



## **“Connecting the Dots: Enhancing implementation of the UN PoA and the Women, Peace & Security and 2030 Agendas – through increased parliamentary engagement and action in international processes with focus on Southeast Asia and Africa”**

Summary - Recommendations on parliamentary actions for enhanced implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UN PoA), the Women, Peace and Security and 2030 Agendas

Eighth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS 8)

Side-event hosted by the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons (PFSALW) in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Sweden as sponsor, taking place on June 30 2022.

Based on a chain of seminars and webinars within PFSALW’s project “*Connecting the Dots: Enhancing implementation of the UN PoA and the Women, Peace & Security and 2030 Agendas – through increased parliamentary engagement and action in international processes in Southeast Asia and Africa*”, key parliamentary recommendations have been identified for parliamentary action towards enhancing the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UN PoA), the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (WPS) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The project is funded by the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation Fund (UNSCAR). In a regional seminar for Southeast Asia in collaboration with the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly on June 8-10 2022, and a regional seminar for Africa in collaboration with the National Assembly of Cameroon on June 21-22 2022, previously adopted regional Parliamentary Action Plans (PAPs) were reviewed and adopted in revised versions as to ensure their continued relevance in guiding further parliamentary action in respective regions. The seminars were part of the run-up and preparation for the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States on the UN PoA, and builds on PFSALW’s previous “Connecting the Dots” projects for 2017-2018 in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean and Southeast Asia.

Vital areas for parliamentary action related to the three key roles of a parliamentarian were identified in the [Global Parliamentary Action Plan](#) from 2018. This Plan is an aggregated, global version based on the respective Plans adopted by parliamentarians at PFSALW’s regional seminars in 2021-2022. The Plan plays a key part in the achievement of the objectives of the projects; to increase parliamentary engagement, participation and action in the implementation of the UN PoA in combination with advancing the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) on WPS and the 2030 Agenda.

The three key parliamentary roles are:

1. **Legislation** is needed to ensure universalisation, domestication and implementation of the instruments. This includes drafting legislation, as well as the legislative procedures to discuss, evaluate and pass bills that allow the ratification of treaties.
2. **Oversight** is required to ensure that legislative decisions made regarding the instruments are implemented; it is necessary for holding governments accountable and to secure cooperation between relevant agencies during the implementation of said instruments.
3. **Awareness raising** ensures the implementation of key instruments at different levels by creating political will and public understanding. This mainly takes place between parliamentarians and the constituents but can also be directed towards parliamentary colleagues on the national and international level.

Based on the review and revision of the previous [Parliamentary Action Plan for Southeast Asia first approved in 2018](#), and the key parliamentary roles stated above, the main additional recommendations for parliamentary actions concluded at the regional webinar for the region on March 16, 2021 and the regional seminar for Southeast Asia on June 8-10, 2022 are as follows:

### **1. Legislation**

- 1.1 Ensure adequate funding for policies and projects implementing relevant Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)- control measures to reflect governments' commitments to the instruments.
- 1.2 Promote a regional Model Law adjusted to the ASEAN context on the topic as to encourage further legislative actions and subsequent applications.
- 1.3 Implement wide cooperation measures with civil society, security forces and other relevant actors to enable the inclusive legislation necessary for the prevention of the multifaceted challenges presented by illicit SALW.

### **2. Oversight**

- 2.1 Follow up with government representatives to ensure that the country is complying with its international reporting commitments, including reporting on the UN PoA and other relevant international instruments.
- 2.2 Ensure that sufficient resources are allocated in the budget process to peace and security in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic where resources have been primarily allocated to health responses.
- 2.3 Safeguard that women are equally included in peace and security processes, as well ensure that SALW-control measures adequately address the needs of all, including women.

### **3. Awareness raising**

- 3.1 Ensure targeted capacity building initiatives for parliamentarians, including regional knowledge exchange and parliamentary diplomacy within ASEAN on topical research and to promote the implementation and ratification of relevant instruments such as the UN PoA and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).
- 3.2 Promote enhanced analysis and research on the topic of uncontrolled SALW proliferation, including on the links between firearms and other connected issues such as drugs trafficking and violent extremism.
- 3.3 Maintain the willingness and political momentum to implement the PAP.

Based on the review and revisions of the [Parliamentary Action Plan for Africa first approved in 2019](#), the additions to recommendations for parliamentary actions concluded at the regional seminar for Africa on June 21-22, 2022 are as follows:

### **1. Legislation:**

- 1.1 Enhance the capacity and understanding of parliamentarians regarding international instruments and tools for prevention of uncontrolled proliferation of SALW.
- 1.2 Ensure signature, ratification, domestication of relevant Treaties and instruments related to the topic, such as the ATT.
- 1.3 Enhance gender mainstreaming of legislation, including ensuring severe punishments for violent crimes against women.

**2. Oversight:**

- 2.1 Ensure the establishment of Commissions on SALW, and ensure adequate operation and function of the SALW Commissions, including access for parliamentarians to relevant capacity building efforts.
- 2.2 Address the issue of porous borders by relevant measures such as community policing, and enhance the collaboration between neighbouring countries.
- 2.3 Establish periodic reviews and evaluations by control mechanisms, for the monitoring and follow up of implementation of laws, including oversight of international treaties relating to SALW.

**3. Awareness raising:**

- 3.1 Pursue sensitisation on the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16, SDG 5, UN PoA and ATT among fellow parliamentarians by submitting a report on the topic to respective parliamentary committees and ensuring access to the instruments.
- 3.2 Pursue sensitisation on SDG 16, SDG 5, UN PoA, and ATT among the population, including the item of peacebuilding in schools.
- 3.3 Promote and support arms amnesty initiatives among relevant governmental entities and safeguard the protection of the population participating in the initiatives.