



PARLIAMENTARY FORUM  
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS



**Connecting the Dots: Supporting implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms (UNPOA) through increased parliamentary engagement and action in international processes**

**7-8 May 2018**

**Jakarta, Indonesia**

**Preparatory step to the UNPoA 3<sup>rd</sup> Review Conference, June 2018**

**PARLIAMENTARY ACTION PLAN**

**Part 1 – Introduction and purpose**

The state of the world underlines the need to prioritize the prevention and reduction of armed violence. Today's world is marked by violence and armed conflict, as well as global terrorism and organized crime. Armed conflicts and violence, regardless of its scale, are perpetuated by the uncontrolled availability of small arms and light weapons (SALW), which increases the need for concise and effective steps to address its uncontrolled proliferation as to achieve peace and sustainable development.

In Asia, several countries are severely affected by the uncontrolled proliferation, illicit manufacturing of and trafficking of SALW, their parts components and ammunition. Conflict, transnational organised crime, terrorism and inter-communal strife characterize some parts of Asia. According to the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime Global Study on Homicide 2013, 28% of the homicides committed in 50 countries in Asia used a firearm as a homicide mechanism, in comparison to 66% in America, 13% in Europe, 28% in Africa and 10% in Oceania.<sup>1</sup> However, when the data is disaggregated, it shows strong variations between countries, as well as the fact that very few countries<sup>2</sup> in the region have provided registers of the homicides according to the mechanism utilised. Other obstacle is the lack of public health reporting of firearms deaths in the region.<sup>3</sup>

In South-Eastern Asia, countries are severely affected by the uncontrolled proliferation and trafficking of illicit SALW. The region is a crossroads for arms smuggling, trafficking, illicit craft

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1 UNODC – Global Study on Homicide: [https://www.unodc.org/documents/gsh/pdfs/2014\\_GLOBAL\\_HOMICIDE\\_BOOK\\_web.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/gsh/pdfs/2014_GLOBAL_HOMICIDE_BOOK_web.pdf)

2 Ibid

3 Gunpolicy.org: Armed Violence and Guns in South East Asia, <http://www.gunpolicy.org/es/firearms/region/south-east-asia>

production, combined by the challenges posed by drug-trafficking and the countries extensive maritime borders.<sup>4</sup> A better understanding of the characteristics of arms trafficking and its intersection with other forms of organised crime and terrorism, through the systematic collection and analysis of information on relevant patterns, routes and sources of diversion constitutes an essential starting point not only in terms of monitoring and measuring SDG 16.4, but also as guidance for parliamentary legislative action and the design of effective national criminal justice policies to comprehensively address these combined security threats.

The “Connecting the Dots” project and seminars aim to build on the on-going efforts towards Agenda 2030 SDG 16.4, UNPoA and ATT universalization and implementation, putting special focus on providing parliamentarians with the adequate tools to support the process at the national and regional level. It seeks to use the momentum that the 2030 Agenda, the UNPoA and the ATT have created, in order to gather parliamentarians from focus countries in an effort to facilitate the exchange of experiences, challenges and best practices that surround the legislative work on these instruments. It also aims to foster complementarity and closer synergies with other legally binding international instruments, such as the Firearms Protocol<sup>5</sup>, as essential ingredients of a comprehensive strategy to prevent and combat arms trafficking and diversion towards criminal and/or terrorist purposes.

Based on the analysis and recommendations set out in the Policy Brief on the same topic, the Parliamentary Action Plan will outline main priorities and actions needed to reinforce parliamentary ownership, participation and understanding of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms (UNPOA),<sup>6</sup> within the framework of SDG 16. It should serve as a tool for parliamentary action in the field of armed violence reduction and prevention and take into account other relevant instruments.

The present Parliamentary Action Plan is a result of the seminar discussions identifying main conclusions from the participants perspectives.

This Plan focuses on parliaments’ role in strengthening the response to armed violence and SALW proliferation and has been designed to:

- Support the universalization and/or effective implementation of the ATT and the UNPOA addressing synergies between all instruments in the framework of Agenda 2030, SDG16 and other related instruments;
- Guide parliamentarians in their work related to the ATT, the UNPOA and the framework of SDG 16, to ensure that the legislative response is both nationally appropriate and consistent with the aims of the instruments;
- Suggest mechanisms for effective oversight of government;
- Recommend methods to strengthen links between the executive and legislative branches of government and between parliaments and civil society on the armed violence prevention and reduction agenda – strengthening the social contract.

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<sup>4</sup> Ibid

<sup>5</sup> Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition ([Firearms Protocol, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organised Crime](#)).

<sup>6</sup> Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPOA)

Three action areas have been identified and are based on the key roles of a parliamentarian;

1. Awareness raising
2. Legislation
3. Oversight

This Plan will be condensed with the other Plans approved in the Latin American and African seminars which are part of the “Connecting the Dots” initiative. They will provide, from the parliamentary perspective, an underpinning basis for participation and contribution to the Third Review Conference of UNPoA in June 2018 in New York.

## **Part 2 – Recommendations on Universalisation and Implementation of 2030 Agenda SDG 16, the UNPoA and the ATT**

Based on the three key roles of a parliamentarian; legislation, oversight and awareness raising, below follows the most important recommendations for actions to be taken. This serves as point of departure to reach maximum results when it comes to implementation and universalisation of 2030 Agenda SDG 16, the UNPoA and the ATT, as well as fulfilling state obligations on international treaties considering vital aspects such as transparency and accountability. In all efforts, it is fundamental to include the gender equality perspective, the role of women and youth, as well as other relevant international instruments on conventional arms control.

### **Awareness Raising**

- Raise awareness on the importance of SALW control, e.g. control the type of arms that are allowed for private military companies
- Raise awareness among the population for better understanding of provisions related to national firearms control laws
- Raise awareness among fellow MPs on the importance of signing and ratifying the Arms Trade Treaty
- Implementation of 1 to 2-year campaigns for SALW eradication under the guidance of the United Nations
- Encourage member countries of the UN to assist in the awareness work related to illicit SALW, mine clearing and unexploded ordnance
- Education efforts and awareness raising in remote areas related to identification of SALW, other explosive, toxic war remnants and mine clearance
- Identification of resources for awareness raising activities related to cleaning of war remnants
- Raise awareness through the publication of relevant legislation and invite to public consultation

## Legislation

- Prioritise the signature and ratification of the ATT
- After the ratification and the approval, ATT & UNPoA must be translated into national laws
- Consider resolutions by the UN General Assembly as a base for improving and amending national legislation, as part of a process guided by the United Nations in an inclusive fashion
- Written communication on behalf of Presidents of Parliaments to the executive power to encourage the submission of all related laws concerning SALW control
- Establish and/or strengthen cross border cooperation and coordination
- Create a national committee for cross-border cooperation and coordination
- Initiate enactment of relevant laws regarding the topic of SALW control

## Oversight

- Ensure accountability on behalf of the cabinet by relevant parliamentary oversight action
- Ensure check and balances of the actions being undertaken by the executive power
- Investigate and evaluate the implementation during the budget hearing related to SALW control
- Elaborated National Action Plan on SALW control must be immediately approved by the Government
- Follow up law enforcement and implementation of current legislation
- Encourage UN Regional offices to provide a mechanism to support assessment on the progress of law enforcement related to SALW control
- Report the seminar to the national parliament

## Part 3 – Partnerships and resources<sup>7</sup>

The efforts of parliamentarians and the Parliamentary Forum in promoting increased or enhanced parliamentary action on ATT, UNPOA and SDG 16.4 can be multiplied if working in partnership with organisations with similar or overlapping interests. It is therefore recommended that the Parliamentary Forum and its members seek partnerships and structured dialogue with a range of actors.

Parliamentary action constitutes unique efforts to create the missing link between the local and national level. Parliamentarians have an important role in identifying and highlighting good practice at the local level in order to inform national policies and legislation and to promote good practice internationally.

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<sup>7</sup> The Plan is inspired by action plans and tools created by other international parliamentary organisations such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Parliamentarians for Global Action.

## **Other Parliamentary networks**

[Inter-Parliamentary Union \(IPU\)](#)

[ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly \(AIPA\)](#)

[Global Organisation of Parliamentarians Against Corruption \(GOPAC\)](#)

[Parliamentarians for Global Action \(PGA\)](#)

[The Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons \(PFSALW\)](#)

## **Intergovernmental structures**

[Association of Southeast Asian Nations \(ASEAN\)](#)

[United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\) - Rule of Law, Justice, Security & Human Rights Team](#)

[ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit](#)

[United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs \(UNODA\)](#)

[United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific \(UNRCPD\)](#)

[United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime \(UNODC\) – Global Firearms Programme](#)

## **Civil Society Organisations**

[Control Arms Coalition](#)

[International Action Network on Small Arms \(IANSA\)](#)

[International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War \(IPPNW\)](#) – Armed violence and health perspective

[Women's International League for Peace and Freedom \(WILPF\)](#) – Gender perspective related to SALW and Women Peace and Security

## **Research institutes**

[Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces \(DCAF\) – Public - Private Partnerships Division](#)

[Group for Research and Information on Peace and Security \(GRIP\)](#)

[Small Arms Survey](#)

[Bonn International Centre for Conversion \(BICC\)](#)

[Stockholm International Peace Research Institute \(SIPRI\)](#)

## **Other sources**

[The Arms Trade Treaty](#)

[The UNPoA](#)

[UNCOMTRADE](#)

[NISAT](#)

[UNROCA](#)