



PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

Newsletter December 2018

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Honourable Members and Friends of the Forum,

As we are approaching the holiday season, time has come for the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the Forum, to close the circle for this year and start looking ahead towards a new and vital year. Thank you all for yet another year of working together to prevent Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) related violence to achieve sustainable peace and increase human security. The situation in the world during the past year, marked by violence and conflict, indeed underpins the importance of our work.

Looking back at 2018, a year filled with significant activity and results in relation to prevention and reduction of armed violence appears. **Seven key events** have been conducted by the Forum including **four seminars** as well as **two side events** on in a total of **four different continents**. The first regional seminar was organised in collaboration with the **Pan-African Parliament** as a part of the “*Connecting the dots*” initiative, supporting Sustainable development goal (SDG) 16, the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) 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) implementation through increased parliamentary engagement and action in international

processes. Another regional seminar within the “*Connecting the Dots*” initiative was organised in South-Eastern Asia, in Jakarta, Indonesia, in collaboration with **the Association of Southeast Asian Nations’ (ASEAN) Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)**.

The Forum also hosted a seminar in the **Swedish Parliament** and discussed armed violence prevention and reduction from a Swedish and international perspective. This year’s side events were organised in connection to **the Preparatory Committee (PrepCom)** and 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)**, both in New York, with the aim to share conclusions from the “*Connecting the dots*” initiative. During the year the Forum has also continued to work with and enhanced our communication efforts, included in this progress was this year’s launch of our [New Webpage](#) and our very successful **Words over Bullets social media campaigns**.

Since the last newsletter, an intense period has passed by. Most recently the Forum organised a **Thematic Seminar and our General Assembly on November 28th-29th in Brussels in collaboration with the Flemish Peace Institute**. During the days around **50 participants and representatives from 24 different countries** spread on **4 continents** participated. At the General Assembly, the Members also elected the new Board for the 2018 – 2020 period. Currently, the Forum is carrying out a version of the **#WordsOverBullets** campaign highlighting the thematic issue and the possibility to contribute to the Forum’s work with a donation. Please read more about the past, ongoing and upcoming events below.

All of the activities the Forum carried out during 2018 would not have been possible without the **very important and excellent participation by and collaboration with you all - the Forum’s member parliamentarians, friends, and partner organisations**. The Forum would therefore once again like to give its sincerest gratitude to you all for our joint efforts to prevent and reduce SALW-related violence.

On behalf of the Secretariat I wish you happy holidays and a happy New Year!

Yours sincerely,



Karin Olofsson, Secretary General

Past events

The Brussels Declaration – Parliamentary Action for Peace, General Assembly, Brussels

During the Forum’s General Assembly in Brussels on the 29th of November, **20 parliamentarians from Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, the Middle East** provided strategic advice

on future priority guidelines to the Board, discussed and approved the Secretary Generals' Biannual report, elected the Forum's new Board and adopted the - ***The Brussels Declaration – Parliamentary Action for Peace***. The declaration concludes that the illicit trade and uncontrolled proliferation of SALW and irresponsible arms transfers pose a real obstacle to human security and sustainable development all over the world and facilitates terrorism and organised crime. The declaration also highlights the significance of the UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and affirms the vital role of parliamentarians in relation to the need to strengthen the implementation of the UNPoA, the ATT and the 2030 Agenda SDG 16 and its connection to SDG 5 on gender equality and SDG 17 on strengthening global partnerships for sustainable development. **Click [here](#) to read the declaration.** Further updates from the General Assembly can be found under the hashtag **#PFSLW2018GA** on Twitter.

Board Meeting, Brussels

On the 30th of November the Forum held a Board Meeting in Brussels. We would warmly like to welcome our new Board members whom were elected by the General Assembly; Hon. **Eve Bazaiba** from the Democratic Republic of Congo, Hon. **Marko Djurisić** from Serbia and Hon. **Felipe Harboe** from Chile. In addition, **Mr. Christer Winbäck**, Sweden was elected as adjunct member for an interim period. We also welcome back our re-elected Board members, parliamentarians; Hon. **Daisy Tourné** from Uruguay, re-elected as President, Hon. **Raphael Chegeni** from Tanzania, elected as Vice-President; Hon. **Vincent de Paul Emah Etoundi** from Cameroon, Hon. **Sahar Qawasmi** from Palestine, and as representative from civil society Mrs. **Maria Pia Devoto** from Argentina.

Policy update - new Policy Statement – Uncontrolled SALW, terrorism and organised crime

A new Policy Statement was also adopted by the Board; ***“Policy Statement on uncontrolled Small Arms and Light Weapons, Terrorism and Organised Crime”***. The statement attends to the nexus between terrorism and criminal organisations and its link to uncontrolled SALW. **Click [here](#) to read the Policy Statement.**

Thematic Seminar 2018, Brussels

On the 28th-29th of November the Forum organised, in collaboration with the Flemish Peace Institute, a thematic seminar in Brussels with the topic; ***“Prevention and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons related violence – Parliamentary Action for Peaceful & Sustainably Developed Societies”***. A short summary of the seminar content as follows:

- The prevention and reduction of uncontrolled SALW proliferation – a global context with a European outlook.
- Women, Peace and Security.
- Legislative tools for improved SALW-related armed violence prevention.
- International Conventional Arms Control Instruments.

Around 50 parliamentarians, representatives from the diplomatic community, civil society and different experts participated in the very successful seminar which provided important knowledge exchange and discussions. For more information about the event, click [here](#).

Ongoing and upcoming events

Words over Bullets Campaign

Between the 21st of November and the 14th of December, the Forum is running a version of the, for most of you, familiar **#WordsOverBullets** campaign on social media. We encourage you all to **take part of the campaign by sharing and spreading** our message. With this campaign **we are highlighting the possibility for our members and friends to support the Forum further by contributing with a donation**. Click [here](#) to read more about how you can support our work to prevent and reduce armed violence. Please follow us on Twitter [@ParlForumSalw](#) and on [Facebook](#) to take part of the campaign.



Christmas card - Give your loved ones a Christmas gift that matters

The holiday season is approaching and the Forum wishes you all a Merry Christmas. Do you want to contribute to **global peace and sustainable development**? Give your loved ones a Christmas gift that matters. **The Forum provides the opportunity for you to give a gift card of your optional donation** to support our work to prevent and reduce armed violence. Click [here](#) to read more about the Christmas card and how you can contribute to a more peaceful and sustainable developed world. Please note that the last day to order your gift is on the 18th of December.



Regional Seminar April 2019, Latin America and the Caribbean

Looking ahead towards 2019, the Forum will continue its determined work on preventing and reducing SALW-related violence as to increase human security by parliamentary action. **In April, tentatively, a regional seminar will be held in, with specific outlook on Latin America and the Caribbean.** Stay tuned for more information regarding this seminar and other activities in 2019. Follow us on Twitter [@ParlForumSalw](https://twitter.com/ParlForumSalw) and on [Facebook](https://www.facebook.com/ParlForumSalw) to take part of the upcoming events.