

# IMPLEMENTATION OF THE 2030 AGENDA AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 16, TARGET 4 TO PREVENT ARMED VIOLENCE RELATED TO SALW

SILENCING THE GUNS BY 2020 - AFRICA

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# INTRODUCTION

- Impact of SALW Proliferation on Security
- SALW Management and Disarmament for Sustainable Development
- Essential elements for National Firearms Legislation

# IMPACT OF SALW PROLIFERATION ON SECURITY

- The majority of small arms and light weapons are in the hands of private individuals. It is estimated that civilians hold nearly 75 percent (650 million) of the global stockpile of 875 million guns. This includes farmers, collectors, hunters, sports shooters, private security guards, armed insurgents, and criminal gangs. There is also a growing awareness that although most of the problems posed by the availability of small arms involve the misuse of guns (both legal and illegal) in the hands of such actors, and most perpetrators and victims of violence are civilians, it is governments and their agencies that have the primary responsibility for ensuring the lawful possession and uses of such weapons

# OVERARCHING FRAMEWORK FOR WEAPONS AND AMMUNITION MANAGEMENT AND DISARMAMENT

- All States have a right to lawful self defence and a duty to enforce the law and protect their populations
- Thus States have a right to lawfully acquire the means of self defence and law enforcement, and can produce and trade in SALW, other weapons and ammunition

*But States and their agents must:*

- Comply with international law and standards
- Maintain comprehensive weapons and ammunition management (WAM) systems
- Prevent diversion especially of SALW
- Make this democratically accountable and transparent

# IMPACT OF SALW PROLIFERATION ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

- The proliferation and abuse of SALW is recognized as an obstacle to development and the fulfilment of human rights and the rule of law.
- SALW are often misused to facilitate acts of sexual and gender-based violence as well as political and ethnic violence,
- The Arms Trade Treaty requires governments to take measures to prevent arms being diverted, and being used in gender-based violence and for serious crimes
- Save the Children reported that, over 4million children under the age of five will need treatment for life-threatening malnutrition this year in the most dangerous conflict zones for children, an increase of nearly 20% since 2016

# PREVENTING ILLICIT ARMS FLOWS TO ACHIEVE THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

- At the RevCon3 States stressed the importance of the full and effective implementation of the PoA and the ITI to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 16 and target 16.4, which calls for a significant reduction of illicit arms flows by 2030
- States agreed at the RevCon to significantly reduce the illicit flows of SALW through, as appropriate, illicit weapons recovery and voluntary surrender programmes.
- In July States agreed, to cooperate in preventing and combating the illicit trade in SALW particularly on border control; stockpile management and security; destruction and disposal; marking, record-keeping and tracing; and illicit brokering

# ESTABLISHING EFFECTIVE SYSTEMS FOR FIREARMS CONTROL

- National legislation should aim to establish a comprehensive and an effective system of weapons and ammunition management (WAM) including firearms control.
- The WAM should be an integrated system based on best practices and international standards for the State to regulate all arms and ammunition in a country, including their manufacture, trade, possession, use and destruction.
- The firearms control management system should create a 'sealed container' in which all guns entering into, being held and used within, and exiting from, the country are subject to authorization, licensing, monitoring, record keeping and review to ensure that these activities comply with the law and there is no abuse or corruption

# CIVILIAN POSSESSION

- Gun ownership should not be right but a privilege governed by law
- Licence the person, Register the gun
- Two-tier licensing system: establish competency; issue licence to possess to 'fit and proper' person
- The principle underlying this provision in the Firearms Act of South Africa places the onus of responsibility onto the firearm applicant to show that she/he is truly fit to own gun
- Renewals:
  - Firearm licence renewal requires that a genuine need to continue owning the firearm must be proven again.
- Age Restriction
  - Countries which have a 21 year age restriction include South Africa, Egypt, and Uganda require a person to be 25 years of age
- Firearm Free Zones
  - Minister of Police is empowered to declare (by notice in the Government Gazette) any premises or category of premises as a Firearm Free Zone (FFZ) in which no person may allow, store or carry a firearm



# RECOMMENDATIONS REGARDING FIREARMS

- Ensuring timely reports to parliament, to UNODA for the UN PoA, to UNODC for the UN Firearms Protocol and to the ATT Secretariat for the ATT obligations
- Implement the Silence the gun by 2020 through ratifying the ATT translate the instrument into Swahili
- Implement the UN Resolution 1325 by developing WPS NAPs
- Ensure Annual public health data on firearms mortality and injuries
- Ensure Annual Police data on firearms deaths, injuries and crime
- Statistics department should aggregate data
- Include Annual Audit of reports on losses and thefts of SALW including in government holdings and amongst civilians

THANK YOU

