

Regional seminar
“Connecting the Dots: Enhancing Implementation of the Women, Peace & Security, UN PoA and 2030 Agendas – through increased parliamentary engagement and action in international processes”

8 June, 2022

Jakarta, Indonesia

Preparatory step to the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS8) on 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), 27 June- 1 July 2022

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, causing the death of approximately 223 300 people every year³. The number of forcibly displaced people due to conflict, violence and persecution has reached over 89 million, the highest number since the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) records began.⁴ The situations behind forced displacement are highly linked to the misuse of SALW. Armed conflicts and violence, independent of their scale, are perpetuated by the uncontrolled availability of SALW, increasing the need for concise and effective steps to tackle its proliferation. The uncontrolled proliferation of SALW has widespread human, economic and social costs. Furthermore, it threatens democracy and good governance and facilitates violations of human rights and International Humanitarian Law (IHL).

¹ The present PAP was revised and approved at the first part of the regional seminar for Southeast Asia, taking place on June 8, 2022. The first part of 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: Enhancing Implementation of the Women, Peace & Security, UN PoA and 2030 Agendas – through increased parliamentary engagement and action in international processes”. The second part of the seminar formed part of a PFSALW project financed by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Canada, titled “Reducing threats to international security: Mobilising parliamentarians from Asia, Latin America and the Caribbean and Middle East to strengthen global parliamentary action for enhanced universalisation and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty” and took place on June 9-10, 2022. As a result of the second part of the seminar, a separate PAP with focus on universalisation and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) with links to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda was elaborated and approved.

²Small Arms Survey, Estimating Global Civilian-held firearms numbers, <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/weapons-and-markets/tools/global-firearms-holdings.html>

³Small Arms Survey, “Global Violent Deaths in 2018”: <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/W-Infographics/SAS-GVD-March-2020-update.pdf>

⁴United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), 2021, Figures at a glance, <https://www.unhcr.org/figures-at-a-glance.html>

Civilians are the main victims of violations of IHL in armed conflicts.⁵ The serious human, social and economic effects of the global COVID-19 pandemic further underscore the need to prevent armed violence as to build back better.

In 2018, 596,000 persons died of lethal violence, including 93,700 women and girls, and millions more were affected by armed violence.⁶ Globally, firearms were used in about 38% of all violent deaths in 2018, which resulted in 223,300 deaths. Alone in Asia in 2017, in almost 50% of the homicides a firearm was used.⁷ 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.

Globally, between 2012 and 2016, occurred around 1 million firearms related deaths, whereas 44% of the homicides were committed with firearms during 2016.⁸ The sub-regions most affected by lethal violence by firearms are—in decreasing order between 2012 and 2016—South America (with a rate of violent 18 deaths per 100,000 population), Central America (16), the Caribbean (8), and Southern Africa (6).⁹ The change between 2016-2017 in terms of homicide and direct conflict death amounted to 11,500 more homicides in Central America and 8,200 more homicides in South America, whilst Southeast Asia experienced a rise in conflict related deaths amounting to 3,600.¹⁰

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 COVID-19 pandemic, 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 seminar's aim was to promote the 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), the 2030 Agenda and the United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCRs) on Women, Peace and Security (WPS). The intended outcome was to increase parliamentary engagement, participation and action in the implementation of the UN PoA, the WPS and the 2030 Agendas for SALW control. In the seminar, parliamentary priorities and recommendations were identified, based on PFSALW's and AIPA's previously elaborated regional Parliamentary Action Plan (PAP) adopted in 2018, with relevant updates on contextual aspects and in relation to WPS. The seminar targeted parliamentarians from all AIPA member countries¹¹ Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Philippines, Singapore, Thailand and Vietnam and AIPA observer countries in the Asia region as part of the run-up and preparation for the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States on the UN PoA (BMS 8) on 27 June-1 July 2022. 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 a revised regional PAP, to guide and support parliamentary action for universalisation and implementation on WPS, UN PoA and the 2030 Agenda at the national and

⁵ International Committee of the Red Cross, 2013, Contemporary challenges for IHL, <https://www.icrc.org/en/document/contemporary-challenges-ihl>

⁶ UNODC, Global Study on Homicide 2019 (Vienna, 2019): <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/data-and-analysis/global-study-on-homicide.html>

⁷ *ibid.*

⁸ Small Arms Survey, "Global Violent Deaths 2017, Time to Decide" (2017): <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/U-Reports/SAS-Report-GVD2017.pdf>

⁹ *ibid.*

¹⁰ Small Arms Survey, "Darkening Horizons, Global Violent Deaths Scenarios, 2018-30": <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/fileadmin/docs/T-Briefing-Papers/SAS-BP-Violent-Deaths-Scenarios.pdf>

¹¹ As Myanmar is currently not having a Parliament, it is not included in the target group for the seminar.

regional level. The conclusions from the regional seminar were presented at PFSALW's side event at BMS8 on June 30 2022.

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: Enhancing Implementation of the Women, Peace & Security, UN PoA and 2030 Agendas – through increased parliamentary engagement and action in international processes*". The seminar built on the previous efforts realised within the thematic scope, including a regional webinar for Asia in March 2021 and a regional seminar in 2018, both co-hosted by PFSALW and AIPA and a regional webinar for Africa in 2021 hosted by PFSALW where the key conclusions were presented at a side event at the side lines of the Seventh Biennial Meeting of States (BMS7) in July 2021.

The present PAP is the result of the seminar discussions identifying main conclusions from the participants' perspectives as well as needs for revisions based on the previously adopted PAP in 2018.

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

- Support the effective implementation of the UN PoA, Agenda 2030 and its SDG 16.4, UNSCR 1325 on the WPS Agenda and other related instruments;
- Guide parliamentarians in their work related to the UN PoA and the framework of SDG 16.4 and the WPS Agenda to ensure that the legislative response is both nationally appropriate and consistent with the aims of the instruments;
- Suggest mechanisms for effective oversight of Government;
- Recommend methods to strengthen links between the executive and legislative branches of Government and between parliaments 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 UN PoA, 2030 Agenda SDG 16.4 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 UN PoA, 2030 Agenda SDG 16.4, and 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 -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 Ensure awareness raising is a main priority in the region as part of armed violence prevention efforts, including safeguarding well-resourced campaigns.
- 1.2 Enhance inter-parliamentary coordination and information sharing based on topical research.

- 1.3 Maintain the political will and momentum to implement the PAP.
- 1.4 Enhance analysis and research on the topic, including on the links between firearms and other connected issues, such as drugs trafficking, violent extremism etc.
- 1.5 Increase dialogue and exchange between international community and parliaments.
- 1.6 Raise awareness on the importance of SALW control, e.g. control the type of arms that are allowed for private military companies.
- 1.7 Implementation of 1 to 2-year campaigns for SALW eradication under the guidance of the UN.
- 1.8 Encourage member countries of the UN to assist in the awareness work related to illicit SALW, mine clearing and unexploded ordnance.
- 1.9 Promote peace education efforts and awareness raising among the population and in remote areas related to identification of SALW, other explosive, toxic war remnants and mine clearance, as well as improving understanding of provisions related to national firearms control laws.
- 1.10 Promote identification of resources for awareness raising activities related to cleaning of war remnants.
- 1.11 Raise awareness through the publication of relevant legislation and invite to public consultation.

2. Legislation

- 2.1 Ensure the political binding commitments in the UN PoA are translated into national laws.
- 2.2 Consider resolutions by the UN General Assembly as a base for improving and amending national legislation, as part of a process guided by the United Nations in an inclusive fashion.
- 2.3 Written communication on behalf of Presidents of Parliaments to the executive power to encourage the submission of all related laws concerning SALW control.
- 2.4 Establish and/or strengthen cross border cooperation and coordination.
- 2.5 Create a national SALW commission and a committee for cross-border cooperation and coordination.
- 2.6 Initiate enactment of relevant laws regarding the topic of SALW control.

3. Oversight

- 3.1 Follow up with Government representatives to ensure that the country is complying with their international reporting commitments, including reporting on the UN PoA.
- 3.2 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.
- 3.3 Ensure women are equally included in the peace and security processes, as well ensuring that SALW-control measures adequately address the needs of all, including women.
- 3.4 Enhance international cooperation to ensure implementation of relevant SALW-control instruments.
- 3.5 Ensure accountability on behalf of the cabinet by relevant parliamentary oversight action.
- 3.6 Ensure check and balances of the actions being undertaken by the executive power.
- 3.7 Investigate and evaluate the implementation during the budget hearing related to SALW control.
- 3.8 Elaborate National Action Plans on SALW control, and ensure their approval by the Government.
- 3.9 Follow up on implementation of current legislation, including enforcement of laws.
- 3.10 Encourage UN Regional offices to provide a mechanism to support assessment on the progress of law enforcement related to SALW control.
- 3.11 Report on the conclusions from the seminar to the national parliament.

Part 3 – Partnerships and resources¹²

The efforts of parliamentarians in promoting increased or enhanced parliamentary action on UN PoA, 2030 Agenda, SDG 16.4 and 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 members 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 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](#)

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](#)

¹² 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.

[The 2030 Agenda](#)
[UNSCR 1325](#)
[Firearms Protocol](#)
[UNCOMTRADE](#)
[NISAT](#)
[UNROCA](#)