



PARLIAMENTARY FORUM
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

Preamble

The Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons is the only membership based organisation gathering parliamentarians globally across party-political lines, 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 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 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 conflict prevention and 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 Brussels, Belgium, adopted on November 29th 2018 the following:

STATUTES^{1 2}

Article 1: Theory of Change

Stemming from the conviction that establishing a culture of peace, preventing conflict and assuring human security are tasks that require prompt attention, the Theory of Change of the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons (hereinafter, The Forum) is to contribute to the achievement of more peaceful and sustainably developed societies by enhancing parliamentary action in the implementation and universalisation of relevant international frameworks for the prevention and reduction of SALW-related violence through capacity-building, policy-shaping and awareness-raising.

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; amended the 29th of November, 2018, at the General Assembly, Brussels, Belgium.

² The Statutes shall be seen as complementary to the Regulations of the organisation; for more extensive rules governing the organisation, please see the latter document mentioned.

Article 2: Working methodology and outcome objectives

The Forum has three pillars in its working methodology: policy-shaping, capacity-building and awareness-raising. As points of departure for these pillars are the three key roles of a parliamentarian; the legislative, oversight and awareness-raising functions. Based on this methodology, the Forum has developed four outcome objectives based on its Theory of Change;

- Improved compliance with international SALW control instruments at the national and regional level through increased parliamentary action.
- Increased universalisation and implementation of the ATT, UNPoA and SDG 16.4 through the support and promotion of parliamentary participation and action in international processes.
- Strengthened parliamentary outreach, advocacy and awareness-raising for the prevention and reduction of SALW-related violence.
- Consolidated financial and operational sustainability of the Forum.

Article 3: Membership

The Forum is composed of:

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

All Members are invited to relevant activities of the Forum and receive regular information and updates 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 overall 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 overall effective financial and operational function and holds employer 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.