



PARLIAMENTARY FORUM  
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

## Newsletter September 2018

### Content:

- **Greeting from the Secretary General**
- **New webpage**
- **General Data Protection Regulation, GDPR**
  
- **Past events**
  - Regional Seminar PFSALW and ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)
  - *Rev Con 3; Third Review Conference of UNPoA*
  - *Social media campaign- Words Over Bullets*
  - *Seminar in Swedish Parliament*
  
- **Upcoming events**
  - General Assembly, November 2018, Brussels
  - Thematic Seminar, November 2018, Brussels

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### **Honourable Members and Friends of the Forum,**

First, I want to take the opportunity to thank you all for your commitment! **You as Members and Friends of the Forum play a key role in the work to reduce and prevent armed violence, by raising awareness and taking action to contribute to a more peaceful world.** Regrettably, our determined actions continue to be needed as the situation regarding armed violence and conflict in the world continues to be serious. In current complex times, we must join forces and embrace solutions and possibilities to achieve sustainable peace and development worldwide.

Since the last newsletter, an intense period has passed by. The Forum continued its efforts to enhance national and regional implementation of the 2030 Agenda, the Arms Trade Treaty and 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). This objective is part of the initiative aiming at **“Connecting the Dots”** between international arms control

instruments. The third and final step of this initiative was a **regional seminar in Asia**, which took place in **May**. The **Third Revision Conference of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms** took place in **New York late June**, where the Forum held a well-attended side event to present the conclusions and parliamentary recommendations from Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Parliamentary participation and contribution proved, as always, to be very valuable in international processes, given the three key roles of parliamentarians regarding legislation, oversight and awareness raising.

In the remaining part of 2018 the work will follow to increase human security and sustainable development by preventing and reducing illicit flows of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). What lies ahead now is **the Forum's General Assembly in Brussels this November, a vital opportunity to gather** our members - including a thematic seminar and the election of the new Board. Please read more about the past and upcoming events below.

Once again, thank you all for your efforts! I am looking forward to meeting you in the future – be it at our upcoming General Assembly or another occasion.

Best Wishes,



Karin Olofsson, Secretary General

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### **New webpage**

We are very pleased to announce that the Forum's new Web Page is up and running. On our webpage you can always find useful information such as policy material, upcoming events, information about the organisation and contact information. Go check out our new webpage and learn more about the important work on parliamentary action in order to reduce and prevent armed violence globally. And please do not hesitate to contact us with updates on the important work you are doing so that we can share it on our web page or social media channels! Click [here](#) to see the new Web Page.

## **General Data Protection Regulation, GDPR**

A new EU-law, regarding the handling of personal data, became effective on **the 25<sup>th</sup> of May 2018**.

In relation to this, the Forum has clarified our guideline regarding information security, privacy, and confidentiality. This guideline forms part of a Code of Conduct, decided by the Board. It states that the Forum works partly with material and information that may be considered sensitive. In line with the EU legislation on the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR), we respect the privacy of all stakeholders involved in our work, only sharing information that is already public. Personal information of members and partners is stored safely by the Forum for as long as permitted and used for communication about the organisation's work. Personal information will not be shared to third parties, if not explicitly allowed by the person in question. Information generated in the course of operations by the Forums' organs is the property of the Forum. Any digital and analogue information must be stored so that the Forum can easily access it. Click [here](#) to find the **Code of Conduct**.

## **Past events**

### Regional Seminar PFSALW and ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)

On **May 7-8**, the third and final regional seminar within the "Connecting the Dots" initiative took place in South-Eastern Asia, in Jakarta, Indonesia, in collaboration with the **Association of Southeast Asian Nations' (ASEAN) Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)**. The purpose of the seminar was to increase parliamentary understanding and ownership in the implementation of international arms control instruments. Key parliamentarians from **Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand, and Vietnam** were among the participants, together with parliamentarians from other countries in the region, experts and representatives from the diplomatic community and civil society. Thank you all for a successful and interesting seminar! Conclusions and recommendations for action were compiled into a **Parliamentary Action Plan**. Click [here](#) to read the Action Plan.

### RevCon3- The Third Review Conference of the UNPoA

On **June 18- 29** the **Third Revision Conference of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (RevCon3)** took place in New York, with the aim of reviewing progress made in relation to implementation of the UNPoA. During the conference, the Forum co-organised a very successful side event with the Permanent Mission of Sweden to the United Nations and the

International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, IPPNW. The side event highlighted conclusions and parliamentary recommendations identified during the “Connecting the Dots” regional seminars in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. Parliamentarians from Guatemala, the Democratic Republic of Congo and Myanmar shared their experiences on the reality in their countries regarding SALW proliferation in relation to the different regional contexts. The conclusions were compiled in a summarized version of the previous three Regional Parliamentary Action Plans, a [Global Parliamentary Action Plan](#). The parliamentary participation and contribution were productive since the phrasing of a strong cooperation with parliamentarians was included as part of the [final report](#) (please see p.10, a.3.) of the RevCon3, acknowledging the key role that parliamentarians have in the control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, SALW.

### Social media campaign- Words Over Bullets

In light of the Third Revision Conference of the UNPoA it was important to highlight the role of parliamentarians together with other key stakeholders in contributing to international processes. Their role in finding synergies in the implementation of international arms control instruments, concretely the 2030 Agenda, the ATT and the UNPoA are key for action. Therefore, the Forum launched a third round of the social media campaign **#WordsOverBullets**. The outcome of this campaign was very positive and **we would like to thank all of you** who participated and interacted. To mention some key figures, close to 60 000 people were reached through our posts on Facebook and close to 35 000 times users were reached by the campaign on Twitter, an average of 5000 views per day! Thank you and stay tuned for the launch of new campaigns shortly!

### Seminar in the Swedish Parliament

The serious situation regarding armed violence globally and in Sweden continues to be an important issue to highlight and address, in particular in light of the recent national election in Sweden in September 2018. Therefore, the Forum hosted a **seminar in the Swedish Parliament in May** and discussed armed violence prevention and reduction from a Swedish and international perspective. The seminar concluded, for example, on the importance to **integrate a gender equality perspective at all levels of society** in the process of disarmament and armed violence prevention. The Forum will, of course, continue to work hard to engage and strengthen parliamentarians’ work on the implementation of international instruments, in Sweden and globally, as to ensure humans security and sustainable development.

## Upcoming events

### General Assembly, November 2018, Brussels

We are pleased to invite all members to the General Assembly of the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons! **It will be held in Brussels, Belgium, on the 28<sup>th</sup> and 29<sup>th</sup> of November**, thanks to the generous collaboration with the Flemish Peace Institute (FPI). The General Assembly is the highest organ of the Forum, realised bi-annually and it is constituted by the regular Members, presided by the Presidium of the Forum. The Assembly provides strategic advice on future priority guidelines to the Board, discuss and approve the bi-annual report of the Forum, among other functions. **The election of the new Board** for the period 2018 – 2020 will also take place during the General Assembly.

If you're a member, please check your email inbox for a more detailed invitation and information on the registration process. **Please note that the last day to RSVP is September 14<sup>th</sup>**. For further questions or information please contact the Forum Secretariat, by email [secretariat@parforum.org](mailto:secretariat@parforum.org) or telephone (+46) 8 653 25 43.

### Thematic Seminar, November 2018, Brussels

In connection to the General Assembly, a thematic seminar will be held, in collaboration with the FPI, to explore policy-oriented topics relating to "Prevention and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons related violence – Parliamentary Action for Peaceful & Sustainably Developed Societies". During the sessions, important topics will be discussed such as the prevention and reduction of uncontrolled SALW proliferation, women in peace & security, legislative tools/instruments for improved SALW armed violence prevention & reduction as well as international conventional arms control instruments. The Assembly, including the thematic seminar, is an invaluable opportunity to gather, exchange ideas and work for the achievement of peaceful and sustainably developed societies. A draft program has been sent out together with the invitation for the General Assembly. For further questions or information please contact the Forum Secretariat, by email [secretariat@parforum.org](mailto:secretariat@parforum.org) or telephone (+46) 8 653 25 430.