

Regional seminar
“Connecting the Dots: Enhancing Implementation of the Women, Peace & Security by enhancing parliamentary capacity and action in Asia”

5 October, 2023

Jakarta, Indonesia

PARLIAMENTARY ACTION PLAN¹

Part 1 – Introduction and purpose

The state of the world, marked by violence and conflict, underlines the need to prioritise the prevention and reduction of armed violence. According to the Small Arms Survey, more than 1 billion Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) are circulating worldwide, 85% in the hands of civilians². In 2020, 531,000 persons died of lethal violence worldwide, including 88, 400 women and girls, and millions more were affected by armed violence.³ Globally, firearms were used in about 40% of all violent deaths in 2020, which resulted in 211 000 deaths. Alone in Southeast Asia in 2020, 60% of violent deaths were inflicted by a firearm.⁴ Apart from causing injury and loss of life, armed violence has severe effects on sustainable development, good governance and contributes to the persistence of armed conflict. Further, it facilitates violations of human rights, gender-based violence and impedes economic investment, having a negative impact on public health systems and productivity levels by draining public resources away from education and socio- economic development. The serious human, social and economic post-pandemic effects of COVID-19 further underscores the need to prevent armed violence as to build back better.

¹ The present PAP is a revised version of the previous version consolidated in 2022, considered at the regional seminar for Southeast Asia, taking place on October 4-5, 2023. The seminar was included in PFSALW’s project financed by the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation Fund (UNSCAR), entitled “Connecting the Dots: *Advancing the implementation of the Women, Peace & Security (WPS) agenda by enhancing parliamentary capacity and action in Asia* “. The conclusions from the seminar discussions are planned to be presented at a relevant international side event. The present revised PAP will be considered by the ASEAN Member Parliaments, to subsequently be brought up at AIPA’s General Assembly in October 2024 for a possible Resolution on the topic.

² Small Arms Survey, Estimating Global Civilian-held firearms numbers, <https://www.smallarmssurvey.org/sites/default/files/resources/SAS-BP-Civilian-Firearms-Numbers.pdf>

³ Small Arms Survey (2022), Global Violent Deaths in 2020, <https://smallarmssurvey.org/sites/default/files/resources/SAS-GVD-July-2022-update.pdf>

⁴ Ibid.

In Southeast Asia, countries are severely affected by the uncontrolled proliferation and trafficking of illicit SALW. The region is a crossroads for arms smuggling, trafficking, illicit craft production, drug-trafficking and the countries' extensive maritime borders. The context, combined with the challenges posed by the aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic and increased global tensions, underscores the need of concerted efforts in the prevention and reduction of SALW-related violence.

Given the complexity of the issues, parliamentarians are crucial actors in the prevention and reduction of uncontrolled SALW proliferation, through their legislative, oversight and awareness raising functions.

The objective of the seminar held in 2023 was to strengthen the role of parliamentarians in peace and security processes, including women parliamentarians who are generally underrepresented in such efforts, as well as to enhance parliamentary capacity, action and leverage on the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda and other relevant frameworks for peace and security, such as 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). The intended outcome was to increase parliamentary engagement, participation and action in the implementation of the WPS Agenda for SALW control. In the seminar, parliamentary priorities and recommendations were identified, based on Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons (PFSALW)'s and ASEAN Inter Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA)'s previously consolidated regional Parliamentary Action Plan (PAP) in 2022, with relevant updates on contextual aspects and in relation to WPS. The seminar targeted parliamentarians from AIPA Member Parliaments⁵. Specific consideration was made to the equal inclusion of women parliamentarians in the seminar as to enhance women's active role and participation in peace and security processes. The result of the discussions in the seminar were incorporated into the present revised regional PAP, to guide and support parliamentary action for universalisation and implementation on WPS Agenda, along with other relevant instruments such as the UN PoA, at the national and regional levels.

The seminar was part of the PFSALW project financed by the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation Fund (UNSCAR), entitled "*Connecting the Dots: Advancing the implementation of the Women, Peace & Security (WPS) agenda by enhancing parliamentary capacity and action in Asia*". The seminar built on the previous efforts realised within the thematic scope, including two regional seminars in 2022 and one in 2018 and a regional webinar for Asia in March 2021, which were all co-hosted by PFSALW and AIPA.

The present PAP is the result of the seminar discussions identifying main conclusions from the participants' perspectives as well as needs for revisions building upon the consolidated PAP in 2022.

The Parliamentary Action Plan focuses on parliamentarians' role in strengthening the response to armed violence and uncontrolled SALW proliferation and has been designed to:

⁵ AIPA member countries are: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam. As Myanmar is currently not having a Parliament, it is not included in the target group for the seminar.

- Support the effective implementation of the WPS Agenda and other related instruments, such as the UN PoA, Agenda 2030 and its SDG 16.4, UNSCR 1325 on the WPS Agenda, the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025, and ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security (RPA WPS) and other related instruments;
- Guide parliamentarians in their work related to the WPS Agenda and UN PoA, adaptable in the ASEAN context to ensure that the legislative response is both nationally appropriate and consistent with the aims of the instruments;
- Suggest mechanisms for effective oversight of implementation of the abovementioned instruments and other relevant processes;
- Recommend methods to strengthen links between the executive and legislative branches of Government and between national parliaments and parliamentarians globally and civil society on the armed violence prevention and reduction agenda – strengthening the social contract.

Three action areas have been identified and are based on the key roles of a parliamentarian;

1. Awareness raising
2. Legislation
3. Oversight

Part 2 – Recommendations on Universalisation and Implementation of the WPS Agenda, and other relevant regional and international instruments on peace and security, such as the UN PoA and ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025, and ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security (RPA WPS) and the WPS Agenda.

Based on the three key roles of a parliamentarian; legislation, oversight and awareness raising, below follows the most important recommendations for actions to be taken in the region. The recommendations serve as point of departure to reach maximum results when it comes to implementation and universalisation of the WPS Agenda along with other relevant frameworks such as the UN PoA, ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025, and ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on the WPS Agenda, as well as fulfilling States' obligations on international frameworks considering vital aspects such as transparency and accountability. In all efforts, it is fundamental to include the gender equality perspective and the role of women, as well as the youth perspective in relation to other relevant international instruments on conventional arms control.

1. Awareness Raising

- 1.1 Promote awareness raising and/or campaigns as the main priority of ASEAN in the implementation of Women, Peace, and Security Agenda and SALW-control measures.
- 1.2 Enhance inter-parliamentary coordination, information, data sharing and analysis based on topical research, dialogue and exchange of best practices.
- 1.3 Advocate for the political will to implement the Parliamentary Action Plan (PAP).
- 1.4 Promote peace education, security and the sustainable development agenda through storytelling about the country's history, and increase awareness on transnational crime, cleaning of war remnants, mine clearance and national firearms control laws.

- 1.5 Increase dialogue and exchange between international community and parliaments.
- 1.6 Mobilise financial and technical resources for awareness raising activities related to cleaning of war remnants.
- 1.7 Raise public awareness through online and/or offline publication of relevant legislation.
- 1.8 Support the incorporation of women's agenda into the peacebuilding and development processes within the ASEAN identity, by involving weaving elements such as familial bonds, culture, art, shared concerns, and faith that are distinct from its security aspects.

2. Legislation

- 2.1 Ensure the political commitments in the UN PoA are harmonised with national laws and/or regulations.
- 2.2 Consider adopted resolutions by the UN General Assembly, the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025, ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on Women, Peace and Security (RPA WPS) as the foundation for amending and enacting relevant national legislation.
- 2.3 Establish and/or strengthen regional legislative cross border cooperation and coordination.

3. Oversight

- 3.1 Engage with Government agencies and relevant national institutions to ensure that the country is aligned with their international reporting commitments, including harmonised reporting on the UN PoA, CEDAW and WPS Agenda.
- 3.2 Ensure that sufficient resources are allocated in budget processes to the WPS Agenda.
- 3.3 Urge women participation and inclusion in peace and security processes, as well as ensuring that SALW-control measures adequately address the needs of all, including women.
- 3.4 Enhance regional and international cooperation and frameworks in the implementation of relevant SALW-control frameworks and the WPS Agenda.
- 3.5 Follow up on the implementation of activities and law enforcement related to the WPS Agenda and gender-responsive SALW-control.
- 3.6 Encourage the development of National Action Plans on the WPS Agenda including gender responsive SALW control measures.

Part 3 – Partnerships and resources⁶

The efforts of parliamentarians in promoting increased or enhanced parliamentary action on the WPS Agenda can be multiplied if working in partnership with organisations with similar or overlapping interests. It is therefore recommended that PFSALW and its member parliamentarians, as well as AIPA and its Member Parliaments, seek partnerships and structured dialogue with a range of actors.

Parliamentary action constitutes unique efforts to create the missing link between the local and national level. Parliamentarians have an important role in identifying and highlighting good

⁶ The Plan is inspired by action plans and tools created by other international parliamentary organisations such as the Inter-Parliamentary Union and Parliamentarians for Global Action.

practice at the local level in order to inform national policies and legislation and to promote good practice internationally.

Other Parliamentary networks

[Inter-Parliamentary Union \(IPU\)](#)

[ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly \(AIPA\)](#)

[Global Organisation of Parliamentarians Against Corruption \(GOPAC\)](#)

[Parliamentarians for Global Action \(PGA\)](#)

[The Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons \(PFSALW\)](#)

Intergovernmental structures

[Association of Southeast Asian Nations \(ASEAN\)](#)

[United Nations Development Programme \(UNDP\) - Rule of Law, Justice, Security & Human Rights Team](#)

[ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit](#)

[United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs \(UNODA\)](#)

[United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific \(UNRCPD\)](#)

[United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime \(UNODC\) – Global Firearms Programme](#)

[ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint 2025](#)

[ASEAN Regional Plan of Action on WPS](#)

Civil Society Organisations

[Control Arms Coalition](#)

[International Action Network on Small Arms \(IANSA\)](#)

[International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War \(IPPNW\)](#) – Armed violence and health perspective

[Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom \(WILPF\)](#) – Gender perspective related to SALW and Women Peace and Security

Research institutes

[Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces \(DCAF\) – Public - Private Partnerships Division](#)

[Group for Research and Information on Peace and Security \(GRIP\)](#)

[Small Arms Survey](#)

[Bonn International Centre for Conversion \(BICC\)](#)

[Stockholm International Peace Research Institute \(SIPRI\)](#)

Other sources

[The Arms Trade Treaty](#)

[The UN PoA](#)

[The 2030 Agenda](#)

[UNSCR 1325](#)

[Firearms Protocol](#)

[UNCOMTRADE](#)

[NISAT](#)

[UNROGA](#)

[MOSAIC](#)