



PARLIAMENTARY FORUM
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

**Seminar “The role of Parliamentarians in Swedish arms exports in light of
KEX final report and the 2030 Agenda”**

Swedish Parliament, Thursday April 14th 2016, Stockholm

Organized by the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons in
collaboration with the Swedish Parliament, Maria Andersson Willner (S)
and Karin Enström (M)

FINAL REPORT

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Executive summary

Every year over half a million people die from armed violence, many of these due to the use of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). Currently, 125 million people in the world are in need of humanitarian assistance and there are 60 million refugees who have been forced to flee from conflict, armed violence and oppression. The proliferation and use of SALW is a threat to human security, but also an obstacle to sustainable development. The Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG16) in the 2030 Agenda provides an opportunity to address the issue of SALW proliferation and armed violence as a development obstacle in a broader context of conflict prevention.

During a seminar in the Swedish Parliament on the 14th of April 2016 Swedish parliamentarians, representatives from the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs, civil society, and research institutes discussed how the regulation of Swedish arms exports relates to the issue of SALW proliferation and the 2030 Agenda.

The forward-looking conclusions from the seminar concerned progress within a range of areas important for violence reduction and prevention. The governmental and parliamentary processes based on the final report of the multiparty parliamentary investigation by Krigsmaterielexportöversynskommittén (KEX) needs to be prioritized, considering in particular aspects of gender-based violence, exports to non-democracies and strengthened transparency. It is also imperative to have widespread engagement in the upcoming Biennial Meeting of States (BMS6) about the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPoA), and to intensify the process of signing and ratifying the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). All of these efforts are most importantly vital for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in specific SDG16, and for the recognition of SALW proliferation as a development obstacle.



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Background

The proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) constitutes a threat to human security and sustainable development. To reduce and prevent armed violence is of utmost importance for the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) under the 2030 Agenda, in particular SDG16. National and international regulations for arms flows are instrumental in the work for violence prevention and reduction. In these processes, parliamentarians have a central role to play.

In June 2015, Krigsmaterielexportöversynskommittén (KEX) submitted their final report of the Parliamentary Investigation of the Swedish regulations for arms exports commissioned by the Swedish government in 2012. The international instruments Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPoA) also have an effect on the regulations, and on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

With this background, the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons organised a seminar on how national and international regulations and instruments for arms flows are connected, and how the regulations for Swedish arms exports can be strengthened in light of KEX final report and the 2030 Agenda. The seminar provided Swedish parliamentarians and representatives from the civil society with the opportunity to share information and knowledge on issues relating to arms export, the KEX process and the 2030 Agenda.

Participation

A total of 23 people attended the event including; 9 Members of Parliament from Sweden; one official from the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs; representatives from Civil Society Organisations such as the Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society (Svenska Freds), Amnesty and Operation 1325, a representative from Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) as well as Parliamentary Forum staff (list of participants attached).



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The role of Parliamentarians in Swedish arms exports in light of KEX final report and the 2030 Agenda

Karin Enström and Maria Andersson Willner, members of the Swedish Parliament, together with former parliamentarian and Member of the Board of the Forum, Christer Winbäck, gave a brief background of the problem that SALW poses for human security and development, the work of the Forum and the role of parliamentarians in arms export control. After that, Karl Klinker from the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs (MFA) gave a short review of the current and future work of the MFA on SALW-issues. General Secretary of the Forum, Karin Olofsson, moderator for the seminar, then introduced the panel and the topic of the seminar, emphasizing the unique opportunity Agenda 2030 provides for global sustainable development.

The panel consisting of Anna Ek, Svenska Freds- och Skiljedomsföreningen, Mark Bromley, SIPRI, Pernilla Stålhammar, Miljöpartiet and Karin Enström, Moderaterna held a discussion on the role of parliamentarians in Swedish arms exports in light of KEX final report and the 2030 Agenda. In the panel discussion each of the panelists gave a short presentation on the, in which the 2030 Agenda, the UNPoA, and the KEX process were recurring subjects. After the presentations, the participants were invited to pose questions and give their views on the topic.

All of the panelists saw the adoption of Sustainable Development Goal 16 (SDG16) as a vast step forward and an opportunity for forceful action towards reducing the illicit flow of arms and preventing armed violence. Pernilla Stålhammar said that the Government has put in place a system for follow-up on the 2030 Agenda and SDG16, and she stressed the importance of the Policy for Global Development (PGU) guiding Sweden's foreign policy. Karin Enström also highlighted the importance of all foreign policy decisions working in the same direction towards sustainable development in line with PGU, and doing so within an integrated approach.

KEX final report was released in June 2016 and a Government bill is expected in 2017, after a process considered as too extensive by several participants. Desirée Pethrus, Kristdemokraterna, was one of the parliamentarians in the KEX investigation, and emphasized the hard work the committee put into making progress on difficult issues such as follow-up deliveries, transparency and exports to non-democracies. Pernilla Stålhammar said as a representative for the Government coalition that the received referrals are currently being reviewed, and that the Government is doing its best to present a comprehensive bill as soon as possible. In terms of content, the participants highlighted the expectation for stricter regulations in terms of export to non-democracies, considering the risk of violations of human rights, the effect on and role of women, and the integration of international and regional instruments such as the ATT, UNPoA and the EU Common Position into the national regulations, as well as consideration of the Agenda 2030. Anna Ek remarked that despite current obstacles to exports



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that might contribute to violations to human rights, security and foreign policy interest can still be prioritized and result in exports despite an estimated risk. Furthermore, she noted that between the decision by the Parliament to strengthen the control of exports to non-democracies in May 2011 and December 2014, Sweden exported arms to a value of 20 billion SEK to non-democracies. She also emphasized the role of enterprises in implementing the 2030 Agenda.

In terms of the ATT and the UNPoA, the importance of implementation, the inclusion of women's rights and situation, and how the ATT and the UNPoA complement each other and the Agenda 2030 were highlighted. Mark Bromley and Karin Enström emphasized the importance of the implementation and follow-up of the ATT and the UNPoA not being too technical and legal in order for stakeholders to keep momentum. Apart from finding practical steps for states towards implementation, the UNPoA and the upcoming Biennial Meetings of States on the Programme of Action (BMS6) in June 2016 could also serve as a forum for advancing the discussion on SALW-issues. The BMS6 meeting will be important for reigniting interest and engagement in the UNPoA, and several of the participants in the seminar will attend the meeting.

Lars Ingelstam, from Fredsteknik, raised the issues of waste from SALW, stockpile management and ammunition, and Annika Schabbauer, from Operation 1325, questioned why there was so little focus in the discussion on women's role related to SALW-issues. Karin Olofsson and Karin Enström noted that the Forum is strengthening its gender equality perspective, and Anna Ek and Mark Bromley mentioned the ground-breaking inclusion of gender-based violence in the ATT. Everyone agreed on the importance of including women in decision making processes and analyses of gender-based violence. Pernilla Stålhammar mentioned the Swedish Feminist Foreign Policy as instrumental in this work and Desirée Pethrus noted that only two parties pushed during the KEX process for the inclusion of wording about women in the final report.

The panelists and participants of the seminar contributed to a fruitful dialogue on the role of parliamentarians in Swedish arms exports, the KEX process and the 2030 Agenda. On behalf of the Forum, Karin Olofsson ended the seminar by thanking the participants and panelists, and once again emphasizing the importance of parliamentary work in cooperation with other stakeholders to reduce and prevent armed violence. To this end, the Forum will put particular emphasis on SDG16 in the 2030 Agenda and strengthen its gender equality perspective during the upcoming years.

The seminar was attended by of 9 Swedish parliamentarians, of which several expressed interest in knowing more about the Forum. In addition, the participation of representatives from various Civil Society Organisations was vital in order to raise important issues and questions, such as Women, Peace and Security, exports to non-democracies and the issue of stockpiling and destroying SALW and their ammunition.



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List of participants

Members of Parliament (Sweden)

Maria Andersson Willner,	Socialdemokraterna (Social Democrats)
Karin Enström,	Moderaterna (Moderate Party)
Krister Örnfjäder,	Socialdemokraterna (Social Democrats)
Désirée Pethrus,	Kristdemokraterna (Christian Democrats)
Hans Linde,	Vänsterpartiet (Left Party)
Stig Henriksson,	Vänsterpartiet (Left Party)
Mattias Ottosson,	Socialdemokraterna (Social Democrats)
Sotiris Delis,	Moderaterna (Moderate Party)
Pernilla Stålhammar,	Miljöpartiet (Green Party)

Experts

Anna Ek,	President of The Swedish Peace and Arbitration Society (Svenska freds)
Mark Bromley,	Co-Director of SIPRI's Dual-use and Arms Trade Control Programme.
Karl Klinker,	Desk Officer in Security Policy Department of the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs

Other Participants

Karin Olofsson,	Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons
Fausto Brindis,	Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons
Alva Fredman Klockar,	Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons
Christer Winbäck,	Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons
Ida Arneson,	Internationella Kvinnoförbundet för Fred och Frihet (IKFF)
Peter Jansson,	Kristna Fredsrörelsen (KRF)
Jack Thornberg,	Amnesty International
Lars Ingelstam,	Fredsteknik
Annika Schabbauer,	Operation 1325
Patrik Forslund	Former Member of Parliament
Erik Vestin	Student, Swedish Defence University