



PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

Preamble

The Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons (hereafter, the Forum) is a unique international platform for Members of the Parliament specifically related to the issues of **reduction** and **prevention** of **Small Arms and Light Weapons** (SALW)- related violence,

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

Stressing the firm commitment to unite parliamentarians, from national and, in certain cases, supranational parliaments, across party-political lines for the referred objectives;

Recalling that the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons, was established as an institution in Madrid in 2002, and registered in Sweden 2006, after an initiative of the Parliaments of Spain, Sweden and Central America, and with support from the Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation;

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

The members at the General Assembly of the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons, held in Montevideo, Uruguay, adopted on November 23rd 2016 the following

STATUTES¹

Article 1: Objective

Stemming from the conviction that establishing a culture of peace and assuring human security are tasks that require prompt attention, the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons, has as over-all objective to contribute to the achievement of more peaceful and developed societies by parliamentary action against armed violence to increase human security.

Article 2: Working methodology and specific objectives

With the aim of strengthening the role of parliamentarians and the parliamentary work to reduce and prevent armed violence, to contribute to the advancement of the global disarmament agenda, as well as to provide a space for parliamentarians to join forces with other stakeholders and actors, the Forum has two pillars in its working methodology: **policy-shaping** and **capacity-building**. As

¹ Adopted the 21st of October 2005, at the Third Annual Meeting of Representatives in Mexico City; amended the 10th of November 2006, at the Fourth Annual Meeting of Representatives in Montevideo., amended the 23rd of November, 2016 at the General Assembly, Montevideo, Uruguay.

point of departure for these pillars are the three key roles of a parliamentarian; the legislative, over-sight and awareness-raising functions.

Based on the underlying working methodology of policy-shaping and capacity-building, the Forum has developed five specific objectives structured around its overall objective;

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

Article 3: Membership

The Forum is composed of:

- regular Members, consisting of individual parliamentarians; and
- Friends of the Forum: consisting of parliamentary organizations and institutions – such as parliamentary associations and inter-parliamentary organizations and co-operations – former Parliamentarians as well as non-governmental organizations, other associations and individuals sharing the objective of the Forum.

All Members are invited to relevant activities of the Forum; receive regular information and updates about key activities and results. All Friends of the Forum receive regular information and up-dates about key activities and results.

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

Article 4: Organs

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

1. The General Assembly is the highest organ of the Forum. It is constituted by the regular Members, presided by the Presidium of the Forum and the Parliament of the host country, adopts its decisions by acclamation, and is celebrated biyearly. Members and duly registered participants, may attend the General Assembly. The General Assembly is convened by the Secretariat on mandate from the Board.

2. The Board is the steering organ of the Forum having the over-all responsibility of the strategic, organisational and financial development of the organisation. Being the entity with final responsibility of the organisation, the Board monitors the development of the results and activities, the over-all effective financial and operational function and holds employers' responsibility for the personnel contracted at the Secretariat.

The Board is entrusted to implement the decisions adopted by the General Assembly and to fulfil other tasks that the present Statutes indicate. The Board is composed by a President, a Vice-President and regular members, may have a minimum of five and maximum of nine members, all elected by the General Assembly, that is by the members of the Forum for a term of two years.

The Board has a Presidium, appointed by the Board. By-elections may be held to cover vacancies in the Board.

3. The Secretariat is the executive organ of the Forum. The Secretariat, under the direction of the Secretary General, is responsible for all operational implementation based on the strategic guidance and decisions adopted by the Board, and to fulfil other tasks that the present Statutes indicate. The Secretariat is appointed by the Board.

Article 5: Miscellaneous

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

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

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