research notes, identification and best practice cards, all on topics of small arms and light weapons.

Eric Berman proceeded to brief the audience about the ATT and how it compares to other instruments, namely the Firearms Protocol, the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms (UNPoA) and [the International Tracing Instrument](#) (ITI) in terms of its legal status and scope. For instance, the ATT is a legally binding instrument, whose scope is conventional weapons, including SALW, but contains only certain provisions that apply to ammunition and parts and components. In comparison, only the Firearms Protocol is legally binding and both the UNPoA and the ITI are only politically binding.

He continued his presentation by briefly explaining the evolution of the ATT timeline and the different stages of negotiation before the UN General Assembly adopted the ATT through [Resolution 67/234 B](#) on April 2, 2013.

The object and purpose of the ATT (Art. 1) were explained by Eric Berman, emphasizing that the ATT seeks to establish the highest possible common international standards for regulating conventional arms trade, eradicate and prevent illicit trade, prevent diversion, reduce human suffering, contribute to international and regional peace, security and stability, and the promotion of cooperation and transparency to build confidence.



The Transfer Criteria, included in articles 6 and 7 of the ATT, contains provisions such as the export assessment; the need to consider risk mitigation, risk of gender based violence, violence against women and children as well as the reassessment when “new relevant information” exists.

In terms of implementation, he underlined the provisions included in the Article 5 of the Treaty, where a national control system, a national control list, definitions of the arms covered, he designation of competent national authorities and national points of contact for information exchange are described. He also explained provisions of the article 8 on the need to provide information to exporting states and measure to regulate imports of conventional arms where necessary, together with the article 9 and 10 referring to Transit/trans-shipment and brokering respectively. Regulations on brokering are included in article 10, on diversion in article 11, record keeping in article 12, reporting on article 13 and enforcement in article 14. With regards to reporting some states have expressed concerns about reporting fatigue.

He also gave an overview of the final provisions included in the ATT that go from the articles 17 to 28. The final provisions include the celebration of a Conference of State Parties (art. 17), establishment of a Secretariat (art. 18), signature, ratification, acceptance, approval or accession (art. 21), entry into force (art. 22), provisional application (art. 23), duration and withdrawal (art. 24), reservations, (art. 25), relationship with other international agreements (art. 26), depositary (art. 27) and authentic texts (art. 28).

Eric Berman made an assessment of the ATT value added; emphasizing that the ATT helps create benchmarks, fills some gaps, reinforce and enhances certain commitments, clarifies some ambiguities and enhances focus on diversion prevention. However, he also mentioned that certain commitments are weaker, adds to the confusion with other instruments (brokering provisions are fairly weak), qualifies commitments and takes backwards regarding certain norms (e.g. record keeping). He finalised by highlighting the importance that Secretariat will have in the implementation and follow up work, as well as the need to focus on the UNPoA and the ATT as complimentary instruments. His full presentation is available [here](#).

**Alex Gálvez, representing Guatemalan NGO [Transitions Foundation](#)** is a survival of armed violence. In his teenage years he almost lost his life to a revolver 48 calibre. The gun had been transferred into Guatemala from another country and he is therefore considered a victim of an irresponsible arms transfer. He is only one of thousands examples in Guatemala.

Armed violence means enormous costs for society both directly and indirectly. Health budgets are used to treat acute traumas caused by armed violence and thus diverting funds away from other important health programmes. Victims often have secondary health problems long after the wound has healed. Indirectly it costs society and individuals an enormous amount in terms of lost





productivity. It also robs people of a good livelihood as it prevents people from working and moving around freely. The full presentation is available [here](#).

He noted that he had been privileged in the sense that he has been able to represent civil society and participate in the negotiations of the ATT. However, he had not yet seen the full benefits of bringing in the experience of survivors. He highlighted the need for more reliable data and research in order to better understand the problem and put the correct prevention and reduction measures in place. There is also a need for greater transparency as there is often a discrepancy in data. He showed one example where exported had reported a total of 6 million dollars whereas Guatemala only reported an import of 4 million dollars. This could be a case of diversion of weapons. Guatemala has signed the ATT but is yet to ratify.

### Value of imported pistols and handguns in Guatemala (2000-2009)

Country of origin	Reported by Guatemala	Reported by exporting country
Israel	3,427,487	971,000
Czech Rep.	4,257,085	6,338,109
Argentina	2,501,069	2,202,456
USA	2,143,793	1,776,930
Dominican Rep.	1,512,442	0
Turkey	946,241	1,776,309
Italy	883,955	1,123,760
Uruguay	836,618	0
Austria	792,438	0
Peru	360,075	0
Brazil	420,086	0
Germany	348,412	448,000
Chile	302,075	0
China	164,751	0
Colombia	80,520	81,007
Mexico	0	39,614
Honduras	0	104,272
<b>Total</b>	<b>\$ 26,569,006</b>	<b>\$ 18,114,511</b>



## Session II: Parliamentary Dialogue - *Parliamentary dialogue as a tool for responsible arms transfers*



**Hon. Silvia Salgado, MP from Ecuador** took the floor and noted that many countries in the global South are not producers of arms but still account for most of the victims. She elaborated on the fact that Ecuador abstained from voting and has not yet signed or ratified the ATT. However, this does not mean that Ecuador does not take the issue seriously. The process has been followed closely and measures to flight armed violence are being put in place. She highlighted that in the end of the day it is implementation that is they key task.

**Hon. Bairon Valle Pinargote, MP Ecuador** noted that 98% of the population in Ecuador feel insecure and this could be linked to constant media reports. This kind of news often makes the headlines while violence prevention measures put in place are barely report on at all. Much fewer people are actually victims than those who fear armed violence. He agreed with his colleague that even if Ecuador has not joined the ATT it is still making efforts to fight armed violence. One example has been to limit the sale of alcoholic beverages to certain hours. Monday to Thursday alcohol can only be sold until midnight and during the weekend until 2 pm. Sunday is a family day and no alcohol should be sold. This new law has had positive effects and reduced armed violence. The government is also making efforts to gather data more effectively. **Pia Devoto - Asociación para Políticas Públicas** agreed with this statement.

**Hon. Fernando Belaunzaran, MP Mexico** underscored the obstacles they face in Mexico where the illegal trade in arms is highly profitable. This is closely linked to the drugs trade with a bloody war as a consequence. He believed that the war on drugs has been a failure. After over 100 years



of prohibition, very little has been achieved. Both production and consumption is on the rise and the criminal gangs have more power than the police to the point where control has been lost leading to killings and disappearances and ultimately to a humanitarian crisis.

A new paradigm is needed. Prohibition is no longer benefitting the populations but instead the criminals who are able to make large profits. Focus should be shifted to more efforts and resources are being directed towards prevention and health care for those who need treatment for addiction. As the situation is now, more people are being killed due to involvement in the trade than due to consumption.

**Hon. Wg Cdr Francis Anaman, MP from Ghana** felt encouraged to return back and work for ratification and will inspire other countries to do the same. He noted that the drug induced crime is not only a problem in Latin America but is also becoming more visible in West Africa too. However, it appears that crime is still more poverty driven in Africa. It takes much political will to change the situation. Nigeria has done good work on prevention but is still struggling with Boko Haram. He humbly appealed that countries should help each other to carry out the measures put in place so the ATT does not simply become a useless document. He highlighted that exporters need to take responsibility.

**Hon. Goodwin Gray Kanjere, MP from Malawi** thanked the organisers and explained that Malawi is a small country with a small economy but still faces challenges with armed robbery. He highlighted the issue of youth unemployment. Every year students graduate and can't find work and instead turn to crime. He also noted that many of the weapons find their way in across the border from Mozambique. Ratification is very close in Malawi and he and his colleagues, with support from the Forum, have worked hard to ensure this.

**Hon. Carlos Velasco – Ecuador** also mentioned drug addiction as a public health issue. Ecuador is enacting a law which will promote prevention rather than penalising the user. He also mentioned the rise of synthetic drugs which do not need soil to be grown.

**Hon. Aissata Touré Mme Diallo, MP from Mali**, noted that there are currently many conflicts going on in her country – a country which is mostly desert and difficult to control for illicit trafficking or arms and drugs. She noted that where Latin America has violent drug traffickers, West Africa has terrorists such as Boko Haram. She explained that Mali has ratified the ATT and the parliament is very engaged. There is a network to fight SALW. Although she thought they were maybe not as advanced as Latin America, they are still doing some good work. For instance, they now have more information on drugs activity. It has become clear that young people are given incentives and are tempted or sometimes threatened to join the trade. She therefore emphasized the need to work with need to work with civil society to reach out to young people.



**Hon. Ernest Hamuli Kitsa, Senator from the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** explained that DRC is a country in Central Africa and has nine neighbours where weapons can easily cross and pose a significant threat. In the eastern part of the country people are still being killed in gruesome ways.

He said that DRC is in total agreement with the ATT but have not yet signed or ratified. He is currently investigating the reasons for this. He added that he believed that the parliament was doing a good job in terms of their control duty. He mentioned his work within the commission on sexual violence and said that weapons are still being used to severely harm women and girls. When he had shown videos his colleagues, they had started to cry.

**Hon. Edward W. Karfiah, MP from Liberia**, noted West Africa's severe problems with armed conflict, including Liberia and how they had seen how easily arms cross borders. This is still happening with weapons currently coming in from Libya. He was however pleased to announce that Liberia very recently ratified the ATT and is also in the process of working on a new Firearms Act. In addition, the [Convention on Cluster Munitions](#) (CCM) will also soon be up for discussion and ratification.

**Hon. Marie Agba Otikpo, MP Central African Republic**, highlighted how her country suffers from a severe lack of security and administration in the provinces is poor or non-existent. Due to its porous borders the country has turned into a headquarters for groups operating across the border. CAR is likely to ratify the ATT but she had her doubts on how it will be able to enforce it. They are taking small steps, for instance a commission has been put in place collect weapons which means that hopefully the military should soon be back in operation. She joined in with her colleagues and highlighted the risks of youth unemployment and how many young people feel their life has no value and are easily led into illicit activities. She said she would very much like to keep in touch with the participants of the conference and suggested email exchanges to take place.

**Hon. Alicia Comelli, MP from Argentina** noted that no country can say that they are problem free in this regard and therefore it is so important to work together. She mentioned that although Argentina has much yet to do they have made some progress. The '[National Programme for the Voluntary Surrender of Firearms, 2006](#)' was successful received a Future Policy Award in 2013. She also mentioned her work in the security committee where she for many years forward for a new firearms law. She mentioned how tis law was based on the model law on firearms developed by the Forum, together with partners which was commissioned and endorsed by the [Latin American Parliament](#).



**Eric Berman, Director Small Arms Survey**, responded to the comments made. He said that it is important not to only focus on producing countries and address demand. In addition, there are many countries which are not producers but still export weapons. He noted that many countries are and will lag behind in terms of implementation of the ATT.

With reference to the comments made on youth unemployment, large funds have been invested into so called Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) programmes but most have been extremely flawed and ineffective and opportunities have been missed. He also noted that one needs to be careful when talking about Libya as there are a number of states that have been providing terrorist groups with weapons and using Libya as an excuse and in a way that it does not shed light on their own activities but instead diverts attention away.

**Alex Gálvez, representing Guatemalan NGO Transitions Foundation**, ended the session and highlighted once again the important role of parliamentarians in enforcing the ATT. Civil society organisations do as much as they can but sometimes it is not enough. It is therefore important that the two groups can work together.

### **Session III: National and regional ratification and implementation - *How to achieve results on the ground***

**Mariana Chacón, from the [International Committee of the Red Cross](#)**, welcomed the participants and panellists to the session.

**Sonia Fernández, Legal Coordinator UNLIREC**, also welcomed the participants to the home of the United Nations in Lima. She made a comment about the fact that there is a large amount of national, regional, sub regional character and politically binding legal instruments, which leads to the question “How the ATT is different compared to these mechanisms?” Sonia Fernández stressed the fact that it is the first *legally* binding global instrument setting standards to regulate the trade in conventional weapons and prevent illicit trafficking. The ATT is a broader instrument in terms of comprehensiveness (universal geographic application) as well as integrity (scope).

Sonia Fernández stressed the fact that, unlike other international treaties, the ATT is not confined only to small arms but includes conventional weapons. Besides these features, the ATT sets specific standards for the promotion of the global trade, where a significant portion is spent on imports subject to specific evaluation criteria established in the treaty provisions. She said it has a very valid instrument, given that 130 of the states have signed the treaty, and 67 have proceeded



to ratification. The biggest challenge is to achieve universalisation, i.e. ensuring that more states accede to the treaty.

She underscored that events like this promote dialogue, which is essential in the efforts of signature, ratification and implementation, especially from a parliamentary perspective. The ATT will have a positive impact on state parties as they fully implement the obligations of the Treaty, especially taking into account that the ATT acknowledges the sovereignty of states and also with a high degree of flexibility in achieving these objectives. Some of these obligations involve creating an authority to regulate the transfer of conventional arms (export, import, transit, transshipment, brokerage), excluding parts and ammunition, and the appointment of a focal point and the use of a national checklist.

She went on to explain the role and mandate that has UNLIREC in the ATT process and generally in the region. The treaty provides for cooperation and assistance, and this can be managed or offered by the United Nations, international organizations and others. UNLIREC is one of such organizations, since it has technical expertise in different areas, such as legal assistance, measures to mitigate risk of diversion, as well as training courses. Sonia Fernandez ended her presentation by introducing one of these courses, the course of implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (CITCA). A short version this course will be implemented in the next panel.

**Mariana Chacón** thanked Sonia Fernandez, and proceeded to explain the work and interests of the International Committee of the Red Cross in Peru in international disarmament mechanisms, especially the Arms Trade Treaty.

Articles 6 and 7 of the ATT present innovations on the treatment of transfers, including reference to different fields of international law, including International Humanitarian Law. The ICRC emphasizes the concern shown by the ATT on humanitarian consequences that arms transfers may have. In line with Article 1 of the Geneva Convention of 1949, ICRC calls on states to also ensure respect for humanitarian law and thereby prevent war crimes.

Mariana Chacon continued moderation, giving the floor to Maria Pia Devoto, director of Public Policy Association in Argentina (Asociación para Políticas Públicas).

**María Pía Devoto, Director of the Association for Public Policies ([Asociación para Políticas Públicas](#)), Argentina**, gave an introduction on terms related to the status of signatures and ratifications. She explained that her presentation would focus on how the region is facing implementation of the ATT, what civil society is doing to promote the Treaty and what the main issues countries are discussing.

Maria Pia Devoto reported that the ATT entered into force on December 24, 2014, after it had been signed at the United Nations General Assembly and reached 50 ratifications. She stressed that many Latin American countries were among the states that made entry into force possible.





**PARLIAMENTARY FORUM**  
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS



She informed the audience that the negotiations started back in 2006 which resulted in a long process, similar to other treaties. Today the ATT has reached 130 signatories and 67 ratifications, the latest being Belize and Paraguay.

In terms of regions, Maria Pia Devoto noted that in terms of number of signatures Africa is in the lead with 37 states having signed the treaty followed by Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) with 28 countries. Europe leads the total number of ratifications (21) and where LAC has 17 and Africa 9. She said that in relative terms, 55% signatory countries have already ratified. She emphasized that the main challenges in the region are smuggling and criminal violence and called on the participants to use this meeting to collaborate with sister countries in the South to increase the number of ratifications. She also mentioned that these countries have similar parliamentary processes, where the issue of the ATT should be treated by the parliament at some point.

She also mentioned that civil society has shown that there is a correlation between activism of the parliamentarians, the militancy and they have participated in the negotiations together with the delegations to accelerate ratification. The Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Parliamentarians for Global Action and the IPU are good examples of this. She emphasized that the ATT without proper implementation at the national level is a dead document.

Ms Devoto said that the example in the region is Costa Rica, where the ATT has been a priority. Costa Rica has played a leading role in the negotiations, and noted that the implementation course provided by UNLIREC was something that stimulated and inspired this process. She said that there is an exemplary institutional coordination, where the Ministry of Foreign Affairs leads the process, but with excellent cooperation with the executive branch, industry, the ministry of security and other structures, systems and procedures that relate to the Treaty.

She also drew on the example of Ecuador, which has not signed the Treaty, but still the parliamentarians can use their seat and access to the congress to discuss the implications of the ATT, initiate dialogue with important players, ministries, NGOs, making use of the advantage of the political projection and visibility that parliamentarians have.

She mentioned civil society initiatives on the ATT, such as the [Arms Trade Treaty Baseline Assessment Project](#) of the [Stimson Center](#) and the [ATT Monitor](#) as tools that will show to which point states have implemented and which aspects need to improve. She also mentioned the [ATT Legal Project](#), where legal assistance is provided to states to interpret the text of the treaty and assess whether any national legislation is consistent with this.

Ms Devoto gave a brief summary of the different positions that countries have had prior to the First Conference of States Parties to the TCA negotiations. She explained that the issues where negotiations have been more difficult are: how decisions will be taken within the Treaty - either



**PARLIAMENTARY FORUM**  
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS



by consensus or voting? Participation in meetings, what the categories will be? How will signatory states and state parties participate? Which civil society organizations (for or against the ATT) will participate? Where will the headquarters of the secretariat be located? And finally, what will be the format and timeframe for reporting look like?

Maria Pia Devoto concluded by making a proposal to organize national workshops for parliamentarians, since these are the enabling space for discussion, exchange of ideas and discussion, where the voice of the people is expressed. These activities should include representatives of the ruling parties and the opposition. Finally, he recommended assessing the creation of a special commission on the ATT, with the participation of different actors and institutions and civil society, government and industry, where they can incorporate instruments such as the UNPoA and firearms protocol.

Mariana Chacón thanked the speaker and gave the floor to the next panellist.

**Hon. Senator Lilian Timveos, from Zimbabwe**, proceeded to explain the status of ratification of ATT in her country. H. Timveos thanked the organizers for inviting her country to participate in the conference. She said that although the ATT provides an international platform through which governments can incorporate and lead multilateral efforts to address the proliferation of weapons and ammunition into the wrong hands in conflict zones, it is imperative to emphasize that the success of the ATT depends largely on individual initiatives statements. It depends on domestic efforts, political will of national governments to create adequate control mechanisms, constraints, legal instruments and monitoring of weapons, political institutions and regulatory regimes. Without this grassroots initiative accompanied by political commitment, it is clear that the regime of arms control at the global level will remain as a piece of paper.

She decisively reaffirms Zimbabwe's support for the ATT and reported that the Treaty was signed on December 18, 2014. This, however, still does not make Zimbabwe a state party to the treaty, and ratification is in process in the national parliament. This process requires consultation with various interest groups and the mobilization of civil society to raise awareness of the implications of Zimbabwe to join the global community in illegal arms sales. She explained that these consultations are necessary, since under the law in Zimbabwe, ratification of any international instrument it only becomes a state party, which does not necessarily make the instrument split of domestic law, limiting the benefits that could have individual victims of the harmful effects of illegal trade in small arms. Following ratification, they will proceed to create an Act where the provisions of the ATT are included and harmonization carried out to address the specific problems of Zimbabwe on disarmament. This in turn requires an inclusive process of consultations in order to create a comprehensive domestic law on illegal weapons that can reflect specific needs within a global action plan.



**PARLIAMENTARY FORUM**  
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS



Senator Timveos emphasized the importance of the TCA for Zimbabwe, given that the country has a military industrial complex, administered by the armed forces. This complex produces SALW in the 7,62x39 mm and 7,62x51 mm calibres, most of this production is to cover local needs, but sometimes military equipment is also exported. The capacity of the parliament to monitor the military industrial complex, procurement for national security institutions, including private security companies, as well as auditing contacts and acquisitions, are key tasks that have to be completed effectively in the ATT implementation process. Senator Timveos explained that the Parliament in Zimbabwe has broadened the oversight extent of Portfolio Committees to include other security services outside the military, i.e. the Central Intelligence Services and private security companies. Quarterly budgets of income and expenditure from the army, police and central intelligence services are submitted to the relevant Portfolio Committees. This ensures a thorough scrutiny and consideration, so the defence spending and income is transparent and there is a process of accountability for any funds. The process of periodic budgetary scrutiny of the security institutions by parliament is essential and relevant to check out for any laundering of funds through arms smuggling activities or abuse of public funds in illicit arms transfers.

H. Timveos explained that the overall situation regarding existing domestic laws on arms and ammunition is that the country has a restrictive policy of weapons control, regulated by the Firearms Act. She said a 2007 study revealed that there are about four hundred thousand weapons in civilian hands. Current efforts are focused on domestic restrict proliferation of small arms by establishing tighter controls, including review of records. Added to this, H. Timveos said that besides local proliferation, an issue to consider is the flow of weapons from neighbouring countries, like South Africa and Mozambique. She said the increase is necessary binational efforts to improve border surveillance and control the movement of populations in these areas, ensuring that migrant and refugees from conflict zones not facilitate traffic flows of weapons.

Senator Timveos concluded by expressing the need for an interface between local and regional initiatives, through cooperation and consultation between the various member states. Sharing information is important to address the problem and that all states parties should be transparent and allow quick access to relevant information for various inspections and investigations carried out by international organizations.

Mariana Chacon thanked the Senator and proceeded to end the session and called for a short break.



## **Session IV: Interactive group session: Arms Transfer Practical Exercise -** *Taking the role of an export control authority in arms transfer scenarios*

**Karina Hinojosa, Legal Officer, UNLIREC**, managed and introduced the exercise session of interactive group work. The first step in the exercise was to examine the chain of responsibility. **Angela Hoyos, Legal Officer UNLIREC**, called 13 members of the Spanish-speaking audience, and proceeded to hand out cards at random. Each card represented a member within the chain of responsibility, and detailed the role that this person had a series of events related to regulations, policy decisions, omissions and consequences surrounding the availability of firearms in a hypothetical situation. Angela Hoyos called on all participants to read their respective role, and once the reading of the participants were invited to analyse the situation and provide information on what they felt were the lapses occurred and the relationship of these with the use of firearms in the scenario.

After this brief introduction, Karina Hinojosa proceeded with the practical exercise. She divided the participants into 4 groups; a Spanish-speaking group; two English speaking groups and a francophone group. Each of the groups had the task to act as a national authority for export control (an “x” country, for practical effects would be called “La Libertad), and work on the evaluation of two export license applications submitted by one of the companies located in that country (to the country of “El Progreso”). The case would require an analysis of the two conditionals on arm exports in the Treaty text in Article 7: section 1 (b. ii commit or facilitate a serious violation of international humanitarian law) and section 4 (related to serious acts of gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women and children).

The UNLIREC team distributed basic documentation to each of the groups. They received a folder with the following documents:

- i) Two export license applications (one for 10 thousand semiautomatic pistols and four million 9mm cartridges, the second for five hundred thousand 12 GA cartridges),
- ii) ii) technical specifications of the firearms and munitions to be exported,
- iii) iii) end user certificate of both export license applications (for the case of the first export for the Federal Police and, for the second, to the National Penitentiary Service of the Ministry of Security of the importer country “El Progreso”),
- iv) General profile of the importer country.

This folder contained also supporting documents that could be used according to the methodology of the practical exercise, allowing the groups to gather more information for their analysis and evaluation of the export license application.



Karina Hinojosa asked to start the analysis and consider a methodology for evaluating their fictional role as export control authorities.

Once the exercise was finished and before proceeding with the general conclusions, Karina Hinojosa explained that the practical exercise is part of the “Implementation Course of the Arms Trade Treaty” developed by UNLIREC, whose implementation time consists of 3 to 4 days. The exercise is planned for the last day of the implementation course. This makes the exercise implemented during this seminar an approximation of the implications of an adequate implementation of the ATT.

After this comments, she invited the three groups to share the result of their analysis.

Group 1 (Spanish speaking), gave the following analysis:

The fictitious country ‘La Libertad’ conducted a thorough investigation on two requests for arms exports, from another country ‘Progress’. Progress has requested 10 000 weapons and 4 million rounds of ammunition for pistols, and 500 000 shotgun shells for the prison system. The country of La Libertad has agreed to sell the weapons to the police with a mitigation that is requesting police training. It also reported having decided to approve the export because the homicide rate was low and the police showed signs of improvement in its procedures. Finally, the group also said it rejected the export of ammunition for shotgun due to violations of human rights of prison inmates who would receive such munitions.

Group 2 reported (English speaking), had a different case and had made an analysis of issues related to respect for human rights, risks of violations and humanitarian law. The group decided to carry out the export of weapons and ammunition, as the level of risk was minimal and there was no history of diversion and proper attention to mitigation measures recommended to the authorities of the host country.

Group 3 (English speaking) highlighted the analysis of the end user. They decided to ban arms exports as there was a risk of diversion.



Karina Hinojosa congratulated the participants for their detailed analysis of the topics. She explained that she picked up this specific case, because the ATT has two paragraphs related to the obligation that the state has to evaluate the approval of any export according to the Article 7, points 1 and 4. Article 7 specifies the obligation of evaluating the risks that human rights violations could take place, one of the core topics of the exercise.

She emphasized that any state that becomes party of the ATT would have the obligation to deny arms transfer under article 7 point 1, once the evaluation of the risk of violation of human rights has taken place and this evaluation determines that the risk is overriding. This obligation is not contained in point 4 of article 7, which only states that the risk of serious violations of gender based-violence or serious acts of violence against children and women will be taken into account.

Karina Hinojosa finalised the practical exercise offering a list of questions to reflect on what would be the adequate basic measures to implement the Arms Trade Treaty. The questions were the following:

1. In the establishment of a national control authority: Which structure should it have? Inter-ministerial? What would be its basic functions? Should it be open to non-state entities?
2. Designing of the national control lists: it should contain certain types of materials, define the criteria under which inclusion should take place, decide under which regulation would it be created, if this would be a thorough list
3. The establishment of a control regime of international transfers: define a licensing system (end user certificates, include verification processes).

The inclusion of criminal or administrative sanctions.





**Session V: The UN Programme of Action - *Examining the UN Programme of Action on Illicit SALW and how it relates to other regional instruments for arms control and the Arms Trade Treaty***

**Dr. Derik Latorre – Director – [Superintendency for National Control of Security Services, Weapons, Munitions and Civilian Use Explosives](#) (SUCAMEC)**, facilitated the session and gave a brief introduction of his origination and explained that their task is to regulate, supervise and oversee the private security services and civilian use of firearms, ammunition, explosives and pyrotechnic products. Since 2012 they have also started to work on technical issues. It has a competent management team and is committed to benefit society. Peru has a new firearms law which is a first area of regulation framework. They are also moving into new areas thanks to IT and the investigations and research they conduct at the institution. He mentioned that illegal arms are often legally obtained. Irresponsible people have their licences revoked.

**Eric Berman, Managing Director of Small Arms Survey (SAS)**, thanked for the introduction and proceeded to explain the importance of the UNPOA and the need to advance and move away from matching “needs and resources” and towards “rewarding political will and seriousness of purpose”. Eric Berman told the participants about the work of Small Arms Survey, providing reliable and impartial evidence-based policy-relevant analysis on small arms and armed violence, working close with governments in different fora. He explained that SAS receives contributions from countries such as Australia, Belgium, Canada, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Netherlands, New Zealand, Norway, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, the United Kingdom and the United States of America. It also benefits greatly from the network with civil society partners.

He explained that the exposition will be on 1) The importance of the UNPoA 2) The importance of the national reports 3) the importance of distinguishing between activities and the effectiveness of this. The importance of the UNPoA lies on the fact that is compatible with other international instruments such as the ATT, the [Firearms Protocol](#) and the ITI. The UNPoA includes control measures for small arms and the following prevention measures for diversion: manufacture, marking, record keeping, tracing, criminalization, international transfer, assessing risk of “diversion”, end-user certification, brokering, stockpile management, identification of surplus, disposal of surplus, collection, seizure, confiscation, border controls, information exchange, public awareness and DDR programmes.

Eric Berman explained the nature of the UNPoA as a political binding instrument signed in July 2001, aimed to counter the illicit traffic of small arms in all its aspects. The UNPoA has 3 levels of action: national, sub-regional and global, including the voluntary delivery of reports on the development of the mitigation measures.



**PARLIAMENTARY FORUM**  
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS



Around 52 regional organisations are involved in the implementation of the UNPoA and arms control, given that illicit small arms are used and traded in regional conflicts.

He further explained that the UNPoA has a series of review mechanisms, such as the Group of Governmental Experts (GGEs), Biennial Meetings of States (BMSes, 2003; 2005; 2007; 2008; 2010; 2014; 2016), Review Conferences (2006; 2012; 2018), Meeting of Governmental Experts(2011:2015) y Informal Meetings on Transfer Control Principles (2007).

Eric Berman continued his presentation by explaining to the audience which weapons are fall under the definition of small arms and light weapons. The definition of small arms comprises handguns, rifles and carbines, sub-machine guns, assault rifles and light machine guns. Light weapons are heavy machine guns, grenade launchers and rocket launchers, recoilless rifles/guns, anti-tank guided weapons, man-portable air-defence systems and anti-material rifles.

He also emphasized the importance of the national reports of the UNPoA. He gave information related to the number of reports submitted since the states approved the UNPoA, the relationship between the numbers of countries and years when this took place, as well as the relationship between the number of reports submitted and the evaluation meetings. In those years where review conferences have taken place, the number of reports increases substantially.

Eric Berman concluded his analysis on reporting by highlighting the importance of distinguishing the activities and their effectiveness. For instance, in 2012, according to information gathered by SAS, 35 states had not delivered any report, 26 states only one report, 22 only two reports, 31 states only three reports, 20 states six reports, 11 states seven reports, 6 states eight reports and only 2 states had submitted nine reports. This shows a contrast in the levels of commitment of the UNPoA. He further mentioned some counter-proliferation measures, such as the establishment of national focal points, the development of national action plans, procurement of marking equipment, undertaking national surveys and baseline assessments, as well as supporting initiatives of regional organisations.

He finalised his [presentation](#) by raising the following questions on how to evaluate the effectiveness of the UNPoA: do the national focal points are appropriately resourced? Do they benefit from inputs by civil society? Are the national action plans followed and/or revised? Are the marking machines used? Are record kept? Are baseline assessments useful? Which regional initiatives add value to the UNPoA?

Dr. Derik Latorre thanked Eric Berman and gave the floor to the next panellist.

**Dr. Milagros Winkelried Salazar, Government representative of Peru, Legal Specialist in the National Commission against Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives (CONATIAF)** [presented](#) the efforts made by Peru on the UNPoA at national and regional level.



**PARLIAMENTARY FORUM**  
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS



Dr. Milagros Winkelried said that regarding the ATT, international cooperation and assistance has been requested, in order to train officials in specific areas. The Republic of Peru has participated in previous preparatory conferences related to the ATT (Trinidad and Tobago), will participate in Geneva and aims to participate in the First Conference of States Parties in Mexico, hopefully with the Treaty already ratified.

She explained the position of Peru, which is to apply a consistent and coherent policy on firearms control (conventional, small and light), ammunition and explosives and to combat all forms of illicit trade in these weapons.

She also mentioned that Peru is part of the Protocol against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, UNPoA and ITI, the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials ([CIFTA](#)) and [Decision 552 Andean Plan to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects](#).

Dr. Milagros Winkelried reported on bilateral mechanisms with Ecuador, Bolivia and Colombia which are linked to the UNPoA, as well as those sub regional mechanisms where Peru is involved, such as [UNASUR](#) and [MERCOSUR](#).

Finally, she gave a comprehensive overview of the participation in meetings of the UNPoA and implementation at national level. In particular, the fact that Peru has participated and continue to participate in meetings of the UNPoA monitoring, for example open the Second Meeting of Governmental Experts of the UNPoA (MGE2).

Regarding the national implementation of the UNPoA, she reported on the criminalization of the illicit manufacture and trafficking of firearms, strengthening the control entity firearms, as was the creation of the National Super-intendancy of Control Security Services, weapons, Ammunition and Explosives for Civil use (SUCAMEC), approval of the Law against Organized Crime, the creation of the National Police of Peru Specialized to investigate the smuggling of firearms and ammunition Division, approval No 30299 "Law of firearms, ammunition, explosives, fireworks and related materials for civilian use" law. Of the latter, she outlines the most important aspects of the law regulating the possession and use, legal trade (introduction of marking to international instruments) and management of existing stockpiles (management, registration and delivery aspects volunteer programs).

**Hon. Emmanuel Kodjo Kossigan, member of the Parliamentary Assembly of Togo** proceeded with his parliamentary response. Emmanuel H. Kossigan thanked the organizers for the conference, the Peruvian authorities and UNLIREC for their hospitality as hosts. He mentioned that he is vice-president of the commission on international cooperation, and elaborated on Togo's efforts



against the proliferation and illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons. According to H. Emanuel Kossigan, the government of Togo signed the ATT following the demands of its citizens.

Other government initiatives have yielded positive results. For instance, it has taken a first step of marking weapons in the country, which lasted five months between August and December 2014. According to the report 9000 weapons were marked and once this step is completed, the government will implement other actions to combat arms proliferation and illegal trade. H. Kossigan said that marking is of great importance, since it will help to inhibit illegal trade and reduce violence against the population.

He said that the ATT is currently processed in the National Assembly and the Committee of Foreign Affairs and Cooperation, ensuring that Togo is in line with the early ratification of the Treaty and comment on the existence of a special commission on the ATT. Hon. Kodjo Kossigan concluded by emphasizing that once ratified the ATT, the country shall apply to the competent authorities its support in the implementation.

Dr. Derik Latorre finished his moderation, noting that the positions have been clear about the importance of control, manufacturing, marketing and all the way to follow the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

## **Session VI: UN PoA, *Armed Violence Reduction and Public Health*** *Approaches to Small Arms*

**William Godnick, UNLIREC** moderated the session which focused on The UN Programme of Action on Illicit SALW through the lens of Public Health. While doing so, he showed a [slide](#) with some measures for the reduction of armed violence.

**Dr. Diego Zavala (Puerto Rico), epidemiologist and associate professor at the Ponce School of Medicine, Member of International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW)**, started and gave a [presentation](#) on the importance of a public health approach to violence prevention. First, he explained that the World Health Assembly, through its Resolution WHA49.25 declared violence as a very important worldwide public health problem, asking the General Director of the World Health Organisation (WHO) to better map the different types of violence and its magnitude, to evaluate programmes aimed to prevent violence, to promote activities to solve the problem, to assure the coordinated participation of the technical programmes of the WHO, and the increased collaboration of the WHO with governments, local authorities and other organisations of the UN system.

He mentioned the influence of the first [World report on violence and health](#) (2002), where violence was acknowledged as a great public health issue, as preventable and where the public



**PARLIAMENTARY FORUM**  
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS



health has a crucial role to answer to its roots and consequences. He noted that the report had 3 main recommendations: first, the development of a national prevention action plan to prevent violence; second, data collection on violence worldwide; third, to find international consensual solutions and practices to the illicit traffic of drugs and weapons.

Dr. Diego Zavala continued explaining the importance of the use of the ecologic model to violence prevention, where violence is seen as a problem originated in a series of complex relations between the individual, personal relations, community and society, thus, allowing to analyse and find solutions to the problem of violence with a more holistic approach. Risk factors are analysed at all levels, as well as prevention programmes to avoid violence.

The use of public health surveillance system for injury is crucial to the efforts for reducing violence, since they provide an accurate set of data that can be used to plan, implement and evaluate prevention strategies. He gave the example of the project called “[Multinational Injury Surveillance Project](#)”, in coordination with different medical doctors in the Democratic Republic of Congo, Kenya, Nigeria, Uganda and Zambia.

Diego Zavala finished his presentation by mentioning seven steps on the efficacy of the interventions aimed to prevent interpersonal violence and auto-afflicted violence based on the Pan-American Health Organisation. These steps are:

- Develop healthy, stable and stimulating relationships between children, their parents or tutors.
- Develop useful abilities for the life of children and teenagers.
- Reduce the availability and consumption of alcohol.
- Restrict the access to firearms, blunt objects and pesticides
- To promote gender equality to prevent violence against women
- Change social and cultural norms that lead to violence
- Establish identification programmes, support and attention to the victims of violence.

Finally he mentioned local efforts to local prevention of violence, such as the one from the Instituto Reação in favelas in Brazil. The Dr. Diego Zavala closed his intervention by emphasizing that the reduction of armed violence requires a holistic approach where the public health approach together with policies and local initiatives work in a coordinated manner to reduce factors, risks and alleviate the consequences.

**Dr. Robert Mtonga (Zambia), Former co-president of IPPNW** [presented](#) on how health professionals and policy makers can work together to prevent small arms violence.



He explained the importance of working together for preventing violence. According to the Global Status Report on Violence Prevention 2014, published by the World Health Organisation, the United Nations Office on Drug and Crime and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, almost fifty percent of the 475, 000 homicides committed in 2012 were with firearms. SALW are more portable, making them violence multipliers, impeding sustainable development. He further explained the effects of the armed violence on the Millennium Development Goals (MDG).

Robert Mtonga underscored the impact of violence on the health systems, the society and individuals. He presented the IPPNW “One Bullet Stories”, documenting the injuries caused by guns and bullets to people worldwide, with the goal of infusing the human face into the campaign, highlighting the condition of victims of gun violence.

Armed violence affects both the health of individual victims and the community. He explained that armed violence does not only increases the burden on the health care system, but also creates a culture of violence, diverts health care funding and other resources from other public health issues, leads to an increase in internally displaced people and refugees, slows development within the community, encourages human rights violations and sexual abuse, and threatens investment.

The UNPoA makes reference to health and reduction of armed violence. The section 15 of the preamble references the “challenge to human health posed by SALW”, and the Part III paragraph 18 mentions “health and medical institutions” among those actors urged to “develop and support action-oriented research” to increase awareness and understanding of the issues associated with the illicit traffic in SALW. However, Robert Mtonga emphasized the fact that the UNPoA does not prescribe specific actions to accomplish this, raising the question on how can health professionals and policy-makers work together to prevent armed violence.

He proceeded to give examples of community based programs where the public health approach was implemented to reduce armed violence in Zambia and El Salvador. He shared the different goals and outcomes of both projects, showing positive results on the issues of survivor assistance in Zambia and rural clinics implemented by medical students on gun violence prevention. Robert Mtonga argued the positive results of the public health approach in engaging community based prevention of armed violence, since it help tailor prevention activities within the community context that are relevant to specific situations. These programmes can be further evaluated and assessed for effectiveness, providing the most direct means of driving down demand for small arms.

Dr. Robert Mtonga finished his intervention by giving recommendations on how to incorporate public health into National Action Plan under the UNPoA, arguing the necessity to include the progress on programs and policies to prevent armed violence, recognize the linkage between health and development, ensure health representation on National Commissions on SALW, the





implementation of national collection data records, the support for hospital – and community-based research projects, education to the medical community, media, public and policy makers about societal burden of gun related injuries and the creation of survivor assistance programmes.

**Hon. Marvin Atencio Delgado, MP Costa Rica and also a Medical Doctor**, gave a parliamentary response to the two presentations. His [presentation](#) was focused on the evolution of the problem of armed violence in Costa Rica. Despite the fact that Costa Rica does not have an army, and has been very active in different international peace and disarmament initiatives, the country suffers the consequences of armed violence. He explained that robberies with firearms increased 59% between 2005 and 2011, and July 2014 68%, mentioning how armed violence has increased the burden on the health care system, its budget and quality of services for other diseases. Hon. Marvin Atencio finalised by explaining his initiative for the medical and industrial use of cannabis and hemp, where producers have options to sell their product legally, breaking part of the circle of the violence related to drug production and trafficking.

During the questions and answers the participants continued to discuss the inter-relationship between the drugs and arms trade as well as youth unemployment. For many young people, joining gangs can seem like the only option. Although it is a dangerous lifestyle, it is seen as more attractive than more ‘boring’ ways of making a living. At the same time, those involved in the trade often claim that they would not want their own children to be part of these activities.

The session continued as a round table after lunch.

### **Discussion and adoption of Final Declaration**

The draft was presented and discussed. The two major changes were the inclusion of a paragraph on the need to revise current drug policies as well as an expression of gratitude towards the hosts. A record of all changes is available [here](#).

### **Closing remarks**

**Melanie Régimbal, Director, UNLIREC** hoped that the participants would leave Lima with a new useful set of tools to aid them in their parliamentary work. MPs are in a powerful position to make things happen and she encouraged them to make these instruments high on the national agendas. She mentioned UNLIREC’s sister organisations in Africa, the [United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa](#) (UNREC) and the [United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific](#) (UNRCPD) in Asia, are there to help and support.



**Hon. José Figueroa, MP Nicaragua and Board Member of the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons**

H. José Figueroa Aguilar thanked UNLIREC, the audience and the Peruvian authorities for facilitating the participation of MPs from Africa and Latin America. He highlighted the importance of the exchange of knowledge and lessons learned from each other in the meeting, the better understanding of the ATT and the UNPoA, with the aim to make use of this knowledge at their parliaments.

**Hon. Congressman Yonhy Lescano Ancieta, Peru**, Closed the conference by giving a message on the importance of the adoption, implementation, ratification and approval of instruments such as the ATT and the UNPoA. He mentioned cases of armed violence in Peru, where children make use of illegal SALW to commit crimes at their schools, contributing to the circle of violence, poverty, underdevelopment and marginalization. He highlighted the fact that through proper implementation of the ATT and UNPoA, these cases could diminish, but recognized that there is still a long way to go, and that parliamentarians have a very important role to play by raising awareness, oversight of government actions and omissions, and harmonizing local legislation with international instruments such as the ATT and the UNPoA.

With this message Hon. Congressman Yohny Lescano declared the conference closed.

## **Round table on armed violence and public health**

After the main conference had closed a round table titled *'Dialogues with Decision Makers - parliamentarians and health professionals collaborate to improve implementation of the UNPoA'* was held and lead by Dr Zavala and Dr Mtonga. In this roundtable, parliamentarians from Costa Rica, Liberia, Mexico and Zimbabwe held a dialogue with members of the IPPNW doctors.

The roundtable began with a brief introduction by **Dr. Diego Zavala**, IPPNW.

The participants discussed the importance of prevention which is vital when talking about armed violence as a public health issue. Huge funds can be saved if less people need to be treated for armed violence caused injuries.

**Hon. Clifford Sibanda**, Zimbabwe, made comments related to the effects of investment in military spending to investment spending on health, emphasizing how resources could be better used to save lives.



**Dr. Diego Zavala** led the discussion to the issue of budgetary differences in health spending versus military spending. An example is the problem of cancer, which is curable when detected early, however, Dr. Zavala commented that a survey was made to parliament on the subject, and one of the reasons why not this was not discussed or given priority was due to lack of information.

Dr. Diego Zavala said that getting countries to invest more in health compared to military spending is a task that requires a great effort. To achieve this, strong arguments to convince the authorities are needed. He said that one of the best tools that can be used is the epidemiological surveillance systems. The [World Health Organization](#) (WHO) has developed technical assistance for implementation of surveillance systems. Lack of political will is the reason why this has not been implemented.

**Senator Lilian H. Timveos** continued the conversation commenting that she is a survivor of cervical cancer and knows about the challenges and problems because of the lack of resources for the health sector. H. Timveos is chairman of the Commission on HIV-AIDS in the parliament of Zimbabwe, and said it has witnessed how many neighbouring countries come to Zimbabwe for treatment of cervical cancer. However, she said that parliamentarians still have much to do, since there are still a large number of preventable deaths. H. Timveos emphasized the need for greater awareness and political will, to give due attention to the health issues over military spending.

**Dr. Diego Zavala** emphasized that WHO is now much better organized to provide assistance in the development of surveillance, but that members of parliament have the final decision on the budget. The potential number of lives saved is available in the statistics; you only need the political will.

**Dr. Robert Mtonga**, IPPNW showed the [slide](#) which shows how much it costs to the health system violence.

**Hon. Marvin Atencio Delgado**, Costa Rica, member of the Forum, explained the importance of providing adequate resources to the health sector. He said that in Costa Rica, there are often problems when insuring that money is allocated efficiently to more urgent programmes programs, and as a parliamentarian he has to insist that the budget is allocated correctly, especially if taken note that Costa Rica does not have an army.

**Hon. Fernando Belaunzaran**, Mexico, member of the Forum, stressed the importance of changing the paradigm of drug control, where instead of being seen as a problem that needs to be fought with hard handed policies, is treated as a health problem. Hon. Belaunzaran stressed that more people die as a result of illegal drug trafficking than by the use of drugs. He ended his



**PARLIAMENTARY FORUM**  
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS



intervention by stressing that the fight against drugs, as currently configured, is costly in terms of resources that could be used to solve health problems.

**Hon. Karfiah**, Liberia, stressed the differences between violence in Mexico and Liberia, as in the latter violence is linked to poverty. Young people between 16 and 30 do not have any work, using violence as output. He stressed the need for more and better information in parliament, to take appropriate decisions. He concluded by stressing the need to cooperate, consult and exchange ideas with other parliamentarians to better serve their countries.

**Dr. Diego Zavala** closed the session by highlighting the importance of information when making decisions on the health sector compared to the military sector. To get the attention of decision makers is necessary to provide concise and impactful information to make the right decisions. He said that such meetings are very important to make new contacts and to provide the desired information. With this, the conference in Lima was concluded.



## List of Participants

### Members of Parliament

Country	Name	Committee
Argentina	Hon. Alicia Comelli	Defence
Central African Republic	Hon. Marie Agba Otikpo	Committee on Health, Labour and Social Affairs.
Costa Rica	Hon. Marvin Atencio Delgado	Security and Drug Trafficking
Democratic Republic of Congo	Hon. Ernest Hamuli Kitsa	Defence and Security
Democratic Republic of Congo	Hon. Masudi Kalombo bin Masudi	
Ecuador	Hon. Silvia Salgado	Political Affairs and Human Rights
Ecuador	Hon. Luis Gilberto Guamangate Ante	Justice and Structure of the State
Ecuador	Hon. Bairon Pinargote Valle	Worker's Right and Social Security
Ecuador	Hon. Carlos Velasco	Right to Health Committee (Vice-chair)
Ghana	Hon Wg Cdr Francis Anaman	Defence and the Interior
Ghana	Hon Major Derick Oduro	Defence and the Interior
Liberia	Hon. Edward W. Karfiah	Political Accounts
Malawi	Hon. Peter Chalera	
Malawi	Hon. William Lestar Kalima	
Malawi	Hon. Goodwin Gray Kanjere	
Mali	Hon. Aissata Touré Mme DIALLO	Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation (Chair)
Mexico	Hon. Fernando Belaunzaran	Governance, Transparency
Nicaragua	Hon. José Figueroa Aguilar	Production, Economics and Budget
Peru	Hon. Yonhy Lescano	Work and Social Security, Household and Construction
Tanzania	Hon. Susan Lyimo	
Tanzania	Hon. Hasan Ngwilizih	Defence and Security
Togo	Hon. Emmanuel Kossigan Kodjo	Foreign Affairs and Cooperation (Vice-chair)



**PARLIAMENTARY FORUM**  
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS



Zimbabwe	Hon. Clifford Sibanda	Defence
Zimbabwe	Hon. Lilian Timveos	HIV/AIDS (Chair)

**Experts**

<b>Country/Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
Asociación de Políticas Públicas	Maria Pia Devoto	Director
IPPNW	Dr. Diego Zavala	
IPPNW	Dr. Robert Eric Mtonga	
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Peru - CONATIAF – CONAPAQ	Dr. Milagros Winkelried	Legal Specialist
National Superintendency for Control of Security Services, Weapons, Munitions and Explosives for Civilian Use (SUCAMEC) - Peru	Dr. Derik Latorre Boza	Director
Regional Delegation of the International Committee of the Red Cross for Bolivia, Ecuador and Peru	Mariana Chacon	Legal Advisor
Small Arms Survey	Eric Berman	Managing Director
Transitions Foundation	Alex Galvez	Executive Director
UNLIREC	Melanie Régimbal	Director
UNLIREC	Karina Hinojosa	Legal Affairs Officer
UNLIREC	Sonia Fernandez	Legal Affairs Coordinator
UNLIREC	Angela Hoyos	Legal Affairs Office
UNLIREC	William Godnick	Public Security Programme Coordinator

**Other participants**

<b>Country/Organisation</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
Instituto de Seguridad y Derechos Humanos	Ana Maria Watson	Director
Latin American	Thomas Saldias	Executive Secretary





**PARLIAMENTARY FORUM**  
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS



Coalition for Legal Firearms		
Parliamentary Forum on SALW	Fausto Brindis	Programme Officer
Parliamentary Forum on SALW	Teresa Dybeck	Programme Director
SUCAMEC	María Belem Gallardo	Legal Analyst

**Diplomatic Community**

<b>Country</b>	<b>Name</b>	<b>Title</b>
Costa Rica	H.E. Melvin Saenz Biolley	Ambassador
Mexico	Sylvia Sevilla de Heimes	Minister