



PARLIAMENTARY FORUM  
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS



## Seminar report

*Regional Seminar in East Africa*

**“Enhancing parliamentary capacity and action in East Africa for advanced implementation of 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) and the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda”**

6-7 June, 2024

Venue: Fairway Boutique Hotel, Kampala, Uganda

*Objective: To advance the prevention and reduction of SALW- related violence by enhancing parliamentary capacity, action and leverage in the work on conventional arms control instruments, concretely 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) and the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda as well as synergies to other relevant international conventional arms control frameworks.*





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## PARLIAMENTARY FORUM ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS



### **Executive summary**

On June 6-7 2024, the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons (PFSALW), and the Parliament of Uganda (PoU), co-hosted a regional seminar in East Africa entitled “*Enhancing parliamentary capacity and action in East Africa for advanced implementation of 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) and the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda*” in Kampala, Uganda. In total 26 parliamentarians and representatives from international organisations, as well as the civil society participated in the seminar <sup>1</sup>.

The regional seminar contributed to advancing the prevention and reduction of SALW-related violence by enhancing parliamentary capacity, action, and leverage in the work on conventional arms control instruments, specifically the UN PoA and WPS agenda, as well as creating synergies with other relevant international conventional arms control frameworks. Specific consideration was given to the equal inclusion of women parliamentarians in the seminar to enhance women’s active role and participation in peace and security processes.

During the seminar, parliamentary priorities and recommendations were identified and condensed into a gender equality-focused regional Parliamentary Action Plan (PAP), based on a follow-up review of PFSALW’s previously elaborated PAP in the region. The seminar engaged parliamentarians from the focus countries in East Africa: Madagascar, Uganda, and Tanzania<sup>2</sup>.

The collaboration with the PoU was vital to ensure political anchorage in the country and region, allowing participants, parliamentarians, and other stakeholders to reach a wider parliamentary audience and providing relevant thematic policy knowledge and expertise for further implementation efforts and parliamentary action on the topic in the region.

The conclusions from the seminar were presented at an international side event at the Fourth Review Conference (RevCon4) of the UN PoA, which took place on 20 June 2024 at the UN in New York, United States.

The seminar was financed by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs’ (UNODA) Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR).

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<sup>1</sup> In total 9 parliamentarians from Madagascar, Tanzania and Uganda participated in the seminar, together with 9 representatives of the diplomatic community, international organisations, civil society and parliamentary staff; please see participant list lastly in the report.

<sup>2</sup> PFSALW successfully reached all the planned target groups with two minor deviations regarding the focus countries, Comoros and Rwanda. Extensive efforts were made to engage all planned target groups, including persistent attempts through telephone, email, and social media communications, complemented by additional support from PFSALW’s co-hosting partner, the Parliament of Uganda.



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### Opening Ceremony

**Hon. Lawrence Songa Biyika, Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee and Forum on Climate Change** emphasised the importance of addressing fundamental issues contributing to the illicit arms proliferation in Uganda and across Africa. He identified limited education and opportunities as critical factors that facilitate the proliferation of SALW among youth, and stressed the necessity of taking proactive measures to prevent SALW from becoming widespread in communities. He underscored the need to tackle root causes such as, competition for natural resources and external influences driven by geopolitical interests. To address the challenges effectively, he called for a coordinated approach at regional, continental, and international levels. In conclusion, Hon. Songa Biyika expressed his gratitude to PFSALW for their valuable collaboration in co-hosting the regional seminar. He emphasised the importance of such partnerships in fostering dialogue and addressing issues related to SALW, highlighting the positive impact of joint efforts in achieving the seminar's objective.

**Hon. Dr. Raphael Chegeni, Member of Parliament from Tanzania and President of PFSALW**, underlined the importance of, and the appreciation for, the collaboration between the PoU and PFSALW, in addressing armed violence, particularly through parliamentary actions related to the UN PoA and the WPS agenda. He expressed gratitude for the support from the donor UNSCAR, acknowledging its critical role for PFSALW's projects. Africa's specific security challenges were addressed, highlighting that uncontrolled SALW exacerbate conflicts and gender-based violence (GBV), affecting 45.6% of women. The essential role of parliamentarians, particularly women, in combating illicit SALW proliferation through legislative, oversight and awareness-raising efforts was stressed, along with the need for cross-border cooperation. He concluded by voicing confidence in that the regional seminar would strengthen parliamentarians' ability to address SALW-related violence and foster future actions to "*silence the guns*".

The succeeding opening speaker **General David Muhoozi, Minister of State for International Affairs**, officiated the regional seminar by welcoming the participants and commending the collaboration between the PFSALW and the PoU. The severe impact of illicit SALW proliferation on peace, security, and development in the region was emphasised, with references to Uganda's past armed conflicts. General Muhoozi, highlighted the Government of Uganda's commitment to various international arms control instruments and detailed the country's efforts in stockpile management, disarmament, and regulatory measures. The importance of integrating gender perspectives in addressing SALW-related violence was also stressed, acknowledging the varied impacts on men, women, boys, and girls. He noted that the regional seminar was timely in preparing for RevCon4 and concluded by expressing optimism the initiative would yield tangible outcomes.

**Session I: Silencing the Guns in Africa by year 2030: Implementation of 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) for peace and security in Africa**



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*Objective: Enhancing parliamentary knowledge on commitments and status of implementation related to the UN PoA, as a basis for translation into proposals for concrete parliamentary action to prevent and reduce Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)-related violence in the region.*

The first keynote panellist, **Dr. Jiaming Miao, Deputy Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC)**, provided an overview of the UN PoA. The comprehensive measures outlined by the UN PoA, including regulation of arms transfers, stockpile management, marking and tracing, international cooperation, and destruction of surplus weapons, were emphasised. Dr. Miao highlighted the critical role of National Commissions (NC) on SALW in developing and implementing national strategies, monitoring progress, coordinating with law enforcement, and engaging civil society organisations. He also stressed the importance of countries developing and enforcing national laws, strengthening border controls, and participating in regular reporting and information exchange.

Challenges and opportunities in implementing the UN PoA in Africa were discussed, including capacity and resource constraints, lack of reporting, need for enhanced arms marking, and harmonisation between regional instruments. Opportunities for enhanced regional cooperation, international assistance, and the integration of gender perspectives were noted. Recommendations for effective strategies included developing comprehensive national action plans, participating in international forums, building partnerships, and including disarmament matters in regional meetings. A call was made for parliamentarians to advocate for the establishment and funding of NC on SALW, enact legislation against SALW proliferation, integrate gender perspectives, strengthen monitoring mechanisms, and promote public awareness campaigns.

The following keynote panellist **Ms. Florence Kirabira, Coordinator National Focal Point on SALW in Uganda**, presented the Government of Uganda's initiatives under the UN PoA, outlining the country's commitment to international and regional instruments, as well as the progress achieved in enhancing SALW management and control. She highlighted that Uganda had developed its third National Action Plan (NAP) on SALW and established a national contact point to oversee the implementation of related international and regional agreements. Ongoing efforts to create a national policy on firearms, aimed at building a robust regulatory framework for managing firearms and preventing their illicit use, were also discussed.

Key highlights from her presentation included the emphasis on gender mainstreaming in Uganda's NAP on SALW, where Ms. Kirabira stressed the importance of integrating a gender perspective to address the unique needs of various demographic groups in the fight against SALW-related violence. She also reported on Uganda's progress in disarmament efforts and ongoing security sector reforms (SSR), which aim to professionalise the forces and promote gender equality. However, she pointed out several challenges, such as inadequate legislation, limited resources, and the difficulties posed by violent extremism and regional instability, all of which complicate efforts to control the spread of SALW.



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Despite the challenges, she discussed opportunities for strengthening the implementation of the UN PoA, highlighting the political will, international partnerships, and the involvement of civil society. She also outlined future plans, such as enhancing legislation, improving data reporting, and conducting a national survey to assess the SALW situation. Ms. Kirabira concluded by recommending that parliamentarians support the ratification of relevant international agreements, secure additional resources for implementing the NAP on SALW, and actively engage in raising public awareness about the dangers of SALW.

In a parliamentary response, **Hon. Jonhson Anatol Razafindriatsara, Member of Parliament from the Republic of Madagascar**, acknowledged the country's commitment to the UN PoA, including ratifying the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol on Firearms Control and enacting related laws. Despite the efforts, he noted that SALW proliferation remains a major challenge, causing significant loss of life, especially in rural areas. Hon. Razafindriatsara emphasized the need to focus on preventing illicit SALW production and trade, enhancing cross-border controls, and improving stockpile management. He advocated for increased international cooperation, particularly in strengthening border controls and investing in surveillance technologies, and stressed the importance of updating international tools to address contemporary challenges effectively. Finally, he reaffirmed Madagascar's commitment to the WPS Agenda, noting the recent efforts by Malagasy women leaders to prevent conflicts, particularly in the context of electoral disputes, and underscoring the alignment of the efforts with the country's recent legislative elections.

In her parliamentary response, **Hon. Judith Peace, Member of Parliament from the Republic of Uganda**, stressed the critical role of parliamentarians in combating the uncontrolled proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons (SALW), highlighting such efforts as essential to national strategies for conflict prevention, peace-building, sustainable development, and the protection of human rights and public safety. She called for stronger international and regional cooperation to establish common standards for controlling arms transfers. Advocating for strict legal sanctions Hon. Judith Peace condemned all entities that involve children in armed conflicts and commit crimes against vulnerable groups, including the elderly, women, and children. She also emphasised the importance of harmonising national SALW controls while tailoring them to the specific needs of each country. Additionally, Hon. Peace urged the sharing of information on national legislation, the further collaboration in international parliamentary forums, and the criminalization of arms embargo violations. She called for the development of national action plans to combat the illicit SALW proliferation and highlighted the need for transparent government practices to ensure effective parliamentary oversight. In conclusion, Hon. Peace reaffirmed Uganda's commitment to combating SALW proliferation and encouraged parliamentarians from the region to support similar initiatives, aligning the efforts with the broader goals of international security, human rights, and sustainable development.

In his parliamentary response, **Hon. Dr Raphael Chegeni, Member of Parliament from the Republic of Tanzania, and President of PFSALW** addressed the challenges of border security and the spillover effects of conflicts in neighbouring countries, which have exacerbated the uncontrolled proliferation of SALW. He emphasised the need for stronger



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regional collaboration to enhance border control and mitigate the threats. Hon. Dr. Chegeni also highlighted the role of foreign interests in fuelling the situation and called for a comprehensive strategy that includes reinforcing border security, fostering regional cooperation, and addressing external influences to combat the illegal arms proliferation effectively.

### **Session II: International conventional arms regulation instruments – implementation of the UN PoA, linking to SDG 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda, UNSCR 1325**

*Objective: Explore achievements and challenges in the implementation of the UN PoA at the regional and national level, linked to SDG 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda, UNSCR 1325 and other relevant instruments such as the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and the Firearms Protocol.*

**Hon. Kabahenda Flavia Rwabuhoro, Chairperson of the Committee on Gender, Labour and Social Development** presented on key gender-related issues during her address. She highlighted the importance of integrating gender perspectives into policy development, particularly in relation to peacebuilding, security, and arms control. Hon. Kabahenda emphasised the critical role women play in such areas and called for increased inclusion of women in decision-making processes. She also stressed the need for gender-sensitive approaches in addressing challenges such as gender-based violence and promoting social and economic development.

**Hon. Nicholas George Ngassa, Member of Parliament from the Republic of Tanzania**, presented on Tanzania's measures and achievements in implementing the UN PoA and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). He outlined key measures such as marking government firearms with the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa, and Bordering States (RESCA), enacting the Firearms and Ammunition Control Act of 2015, and implementing fingerprint tracing through the Tanzania Police Force. Notable achievements included collaboration with the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), public awareness campaigns leading to the surrender of 1,557 SALW between years 2022-2023, and reductions in organised crime and terrorism. However, challenges such as limited nationwide sensitisation and setbacks from information technology were acknowledged. To further support the implementation of the UN PoA, Hon. Ngassa recommended increasing the budget through the Ministry of Home Affairs, collaborating with stakeholders to enhance sensitisation campaigns, and investing in Information and Communication Technology (ICT) methods to combat illegal arms and light weapons trade.

In his parliamentary response, **Hon. Lokwang Hillary, Member of Parliament from the Republic of Uganda**, focused on the Karamoja region, highlighting efforts centred on promoting peace and security through several key initiatives. The efforts included organising peace meetings to raise awareness about the dangers of illegal arms and fostering stronger community engagement with law enforcement to address pressing security issues. Hon. Lokwang further emphasised that advancing the implementation of the PoA and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) will require enhanced cross-border cooperation, amplified public sensitisation on arms control, and increased community involvement in monitoring and



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reporting illegal activities. He also underscored the importance of legislative efforts, along with fostering partnerships between security forces and Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), to ensure effective control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and promote long-term peace and security in the region.

### **Session III: National and regional instruments and legislative tools for enhancing prevention and reduction of the SALW-related violence**

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

Mr. Anthony Nakhaima, Deputy Coordinator National Focal Point on SALW, presented in detail on Uganda's efforts in implementing the UN PoA, ATT, and WPS agenda. As exemplified by his colleague, Ms. Florence Kirabira, he highlighted significant progress, including the development of Uganda's third NAP on SALW, the establishment of a comprehensive regulatory framework for firearm management, and the integration of gender perspectives into the efforts.

He discussed the incorporation of a gender perspective into Uganda's NAP, addressing the needs of women, men, children, and youth, with special programs designed to support vulnerable groups in tackling SALW-related violence and promoting conflict prevention. Additionally, he highlighted ongoing initiatives aimed at raising public awareness about SALW issues; including the crucial role of civil society and the professionalization of security forces, with a focus on ensuring gender equality in recruitment and participation. However, Mr. Nakhaima acknowledged overall challenges, including limited knowledge on gender mainstreaming, inadequate resources, and corruption, weak regulatory and legislative framework, all of which impede the full programme implementation. He also emphasised Uganda's Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR) efforts, which are centred on post-conflict recovery, providing support to ex-combatants and affected communities, with particular attention to women and children.

Furthermore, he outlined Uganda's commitment to acceding to the ATT as well as aligning with international norms and legal obligations, particularly concerning arms transfers. Mr. Nakhaima concluded by urging immediate parliamentary actions to support the ratification of international treaties, enact legal reforms, and enhance capacity-building efforts to strengthen the Government of Uganda's response to SALW proliferation.

**In a parliamentary response, Hon. Songa Biyika, Member of Parliament from the Republic of Uganda** highlighted the significant link between the illicit use of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and the broader security challenges facing the region. He emphasised that the uncontrolled proliferation of SALW in Uganda, and across East Africa, is a key factor contributing to instability and armed violence. Hon. Biyika called for a coordinated response at the national, regional, continental, and international levels to effectively address the root causes driving the uncontrolled proliferation and misuse of SALW. He further underscored the importance of regional cooperation in combating the illicit flow of SALW, advocating for





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stronger partnerships between East African nations and international actors to implement effective control measures.

In addition, Hon. Biyika mentioned the importance of the current formation of a parliamentary network within the Parliament of Uganda dedicated to the prevention of SALW. The network aims to enhance legislative action, promote collaboration among stakeholders including the civil society, and address the critical issues surrounding the control of SALW in Uganda and beyond.

In a parliamentary response, **Hon. Nusrat Hanje, Member of Parliament from the Republic of Tanzania** detailed Tanzania's efforts and successes in ammunition control. Based on the perspective of being a representative of the young parliamentary group in her country, constituting only 7% of the total share of parliamentarians, she highlighted the country's reputation as a leader in the region on conflict reconciliation, emphasising its comprehensive approach to arms management, which includes the implementation of the Firearms and Ammunition Control Act of 2015 and subsequent amendments. Additionally, the importance of the integration of a gender equality perspective was pinpointed; Tanzania is currently developing a NAP on the topic.

Key measures being applied include stringent regulations on the registration and transfer of firearms; including prohibition of inheritance of weapons, as well as a systematic approach to managing ammunition and annual firearms voluntary surrender initiatives. Hon. Hanje underscored the effectiveness of the measures in maintaining order and preventing the misuse of arms. However, she also addressed the broader social issues impacting the need for further arms control efforts, such as domestic violence in Tanzania. Hon. Hanje emphasized the need for capacity building, in general and in specific regarding border control, as to address challenges comprehensively.

In the subsequent discussion the importance of controlling the proliferation and use of SALW was emphasised, as demonstrated in statistics being the type of arms mostly occurring in illicit trafficking and also causing major negative socio-economic consequences for humans, communities and countries. The shared responsibility between stakeholders both from the supply and demand sides was acknowledged, including responsibility of arms exporting countries to prevent risks of diversion.

### **Session IV: Towards inclusive processes on peace, security and sustainable development: Strengthening parliamentary action for the implementation of the UNSCR 1325 on WPS**

*Objective: To strengthen the gender equality perspective in parliamentary action for the prevention and reduction of SALW-related violence.*

**Ms. Canon Joyce Niima, Peace & Human Security Resources** delivered an insightful address on transitional justice and gender equality, emphasising the unique challenges in Uganda related to the illicit flow of SALW, including the complexities of political elections



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and its associated violence. She underscored the country's troubled history of conflicts and highlighted the importance of involving civil society and the gender equality perspective in peace- and security processes, including SALW control, and the need for a comprehensive peace policy in which the WPS agenda, UN Security Council Resolution 1325, and SALW control measures to be integrated. According to Ms. Nima, a cohesive peace policy would streamline efforts across relevant areas and strengthen the overall framework for promoting peace and security in Uganda.

She also highlighted the need for parliamentarians to work closely together in developing the peace policy and suggested that inquiries be directed to the Minister of Foreign Affairs to ensure effective advancement of the policy development process; emphasising that such collaboration, including civil society consultations, is essential for addressing Uganda's multifaceted challenges and promoting lasting peace, security, and sustainable development.

**Hon. Kabahenda Flavia Rwabuhoro, Chairperson of the Committee on Gender, Labour and Social Development** addressed concerns regarding the control of SALW and highlighted a pressing challenge: many individuals who have previously disarmed often revert to using artisanal arms that are not covered by the current SALW definition. To effectively address the issue, Hon. Rwabuhoro emphasised the need for disaggregated and amplified data. Such data would provide a clearer understanding of the scope of traditional arms usage and inform more comprehensive strategies for disarmament and arms control.

In his parliamentary response, **Hon. Nicholas Ngassa**, reiterated Tanzania's efforts in implementing the UN PoA and ATT. He highlighted the enactment of key firearms control laws and the surrender of SALW by refugees in Kigoma, identified as the region with the highest firearm penetration, to the government as part of disarmament efforts. Despite the efforts, challenges such as limited public sensitisation and issues with ICT integration were noted. To strengthen the initiatives, Hon. Ngassa recommended increasing sensitisation campaigns, and improving ICT systems to more effectively combat the illegal arms proliferation.

In his parliamentary response, **Hon. Lokwang Hillary, Member of Parliament from the Republic of Uganda**, identified several key factors that had contributed to the uncontrolled proliferation of SALW in the region. He noted that the illicit flow of firearms from neighbouring countries such as Ethiopia and South Sudan had exacerbated the situation, with individuals acquiring such weapons with and frequent usage in violent activities such as cattle raiding. He also highlighted the challenges posed by the region's geographical location and porous borders, which had facilitated the unregulated movement of arms and led to heightened security threats from neighbouring states.

Hon. Lokwang Hillary further detailed the unique challenges faced by Karamoja. He pointed out that the region's low literacy rate, with 70% of the population being illiterate, and limited economic opportunities primarily to cattle keeping, thereby increasing reliance on firearms for protection and livelihood. He explained that the pervasive fear of neighbouring communities, combined with excessive alcohol consumption, had exacerbated the cycle of violence.



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Additionally, he discussed how revenge had played a role in perpetuating conflicts, with individuals often seeking retribution when their cattle were stolen or when members of their community were killed. The commercialisation of arms through the black market had also worsened the situation by making weapons more accessible. Hon. Lokwang Hillary concluded by emphasising the urgent need for comprehensive strategies to address the underlying issues. In addition, he advocated for enhanced regional cooperation, literacy programmes, and stricter controls on arms trafficking to curb the violence and promote sustainable peace and development in the region.

### **Session V, Working Session 1: Exchange of parliamentary experiences on strengthening the WPS-perspective in relation to sustainable development, peace and security processes**

*Objective: In groups share results, positive experiences and challenges of parliamentary action to implement the WPS-agenda linked to SALW-violence prevention and reduction.*

The workshop was organised into two groups. Initially, participants conducted a review of the actions outlined in the PAP, concentrating on legislation, oversight, and awareness-raising, while also sharing measures implemented in their respective countries related to the UN PoA and the WPS Agenda. Subsequently, participants engaged in discussions on the challenges encountered and strategies employed, identified emerging opportunities, and evaluated the continued relevance of the parliamentary actions on SALW violence prevention and reduction as outlined in the PAP. The session concluded with a review of the PAP's listed actions, and participants proposed amendments and suggested new priorities as necessary.

**Group 1** discussed national experiences with implementing SALW-related measures, highlighting both progress and ongoing challenges. Ongoing efforts were pointed out as promoting regional cooperation, enhancing penalties for gender-based violence, and ensuring compliance with gender and equity standards. Despite legislative frameworks being in place, the group identified obstacles in enforcement, resource allocation, and information sharing. However, opportunities were also recognised to leverage political will, strengthen oversight mechanisms, and improve data collection to address the challenges.

**Group 2** shared insights from different countries, focusing on challenges such as harmonising legislation at the regional level, managing porous borders, and evaluating arms amnesty initiatives. It was also noted that while key legislative measures related to SALW are in place, their effective operationalization and enforcement continue to face hurdles due to structural issues, resource limitations, and gaps in information sharing. Nevertheless, opportunities were identified to overcome the obstacles by leveraging political support, improving access to information, and utilising technology.



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### **Session VI, Working Session 2: Exchange of parliamentary experiences on the implementation of the UN PoA, the WPS agenda and SDG 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda as well as other relevant international and regional instruments, and follow-up discussion and revision of the previous regional PAP**

*Objective: 1) In groups share results, positive experiences and challenges in the parliamentary work on the implementation of the UN PoA, the WPS agenda and SDG 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda based on the previously elaborated PAP in the region*

*2) Brief review of the PAP to identify needs for revision and update based on the conclusions from the seminar discussions.*

**Group 1** agreed that the actions outlined in the PAP remain relevant but require further strengthening. Consensus was reached on the importance of enhancing enforcement mechanisms and ensuring sufficient resources are allocated to support SALW control efforts. Public engagement, particularly through media involvement and community outreach, was emphasised as crucial for raising awareness and building support for the initiatives.

**Group 2** also found the actions outlined in the PAP to be relevant but in need of strengthening. The participants agreed on the necessity of bolstering enforcement mechanisms, ensuring adequate resource allocation, and maintaining robust international cooperation to combat SALW proliferation. Furthermore, the group emphasised the importance of grassroots engagement and media involvement as key strategies for raising awareness and building community support for SALW control efforts.

### **Session VII, Working Session 3: Adoption of the revised regional Parliamentary Action Plan on implementation of the UN PoA in relation to the WPS-agenda**

During the session, the parliamentarians conducted a thorough review of each point in the revised PAP to ensure consensus and facilitate its adoption. An agreement was reached building on previous efforts, while introducing additional provision for improved alignment it with the current regional context. A particular focus was added to the legislative role of parliamentarians, addressing foreign-based root causes linked to natural resource interests, including wildlife trafficking and the illicit trade of SALW. The provision emphasised the importance of leveraging existing lobby groups to engage with foreign actors and establish practical best practices. The addition strengthens the PAP by encouraging the use of collaborative platforms to address external factors contributing to regional instability, reinforcing the parliamentarians' commitment to fostering international cooperation and developing solutions that are both actionable and sustainable.

#### **Closing remarks**

**Hon. Dr. Raphael Chegeni** expressed his gratitude to the participants of the regional seminar for their active engagement and contributions. He emphasized the importance of collaboration



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and pinpointed insights that emerged during the discussions, noting joint efforts are crucial for advancing peace and security in the region.

**Ms. Karin Olofsson, Secretary General of PFSALW**, also conveyed her sincere appreciation for the commitment and dedication demonstrated by all participants throughout the seminar. She highlighted the productive dialogue and the collaborative spirit that defined the regional

seminar, which she believes will contribute in addressing the challenges of arms proliferation and conflict resolution by determined continued parliamentary actions, in the region, and globally.

**Hon. Kabahenda Flavia Rwabuhoro, Chairperson of the Committee on Gender, Labour and Social Development** expressed gratitude as representative of the Parliament of Uganda, to the participants for their active engagement and to PFSALW for co-hosting the seminar. She reaffirmed Uganda's commitment to continuing the important discussions and working collaboratively to strengthen peace and security initiatives with an integrated gender equality perspective in the region, and globally.



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**List of participants:**

Country/organisation	Name	Committee/function
<b>Members of Parliament</b>		
Republic of Uganda	Hon. Achan Judith Peace	Committee on Foreign Affairs
	Hon. Lokwang Hillary	Committee on Physical Infrastructure
	Hon. Apollo Yeri Ofwono	Committee on Natural Recourses and Appointments
	Hon. Songa Biyika	Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee and Forum on Climate Change
United Republic of Tanzania	Hon. Dr Raphael Chegeni	Public Investment Committee
	Hon. Nicholas Ngassa	Constitution and Legal Affairs Committee
	Hon. Nusrat Hanje	Energy and Minerals Committee
Republic of Madagascar	Hon. Jonhson Anatol Razafindriatsara	Commission De La Défense Nationale
<b>Experts</b>		
Republic of Uganda	Ms. Florence Kirabira	National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Ministry of Internal Affairs
	Mr. Anthony Nakhaima	Deputy Coordinator on National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Ministry of Internal Affairs
	Gen. David Muhoozi	Minister of State for Internal Affairs
	Mrs. Canon Bernice Joyce Nima	Peace and Security Expert
	Hon. Kabahenda Flavia Rwabuhoro	Chairperson of the Committee on Gender, Labour and Social Development
UNREC	Mr. Jiaming Miao	Deputy Director
<b>Staff</b>		
Parliament of Uganda	Mr. Nyero Moses	Parliamentary staff
	Mr. Waisswa Mohamad	Parliamentary staff
Ministry for Internal Affairs	Mr. Paul Asigwire	Ministry staff
	Mr. Abidrabo Nelson	Ministry staff
<b>Organisers</b>		
PFSALW Secretariat	Ms. Karin Olofsson	Secretary General
	Ms. Espérance Bokaki	Programme Officer



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Parliament of Uganda	Hon. Songa Biyika	Chairperson of the Parliamentary Committee and Forum on Climate Change
	Ms. Getrude Anirworth	Administration Manager
	Ms. Lauryn Nyivuru	Administration Clerk
<b>Media</b>		
The Uganda Observer	Ms. Josephine Namuloki	Journalist
UBC Television Uganda	Ms. Susan Nawanga	Journalist
	Mr. Andrew Ssebira	Journalist
Kabuubi Media Africa	Mr. Ronald Kabuubi	Photographer



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**List of abbreviations:**

**ATT** - Arms Trade Treaty on the International Trade in Conventional Arms

**DDR** - Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration of Ex-combatants

**ICT** - Information and Communication Technology

**INTERPOL** - International Criminal Police Organization

**NAP** - National Action Plan

**RESCA** - Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa, and Bordering States

**RevCon4** - Fourth Review Conference of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons

**SALW** - Small Arms and Light Weapons

**SDG** - Sustainable Development Goals

**UN PoA** - United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

**UNODA** - United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs

**UNSCAR** - United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation

**UNSCR** - United Nations Security Council Resolution

**WPS** - Women, Peace, and Security Agenda