



PARLIAMENTARY FORUM
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS



Parlamento
del Uruguay

The Montevideo Declaration

The Montevideo Declaration was adopted at the General Assembly and Regional Seminar “**Small Arms and Light Weapons in light of the Agenda 2030 - Parliamentary Action for Peaceful & Inclusive Societies**” organized by the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Parliament of Uruguay, at its meeting in Montevideo, Uruguay, on the 22nd and 23rd of November, 2016.

Parliamentarians from states in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe with presence also from representatives from the civil society, the Uruguayan government and international organisations, coming together for the General Assembly and Regional Seminar, welcome the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

In particular, the participants are pleased to find Sustainable Development Goal 16 on Peace, justice and strong institutions (SDG16) within the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as it provides for the first time a sound platform to address the issue of armed violence and Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) proliferation. The adoption of SDG16 signals a consensus within the international community that peace and security is a foundation for development. Target 4 of Goal 16, aims to significantly reduce illicit arms flows, explicitly acknowledging the proliferation and misuse of SALW as an obstacle to development. The Parliamentary Forum’s Policy Statement on SALW-related violence and the Millennium Development Goals from 2012, concluded that armed violence severely impedes the implementation of the MDGs. The Policy Statement noted the lack of a specific goal on peace and security, and emphasized the need of the inclusion of such a goal in the post-2015 framework.¹

The participants gathered emphasize the legislative, oversight and awareness raising role of parliamentarians in transforming the SDGs to enforceable laws, regulations and building national ownership. Nation specific implementation shall be accountable and inclusive, and adapted to the specific country context by creating National Sustainable Development Plans.

The role of women in armed violence prevention and reduction is imperative for successful sustainable peace and security in the Latin American and Caribbean region as well as globally. The participants confirm the need for the immediate implementation of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and subsequent relevant Resolutions. It is crucial that women participate in Peace and Security issues, and actively take part in violence prevention, conflict resolution and peace processes.

The illicit trade and proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) poses a real obstacle to human security and sustainable development in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, Europe and the Middle

¹<http://www.parliamentaryforum.org/sites/default/files/Parlforum%20Policy%20Statement%20on%20SALW%20related%20Violence%20and%20the%20MDGs.pdf>

East. The participants express their common concern over the growing threat from extremist groups and organised crime, which continue to cause death, displacement and increase the illicit proliferation of SALW in several countries in the world. According to international law and UN Security Council Resolutions, the chain of supply of weapons needs to be properly investigated and stopped. Increasing the supply of guns to regions in conflict is more likely to exacerbate and prolong the conflict than help putting an end to it.

The Sixth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS6) to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPoA) took place from 6 to 10 June 2016, making this an opportune time to emphasize the importance of the implementation, and full adherence by States as well as reporting as a tool to measure success and explore opportunities for further development of the UNPoA. In preparation for the UNPoA Review Conference, which will take place in 2018, the participants commit to work with their governments, civil society, regional and international organisations to advance the implementation of the UNPoA and ensure States provide the reports required.

The UNPoA is complementary to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which entered into force in 2014 and so far, has been signed by 130 states and ratified by 87 states. The participants welcome the positive development of the ATT and emphasize the importance of its universalization and implementation in the region and at a global level. Moreover, the participants recognize the need to identify and draw on synergies between the international instruments ATT, UNPoA, and SDG16 within the 2030 Agenda. The participants reiterate the important role of parliamentarians in advancing this process and all other efforts of violence prevention and reduction.

The participants extend their heartfelt gratitude to the Parliament of Uruguay and the Parliamentary Forum for Small Arms and Light Weapons for generously hosting the seminar.