



PARLIAMENTARY FORUM
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS



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Regional Seminar

“Enhancing parliamentary engagement and action for more peaceful and sustainably developed societies - implementation of 2030 Agenda, the Arms Trade Treaty and the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects”

Objective: Provide tools that allow parliamentarians to influence the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (SDG 16.4.2), 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 (UN PoA)

3-4 October 2019

Pan-African Parliament

Midrand, Johannesburg, South Africa

Final report





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Executive Summary

During the 3-4 October 2019, the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons (PFSALW), in cooperation with and at the venue of the Pan-African Parliament (PAP), organised a regional seminar entitled “Enhancing parliamentary engagement and action for more peaceful and sustainably developed societies - implementation of 2030 Agenda, the Arms Trade Treaty and the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects” in Midrand, Johannesburg. 65 participants took part in the event, including 55 parliamentarians from 22 countries from the region along with representatives from the diplomatic community, international organisations and the civil society.

The objective of the seminar was to strengthen parliamentary commitment, understanding and action in armed violence prevention and reduction by providing tools that allow parliamentarians to influence the implementation of the 2030 Agenda (SDG 16.4.2), 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 (UN PoA). Specific focus was placed on the Women, Peace and Security agenda (WPS) and the Youth, Peace and Security agenda (YPS) including the effective implementation of the United Nations Security Council resolution (UNSCR) 1325 on WPS (and subsequent resolutions) and UNSCR 2250 on YPS.

The uncontrolled proliferation and use of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) constitute an obstacle for sustainable development and human security in Africa and at the global level. Armed violence caused by the proliferation of SALW has widespread human, economic and social costs. Taking in consideration the consequences of armed violence, organised crime and terrorist groups, parliamentarians and other relevant stakeholders need to act decisively to find solutions to decrease armed violence with a holistic approach. This should be done by matching political will with human and financial resources, legislative work, national implementation, domestication of regional legislation and international instruments, reinforced by an increased sensitisation, education and promotion of the relevance to tackle armed violence.

The seminar included a follow-up of the implementation of the Parliamentary Action Plan adopted in March 2018 in the Pan African Parliament. Based on the conclusions from the seminar, the Plan was revised and adopted in its amended version. The Plan highlights the importance of parliamentary action to support universalisation and effective implementation of SDG 16.4, the ATT and the UN PoA, as well as UNSCR 1325 and UNSCR 2250, through the three parliamentary roles of legislation, oversight and awareness raising.

The seminar was realised with the financial support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and the generous support and collaboration with the Pan-African Parliament.



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Thursday 3rd October

Opening session

Hon. Dr Abdullahi Ali, Kenya, rapporteur of the Committee on Cooperation, International Relations and Conflict Resolution opened the session with an important reminder of the value of a seminar highlighting the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW). He stated that illicit arms flow in Africa affect everyone on the continent regardless of origin and that their causes are cross cutting. The African Union's initiative to "Silence the Guns by 2020" in Africa is an immense challenge. However, the seminar will offer an opportunity for members of parliament (MPs) to share experiences and results on how far their countries have progressed in the ongoing work of implementing treaties related to arms control as well as the 2030 Agenda and African Union's 2063 Agenda.

Hon. Dr Raphael Chegeni, Member of Parliament Tanzania, Vice- President, Parliamentary Forum on SALW (PFSALW) similarly highlighted the trafficking of illicit SALW as an urgent security dilemma in Africa. The concentration of most of Africa's estimated 100 million SALW are found in crisis zones and other security-challenged environments. The 2030 Agenda is an international framework that specifically highlights illicit flows of arms as an obstacle to sustainable development. As such, it provides a unique opportunity to integrate the work against the uncontrolled proliferation and misuse of SALW in a wider context to also include measures addressing the social and economic costs. MPs can have an important impact and therefore must work together at a regional level. By collaborating with government actors, civil society, women and youth organisations, guns can be silenced on the continent.

Ms Karin Olofsson, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Forum on SALW stated that SALW are multipliers of violence and fuel conflict, impeding peace and sustainable development globally, and in Africa. Most conflicts on the continent involve non-state actors using these weapons. Since non-state actors have no legal authority to purchase or bear arms, they resort to illicit means of arms acquisition, mainly through diversion from state stockpiles, black markets and trafficking. Political will and parliamentary action are vital for realising efforts on prevention and reduction of armed violence. Thus, the seminar sets out to increase parliamentary understanding and ownership of international instruments that guide and regulate conventional arms control. She expressed sincere gratitude on behalf of the Forum for the fruitful collaboration with the Pan-African Parliament and to the Swedish Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) for the financial support enabling the realisation of such a crucial gathering for capacity-building and knowledge exchange.

Hon. Aboubacar Sidiki Kone, Ivory Coast, Chairperson of the Committee on Cooperation, International Relations and Conflict Resolution commenced by expressing his delight of attending the second regional seminar in the Pan African Parliament carried out in an important collaboration



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with PFSALW. As the most important priority of 2063 Agenda is to promote peace and security for all citizens, this collaboration is vital. In order to Silence the Guns by 2020 in Africa, it is key to continue discussions on the topic and the seminar provides an excellent occasion. He also underlined that MPs need to engage in three levels in upcoming actions for armed violence prevention; international, intercontinental and national. Moreover, it necessary to strengthen the role of women in conflict prevention and peace building. He then closed the opening session and opened the seminar.

Session I: Silence the Guns by 2020 in Africa - Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 16, target 4 to reduce illicit flows of arms

Objective: Understand and translate the 2030 Agenda, SDG 16.4, as well as its links to SDG 5 on gender equality, into proposals for concrete parliamentary action to silence the guns in Africa, based on the 2018 PFSALW Parliamentary Action Plan

The first keynote speaker **Hon. Aboubacar Sidiki Kone, Ivory Coast, Chairperson of the Committee on Cooperation, International Relations and Conflict Resolution** declared that countries in West Africa are aware that the issue of circulation of arms cannot be resolved without strong cooperation between states. It is for this reason that the Ivory Coast has ratified relevant UN treaties. Although the Ivory Coast does not produce any arms, both ammunition and firearms are very easy to access. This is partly due to the fact that many firearms still circulate in the country following the attempted coup d'état in 2002 and the ensuing war, and partly due to arms trafficking across borders. There are many countries that, similarly to the Ivory Coast, are not protected from illicit arms flows. For this reason, it is crucial to ask the question of where these arms come from and how they have entered the borders. He stated that to prevent uncontrolled arms circulation, it is necessary to denounce the producers and name the countries of origin and organisations responsible. He then reiterated his previous statement that women should be included as leaders and role models in the work to promote security and stability. A first step to empower women is to overcome cultural barriers that prevent women's active participation and give women opportunity to get an education.

The second panellist **Mr Richard Chegin, researcher at the Institute for Security Studies**, highlighted recent findings from his research on the implementation of African Union's initiative Silencing the Guns by 2020. Among other things, the study found that the lack of funding, resources and capacity, along with great differences in application between urban and rural parts, were challenges to the implementation of the initiative. Furthermore, a key problem was the lack of information provided to stakeholders relevant to the implementation of the framework. Once adopted in the AU and handed to ministries of foreign affairs, the framework was not passed down the line due to unclear channels of communication. As a result, in many countries, law enforcement and other actors were not even aware of the framework. He affirmed that this raises the important question of how to make high level documents from the AU accessible and practical to everyone,



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including for those living in rural areas. Silencing the Guns by 2020 might be an ambitious goal, he said, but ambition is necessary to achieve such an important task. In the next phase, the governments, civil society and individuals must consider what steps they can take to contribute to the goal together.

Mr Joseph Dube, member of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), also took the opportunity to highlight some key areas of priority for the realisation of the objective to Silence the Guns by 2020. He emphasised that all states have the duty and right to protect their population, territories and borders, but that this comes with an obligation of not misusing arms and ensuring that there is a comprehensive and effective system of weapons and ammunition management in place. Moreover, gun ownership must be seen as a privilege that is earned and subject to licence, he said. At all times, the state must know where the arms can be found, whether in national stockpile or civilian hands, to prevent their illicit diversion. Parliamentarians play a key role in contributing to peace on the continent. They should ensure that their country has ratified the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and demand transparency and accountability concerning their government's purchase of arms. With regards to legislation on arms control, the illicit brokering of arms must be included. In addition, the current situation with parallel systems of marking arms should be addressed, as it is not possible to trace weapons marked in the other system. Moreover, it is necessary to translate policy documents to the language of the people, Swahili, to make them more accessible. He concluded his intervention by urging parliamentarians to request public health data related to armed violence to get full overview of the situation they are dealing with.

The first **parliamentary response** was delivered by **Hon. Aïssata Touré Diallo, Mali, Committee on Foreign Affairs, Malians Abroad and African Integration**. She explained that authorities in Mali have taken several steps to prevent the illicit proliferation and misuse of SALW, including the signing of several treaties and conventions. As examples of the state's commitment, she highlighted the National Committee on the Fight Against Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons, established over 20 years ago following the nascence of the republic, and the Committee on Security that works almost entirely on the topic of SALW. She continued to note that women are not only victims of armed violence, they are also important actors in the work for peace and stability. Although it is a struggle to strive for gender equality in a patriarchal society, a lot of effort is done in this area and women are to a greater extent consulted, represented and visible today. Furthermore, there is now a quota in place to support more women to enter the parliament. Parliamentarians in Mali are very active and engaged in issues related to security, but a challenge is that a lot of policy documents are too technical for MPs. With this in mind, she concluded by emphasising the importance of everyone present in the seminar taking steps to share their knowledge to ensure sustainable development in the region.

Hon. Lawrence Songa Biyika, Uganda, Chairperson of the Committee on Climate Change and Chairperson of the Parliamentary Forum on Climate Change shared his reflections based on his work on conflicts over natural resources and its links to SALW. He made the observation that



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citizens will never feel safe as long as guns are produced, a country's economy is unstable and there are tensions. To create security and stability, issues such as corruption, mortality, climate change, foreign interest in natural resources, food insecurity, lack of livelihood opportunities and lack of education must be addressed. He concluded his intervention by emphasising that guns can never be silenced as long as the connection between armed violence and its root causes is not acknowledged and dealt with. He noted that awareness raising among parliamentarians is key as few MPs are discussing the illicit proliferation of SALW, including in Uganda.

Hon. Dr Raphael Chegeni, Member of Parliament Tanzania, Vice-President, Parliamentary Forum on SALW made the statement that politicians are the source of the problem of insecurity on the continent. Many politicians lack the political will to follow through on their promises on peace and stability. The illicit flows of SALW are caused by armed conflicts that have political origin. Many African leaders have overstayed their time in office and as a result there is no regime change. In Tanzania, the president can only stay in office for up to 10 years after having been re-elected a maximum of one time. He further emphasised that MPs must be ready to change their mindset, and ensure that knowledge shared at the seminar is translated into action upon return to their home country. In order to bring peace to the people and countries of Africa, everyone must be proactive in the struggle against illicit arms flows.

During the **open floor debate**, parliamentarians from different countries gave their view on topics highlighted during the panel discussion. The importance of identifying and addressing root causes for conflict and armed violence, such as lack of socioeconomic opportunities, was emphasised by several participants. They also agreed that African leaders who cling to power and abuse responsibility are part of the problem and contribute to insecurity, which underlines the need for democratic strengthening. Some MPs expressed pessimism towards the plausibility of realising the objective of Silencing the Guns by 2020, in particular given that the framework is not used by all actors responsible for its implementation. The framework was also criticised for not preventing import of heavy arms. Moreover, some felt that African countries are wrongfully blamed for not acting against the proliferation of SALW by rich countries outside of the continent, countries that are exporting arms to Africa and who themselves are not taking their responsibility. Empowering women through education as a necessary step to strengthen women's inclusion in peace and security was also brought up along with the important role of parliamentarians to raising awareness among the population and other MPs on the dangers of SALW.

Session II: International instruments for regulating conventional weapons - implementation and universalisation of the ATT, the UN PoA in relation to SDG 16.4 and SDG 5

Objective: Explore achievements and challenges in the implementation of the ATT and UN PoA at the regional level, and their relationship with SDG 16.4 and SDG 5.



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The first keynote speaker **Hon. Dr Abdullahi Ali, Kenya, rapporteur of the Committee on Cooperation, International Relations and Conflict Resolution** focused his intervention on armed violence and arms trafficking in border areas. He pointed out that the international community, governments and NGOs with their headquarters located in bigger cities tend to focus their efforts on urban areas and engage in dialogue with the minority group of people with higher education, rather than rural areas and marginalised communities. He further stated that trafficking of SALW is good business and very difficult to address, in particular for MPs that often lack awareness of what is happening on the ground. Moreover, he argues that funds used for big conferences should instead be allocated to organisations on the ground working hands on with problems related to violence. Terrorism and piracy contribute to the complexity of arms trafficking, and is a lived reality for those innocent living in border regions. It is therefore urgent to address the situation and not let efforts stay at the level of discussion without translating it into actions. For this, sufficient resources must be allocated and cooperation take place across borders to create stability.

Mr Joseph Dube, member of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) gave an overview of international and regional instruments for arms control, including the ATT, United Nations Firearms Protocol, UN PoA, Bamako Declaration, SADC Protocol, Nairobi Protocol, ECOWAS Convention and Kinshasa Convention. He underlined the importance of implementing these instruments with special attention on the principles of gender equality. As an example, he elaborated on the criterion in ATT that sets out to protect against violations of international human rights and humanitarian law, to which acts of gender-based violence (GBV) are counted. If there is an overriding risk of arms being used to commit or facilitate GBV, the transaction must be refused. He further urged all states to push for 50 % representation of women in all efforts and forums related to peace and security, in particular as mediators. As highlighted in *Silencing the Guns by 2020*, women should be part of preventive diplomacy.

Hon. Soro Fobeh, Ivory Coast, Committee on Defence and Security took the opportunity to highlight the ongoing work in the Ivory Coast to prevent the illicit proliferation of SALW. He pointed out that the Ivory Coast is not a producer of arms but has nevertheless taken several steps for increased arms control, including the signing and ratifying of the ATT and other international instruments. However, work remains to be done with regards to reviewing and harmonising national legislation in line with international and regional stipulations and ensure that the necessary supporting judicial structures and organs are in place. The Ivory Coast has established a National Committee on the Fight Against Illicit SALW and a secretariat for the national council on security. Within the framework of these organs, a lot of work has been done on making sure that the weapons of the police and army are marked. He concluded with the statement that the lack of knowledge among MPs negatively impacts on the effective implementation of international instruments.

Hon. Lilian Timveos, Zimbabwe, Thematic Committee on Peace and Security declared that although the death by firearms in Zimbabwe at 2% per 100 000 is relatively low compared to other



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countries in the region, political violence has been present in the past decade contributing to insecurity and preventing economic investments and sustainable development. Zimbabwe has progressed in several aspects with regards to arms control. For example, to secure a legal firearm a licence application process has to be undertaken and the applicant must submit evidence of good character and have a valid reason for the procurement. However, despite several positive initiatives at the national and international level, the country has not yet ratified the ATT, which must be a key priority for the parliament in the future. She concluded by stressing that the economic environment in Zimbabwe, with diminishing technical and financial resources, negatively affects her work and ability to perform her legislative role, engaging civil society and raising awareness on the dangers of SALW among the public and her parliamentary colleagues.

In the **open floor debate**, it was noted that circulation of illicit SALW is not only connected to armed conflict but also to organised crime and drug trafficking, and that integrated efforts are needed to address the full spectra of the problem. Marking and auditing of weapons in the hands of state armed forces and the police was again highlighted as a key step to prevent arms diversion and to quickly be able to identify leaks. Several participants requested more information about what countries have ratified the ATT and wished to be provided with a full list of the current status for different countries. Some parliamentarians also countered the statement made during the panel discussion that MPs are not able to address the complex situation of SALW proliferation due to lacking knowledge of what is happening on the ground. They argued that MPs are representatives of the people and are as such best equipped to undertake action on behalf of and for the citizens.

Session III: Exchange of parliamentary experiences on SDG 16.4, ATT and UN PoA - follow up on the 2018 PFSALW Parliamentary Action Plan

Objective: In groups share results, positive experiences and challenges in the parliamentary work on the implementation of SDG 16.4 and its links to SDG 5, ATT and UN PoA

All participants were divided into four groups based on language: Group 1-2 French, Group 3 English, Group 4 Arabic. Each group discussed measures and actions taken in their respective country with regards to legislation, oversight and awareness raising to prevent SALW related armed violence.

Group 1 presented their conclusions highlighting initiatives on gender equality, specifically related to political representation, as well as awareness raising campaigns to share information about the work that authorities and organisations are doing to promote peace and stability. As for challenges, collaboration between civil society organisations and parliamentarians was specifically pointed out along with insufficient resources for implementation of policies and laws on the ground. However, the group found that internet could play a role in overcoming some of these challenges, as it is a cheap and accessible platform where parliamentarians can easily reach out to a large proportion of the population to spread awareness.



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Group 2 elaborated on positive steps taken in several countries in the region resulting in ratification of the ATT and penalty laws to prevent SALW proliferation and armed violence. They also highlighted initiatives to improve representation of women in political structures as well as the conditions under which women are active, e.g. through the establishment of committees solely working for gender equality. They highlighted the need for more awareness raising initiatives among parliamentarians and the population alike, and the need for MPs to be strengthened in their oversight function vis-à-vis the government. The group concluded that MPs must have information and data to carry out qualitative work.

Group 3 shared positive results on the prevention of armed violence in the region, including raising motions and arms amnesties. The group pointed out that in the 2030 Agenda the role of women is made explicit but not in relation to SALW. They therefore demanded that this should be addressed in the national context by including the gender perspective in the fight against uncontrolled SALW. Moreover, the universalisation and harmonisation of national legislation with regional frameworks were also stressed as a key priority ahead. Among the challenges experienced by the parliamentarians in the group, the lack of resources and limited awareness among the public, lack of state, institutional and political will, insufficient knowledge on SALW and related suspiciousness, lack of regional cooperation and draft legislation were specifically highlighted.

Group 4 gave the perspective from Palestine and the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic as states having experienced occupation. In Palestine, despite the decreasing number of SALW in the territory, armed violence has not diminished due to the ongoing conflict with Israel. Important initiatives were highlighted by the group from these contexts where MPs have taken part in capacity building activities in other countries related to peace and stability to share experiences and best practices.



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Friday 4th October

Session IV: Legislative tools and instruments for an improved SALW related violence prevention and reduction

Objective: Examine the legislative tools and instruments available in the prevention and reduction of SALW related violence in the region.

Hon. Prof. Ogenga Latigo, Uganda, member of the Pan African Parliament highlighted experiences from his own country where abuses emanating from the state have been a reality and political accountability is vital for sustainable development.

Hon. Alfred Sanou, Burkina Faso, Network of Burkinabe Parliamentarians on Small Arms and Light Weapons pinpointed the experience from his country regarding legislative tools and instruments on the topic, where for example the National Assembly authorised the adoption of the ECOWAS convention and ratified the ATT in 2014. Domestication of the treaty is now underway. One challenge on SALW are the artisanal manufacture of these weapons and the need to include in relevant legislation where a bill has been validated as to achieve this. He highlighted the importance of involving women in security related processes, where the armed forces are one example for continued progress for gender balance.

Hon. Dje Vincent, Ivory Coast, Committee on Defence and Security claimed that despite the efforts of the Ivory Coast at the international level to curb illicit SALW, national regulations in the country are not tailored to the reality on the ground and therefore not adequate to deal with the proliferation of SALW. The work within the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) region, handling the major regional convention, has led to progress, for example an elaborated Code of Conduct promotes trust between different actors involved.

Hon. Mohamed Rachadi Abdou, Comoros, Committee on Cooperation, International relations and Conflict Resolution, Pan African Parliament underlined that Comoros adheres to the view that without peace there is no development. To protect the peace, all arms must be stored in places with surveillance where they are closely monitored as to prevent misuse and diversion. In contexts suffering from lack of firearms control, entrepreneurs and companies will be hesitant to invest which negatively impacts on economic and social development. Among the measures to increase arms control, he pointed to ensuring that private individuals and private security companies do not possess arms.

Ms Adèle Kirsten, Director, Gun Free South Africa underscored the importance of looking at gun violence patterns over the last years, and to collect data on what parts of the population are affected by armed violence and in what ways, in order to develop an efficient strategy for armed violence prevention and reduction. She gave an overview of South Africa where the rate of murders is very high. She moved on to argue that the private security industry is a central actor in South Africa and



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the topic as such should be included in any discussion on armed violence and SALW. For every police officer, there are three registered private guards. Given the lack of compliance of private security regulations as well as oversight of the handling of firearms, this industry deserves closer scrutiny. In South Africa, the issue of firearms control is highly contested and the private security industry is not interested in regulation, which further complicates efforts to increase gun control. She urged the MPs present to take the appropriate steps to protect the lives of all people. MPs should investigate how policy and legislation play into each other to ensure harmonisation. Moreover, international obligations must be translated into practice. The massive leak of weapons is an integral part of the problem to be addressed immediately. In South Africa, a very high number of weapons are lost or stolen from civilian legal ownership and the same trend can be observed with regards to firearms in the hands of the police. It is necessary to put in place an efficient system to record all weapons. The vulnerable moment follows once a firearm has been recovered and earmarked. It then must be stocked in a secure premise with surveillance as to prevent diversion.

Ms Gugu Dube, Researcher, Institute for Security Studies took the opportunity to share her knowledge on the ATT. She began by explaining how the ATT was adopted in the hope that it would result in a more responsible trade. The treaty acknowledges that a first step on this path is for states to start reporting on their arms trade. When state parties to ATT chose to keep their reports private it results in lack of transparency and makes it difficult to identify remaining gaps. A challenge common to many state parties is to find qualified personnel to compile the report as well as to dedicate enough time to the time consuming process. She suggested that finding synergies across multiple instruments could be a way of overcoming these difficulties and make reporting more efficient. In addition, there are steps that MPs and state parties can take with the ATT secretariat to work together and strengthen efforts. She concluded by stating that it takes a long time for African states to go through ratification, in average between 7-8 years, and that this process must be reviewed.

Hon. Ibrahim Assane, Niger, Committee on Cooperation, International Relations and Conflict Resolution gave an overview of Niger's national instruments as well as international commitments for the prevention of SALW proliferation and peace and stability, including the ratification of the ATT. Among other things, Niger has a committee for collection of SALW and an organ responsible for overseeing the implementation of several laws concerning SALW. Moreover, there is substantial work ongoing with regards to reintegrating former combatants into the society along with other individuals who have surrendered their illegal arms.

During the **open floor debate** a member of the Pan African Parliament representing Niger took the opportunity to add that the annual day of the concord, a day to celebrate peace, is a day of arms amnesty where anyone can surrender illegal arms without risking prosecution. As underlined by a number of participants, the private security sector should not be needed if there are efficient public law enforcement structures in place and a police force. The central role of the private security industry in several countries is a clear indication of the gravity of the situation regarding insecurity



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and armed violence in the region. However, not all agreed with this view and some parliamentarians countered that the private security sector has its own customers and play a complementary role to the police as the police and military cannot do everything. The key is to ensure that appropriate regulations dictate the sector and that there are oversight and monitoring mechanisms.

Session V: Towards inclusive processes on peace, security and development by implementing United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 & UNSCR 2250

Objective: Analysing the role of women and youth in relation to the prevention of armed violence and conflicts.

Hon. Lucia Dos Passos, Chairperson of the Committee on Gender, Family, Youths and People with Disabilities of the Pan-African Parliament emphasised that women and youth are agents of change if they are allowed the space. A paradigm shift is needed broadly in society to address the needs of women and youth, also among politicians. She mentioned that her own country, Cap Verde, has adopted measures leading to a higher degree of young people having leadership positions. However, the country has severe problems as 22% of women have experienced GBV and there are also recorded murders followed by suicides. Currently a programme for GBV perpetrators is ongoing; including a policing system in schools and societies; a youth strategy programme and a program to fight drug trafficking.

Ms Fatou Leigh, Senior Economist, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) South Africa pinpointed that the 1.8 billion youth in the world constitutes an underprivileged group, where 600 – 700 000 live in crisis zone. However, they majority of young people aspire to change the world, to become future leaders or teachers. As part of the preparation of the next five-year plan, UNDP has made a study on root causes of the situation reflecting that unemployment, inequality and poverty are major challenges. UNDP also launched a report “Frontline” focusing on prevention. Cases from Afghanistan and Pakistan are included where youth in risk are identified and show hopeful initiatives for example from Pakistan where advocacy campaigns have been carried out in local transport “rickshaw”, that earlier were used to recruit youth to extremist groups and now have been converted to “peace richshaws” with positive messages on peace. Parliamentarians have an important role in scrutinising budgets and identify concrete opportunities for adequate budget allocation; promote research and data compilation and involve youth in decision making processes in respective political parties.

Hon. Professor Laure Pauline Fotso, Cameroon, Defence and Security Committee highlighted the situation in her country where severe violence has been ongoing since 2017 with a security crisis in the northern Anglophone part and in the east affected by the instability of the Central African Republic. Currently there are incipient positive development and hope that peace will come back as in October a national dialogue process has started with release of several hundreds of prisoners of war. The conflict situation has strongly affected children and youth as school access has been



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denied and abuses of girls have occurred being drugged and forced to take up arms. The flows of SALW have been difficult to control in this situation. The national plan of United Nations Security Council Resolution (UNSCR) 1325 has been published with some progress as women are consulted to a higher degree in security processes. She emphasises that development and poverty eradication is key to reach sustainable peace.

Hon. Soro Fobeh, Ivory Coast, Committee on Defence and Security reflected on the situation in his own country where 77% of population is younger than 35 years old, to a large degree consisting of rural population. He mentions the importance of political quota and the ongoing process where a draft law has been adopted on the topic. Another progress is that there is now a specific ministry for youth, earlier it was merged with sports. Based on personal experiences, he highlights that there can be challenges being involved as a young politician, especially in the beginning of a commitment. He concluded by emphasising the importance of including women in security related processes, also in preparatory military schools that lead the way to more women in higher ranks in the army.

Hon. Dr Sahar Qawsmi, Palestine, Board member of the Parliamentary Forum on SALW pinpointed the severe situation in her country, where half of the population has been deported until date. The situation as such and the lack of respect of International Humanitarian Law was a driving force for her to become a politician. The Arab region is striving to achieve the Agenda 2030 as economic and political partnership is vital to reach stability and security. Surveys show that the Arab region is having a marked gender imbalance, for example in the labour market as only 27% of women are active, being the lowest rate globally. However, women have a driving force for peace as shown both in history and currently. The region is undergoing a demographic growth where 22% of the population consists of young people and calculations show that 17 million jobs are needed by 2020 to involve youth adequately in the labour market.

Session VI: Exchange of parliamentary experiences on the role of women and youth in relation to development, peace and security

Objective: In groups share results, positive experiences and challenges of parliamentary action to implement UNSCR 2250 and UNSCR 1325

For the working session the participants were divided into three groups based on language: Group 1-2 French, Group 3 English. The groups discussed the measures taken in their countries to increase women's and youth's participation in peace, security and development specifically related to SALW control. They were encouraged to focus on challenges, opportunities and key priorities in terms of future actions.

Group 1 announced that the majority of their countries have youth and peace committees dedicated to the Youth, Peace and Security (YPS) and Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agendas. Some countries have progressed to a point of having ministries for women's empowerment and ministers



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working specifically with youth issues. In some places there are laws stipulating that women must be nominated to certain political positions and within political parties. However, it is not always possible to find qualified women for these positions. According to the group, this is an indication of the need to empower women from an early stage.

Group 2 shared positive experiences of community based initiatives where women and youth are trained to reach out to peers to raise awareness on their rights. They further argued that gender quota is one measure to strengthen women's equal representation that should be considered. Several participants accounted for the fact that armed conflict contributes to complex circumstances where efforts on the promotion of women and youth rights are suppressed. In some regions, women are unable to engage in the public sphere as the unveiling of their faces would put them in danger and make them a target for armed non-state groups. Hence, an integrated approach is necessary to address the multifaceted and challenging reality of armed violence in these countries.

Group 3 drew attention to the fact that armed forces mainly recruit youth and that young people thereby are given an opportunity to participate in security related work. As for the implementation of the UNSCR 2250, lack of resources and political interest in youth empowerment were identified as barriers. The group moved on to discuss UNSCR 1325 and pointed out that women themselves are part of reproducing gender roles that prevent their empowerment and participation in security related efforts. Furthermore, not all countries are interested in following these resolutions and for that reason it is crucial to change the mind-set of leaders.

Session VII: Follow-up discussion and adoption of the updated of the PFSALW Parliamentary Action Plan on implementation of SDG 16, ATT and UN PoA

Objective: 1) monitoring and analysis of the 2018 PFSALW Parliamentary Action Plan 2) Update and adopt a regional Parliamentary Action Plan on parliamentary priorities on implementation of SDG 16, ATT and UN PoA – with specific focus on women and youth in peace and security.

In the final session the participants returned to their groups to review the Parliamentary Action Plan adopted in 2018 with the purpose to amend and update it based on new insights and conclusions from the panel discussions and working sessions. Once each group had presented their suggestions for modifications, the draft Parliamentary Action Plan was discussed in plenary and then adopted. Participants were informed that it will be translated into the languages of the Pan African Parliament.

Closing remarks

Hon. Dr. Raphael Chegeni, Member of Parliament Tanzania, Vice-president, Parliamentary Forum on SALW underlined the importance of all parliamentarians present at the seminar to bring the adopted Parliamentary Action Plan with them to their home parliaments. He stated that it is up to the MPs present to ensure that the Action Plan is put to good use as no one else will do it in their



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place. Moreover, he urged the participants to keep in touch with the new friends made during the seminar, as joint action is more powerful than standing alone.

Ms Karin Olofsson, Secretary General, Parliamentary Forum on SALW expressed her sincere gratitude for the commitment and dedication of all participants during the seminar and for the efforts of the interpreters, making it possible to share experiences despite language barriers. She further thanked the Pan African Parliament for the fruitful collaboration and was pleased to announce that a Memorandum of Understanding has been signed, in relation to the seminar, between PFSALW and the Pan African Parliament. She concluded by applauding the parliamentarians for adopting the new Parliamentary Action Plan and encouraged all to take action to prevent armed violence for more peaceful societies.

Hon. Aboubacar Sidiki Kone, Ivory Coast, Chairperson of the Committee on Cooperation, International Relations and Conflict Resolution thanked all participants for their work, as well as the Pan African Parliament and PFSALW for making the seminar possible. He urged the parliamentarians to ensure that the outcome of the seminar does not stop at the level of discussion, and that everyone takes steps to Silence the Guns by 2020. He then gave the final word to **Hon. Lucia Dos Passos, Chairperson of the Committee on Gender, Family, Youths and People with Disabilities of the Pan-African Parliament** who closed the seminar with the statement that the future of women and youth relies on the political will of leaders, including parliamentarians, and that peace in Africa is achievable if actors join forces.



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Participants

Members of the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons	
Country	Name
Burkina Faso	Hon. Alfred Sanou
Cameroon	Hon. Prof. Laure Pauline Fotso
Comoros	Hon. Mohamed Rachedi Abdou
Ivory Coast	Hon. Soro Fobeh
Ivory Coast	Hon. Dje Vincent
Mali	Hon. Aissata Toure Diallo
Niger	Hon. Ibrahim Assane
Palestine	Hon. Sahar Qawasmi
Tanzania	Hon. Dr. Raphael Chegeni
Uganda	Hon. Biyika Lawrence Songa
Zimbabwe	Hon. Sen. Lilian Timveos

Members of the Pan African Parliament	
Country	Name
Burkina Faso	Hon. Sawadogo Emmanuel Koti
Burkina Faso	Hon. Sirima Bissiri
Cape Verde	Hon. Lucia dos Passos
Central African Republic	Hon. Sanze Gina
Central African Republic	Hon. Yerima
Central African Republic	Hon. Zakaria
Central African Republic	Hon. Zingas AS
Chad	Hon. Ahamat Tahir Ahr
Chad	Hon. Elise Loum
Ethiopia	Hon. Hordofa Bekele
Gabon	Hon. Ango Ndoutoure
Gabon	Hon. Bie Eyene Paul



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Ivory Coast	Hon. Kone Aboubacar Sidiki
Kenya	Hon. Abdullahi I. Ali
Kenya	Hon. Halima Suleiman
Kenya	Hon. Janet Onge'ra
Kenya	Hon. Jude Jomo
Kenya	Hon. Kones Beatrice
Kenya	Hon. Lillian Osunwa
Kenya	Hon. Stewart Madzayo
Kenya	Hon. Vincent Komogi Mogaka
Madagascar	Hon. Jean Randriana Solo
Mali	Hon. Mamedi Sidibe
Mali	Hon. Sekou Fantamadi Traore
Namibia	Hon. Enelyn Namdes
Namibia	Hon. Laura Mcleod
Niger	Hon. Amina Abdousouna
Rwanda	Hon. Rwigamba Fidel
Saharawi Arab Republic	Hon. Djamel Bendir Khatari
Saharawi Arab Republic	Hon. Said Brahim
Saharawi Arab Republic	Hon. Salek Abdorrahman
Senegal	Hon. Aramatoulaye Jiatta
Senegal	Hon. Bangirama Hanifa Kawoya
Senegal	Hon. Coumba H. Deme
Senegal	Hon. Djibril War
Senegal	Hon. Dome Khady Bá
Senegal	Hon. James Reat Gony
South Sudan	Hon. Toussaint Manga
Uganda	Hon. Amougiel Jacqueline
Uganda	Hon. Bangirana Hanifa Kawoya
Uganda	Hon. Felix Okot Ogong



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Uganda	Hon. Kakooza James
Uganda	Hon. Prof Morris Ogenga-Latigo
Zimbabwe	Hon. Dr. Tapiwa Mashakada

Experts, civil society representatives and staff members		
Country	Name	Organisation
South Africa	Adèle Kirsten	Director, Gun Free South Africa
South Africa	Fatou Leigh	United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)
South Africa	Gugu Dube	Researcher, Institute for Security Studies
South Africa	Joseph Dube	Member of IANSA
South Africa	Marina	Pan African Parliament Committee Clerk
South Africa	Nonhlanhla Shabangu	Pan African Parliament Committee Clerk
South Africa	Richard Chelin	Researcher, Institute for Security Studies
Sweden	Christer Winbäck	Former member of Parliament Sweden
Sweden	Emmanuelle Texier	Programme Officer, Parliamentary Forum on SALW
Sweden	Karin Olofsson	Secretary General, Parliamentary Forum on SALW

Annex

Annex 1: [Parliamentary Action Plan \(in English\)](#)