



***“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”***

**Summary - Recommendations on parliamentary actions for enhanced implementation and universalisation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), linking to the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) Agenda.**

**Ninth Conference of States Parties (CSP9) to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)  
Side-event hosted by the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons (PFSALW)  
in collaboration with the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Sweden as sponsor, on 24 August 2023.**

Based on regional seminars within PFSALW’s project *“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”*, funded by the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Canada, key recommendations have been identified for parliamentary action to enhance the implementation and universalisation of the ATT, linking to the WPS Agenda. In a regional seminar in Asia in collaboration with the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly on June 9-10 2022, and a regional seminar in Latin America and the Caribbean in collaboration with the Latin American and Caribbean Parliament (PARLATINO) on June 31- July 1 2023, regional Parliamentary Action Plans (PAPs) with specific focus on the ATT and its links to the WPS Agenda were adopted for the first time in respective region. The seminars were part of the preparation for CSP9, building on PFSALW’s previous efforts in both regions<sup>1</sup>.

The purpose of the PAPs is to increase parliamentary knowledge and action for the implementation and universalisation of the ATT linking to WPS. The recommendations for parliamentary actions in the PAPs highlight the importance of including a gender equality perspective in all actions regarding SALW-control, and are related to the following three key roles of a parliamentarian:

1. **Legislation** is needed to ensure universalisation, domestication and implementation of the instruments. It includes drafting legislation, as well as the legislative procedures to discuss, evaluate and pass bills that allow the ratification of treaties, such as the ATT.
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 implementation of key instruments by creating political will and public understanding. It mainly takes place between parliamentarians and the constituents but can also be directed towards parliamentary colleagues as well as the executive level.

## **Parliamentary actions, Asia<sup>2</sup>**

### **1. Legislation**

- 1.1 Promote a regional Model Law adjusted to the ASEAN context on increased SALW control and the ATT as to encourage further legislative actions and subsequent applications.
- 1.2 Prioritise the signature and ratification of the ATT, as well as the Firearms Protocol.

### **2. Oversight**

- 2.1 Initiate dialogue with the Government to request update on status regarding pending ATT ratification process and present recommendations to advance the process.

<sup>1</sup> The regional seminar in the Middle East planned within the project will take place towards the end of 2023.

<sup>2</sup> The recommendations were identified at the regional seminar for Asia on June 9-10, 2022.

2.2 Elaborate WPS National Action Plans on SALW control, and ensure their approval by the Government.

### 3. Awareness raising

- 3.1 Enhance the understanding among MPs on the importance and rationale of ratifying the ATT, including clarifying benefits and misconceptions.
- 3.2 Promote targeted capacity building initiatives for MPs, including regional knowledge exchange and parliamentary diplomacy within ASEAN to promote ATT ratification.

## Parliamentary actions, Latin America and the Caribbean<sup>3</sup>

### 1. Legislation:

- 1.1 Integrate SALW action plans into national development strategies; including in the National Plans about the WPS Agenda.
- 1.2 Promote the comparative analysis of free trade agreements to identify their coherence with the provisions of the ATT regarding sanctions for the illicit flow of SALW.

### 2. Oversight:

- 2.1 Promote the use of parliamentary control tools to improve the implementation of the ATT.
- 2.2 Promote and implement the systematic and disaggregated collection, including by gender, of national data on firearm-related deaths and injuries, to help inform policy on the prevention of armed violence.

### 3. Awareness raising

- 3.1 Approach parliamentary leadership (presidents, committee chairmen, group leaders, etc.) to include the issue of signing, ratifying, and implementing the ATT on the agenda.
- 3.2 Raise awareness within the educational area about the negative effects of the use of SALW, including behavioural psychology.

## Parliamentary recommendations, Middle East and North Africa<sup>4</sup>

### 1. Legislation:

- 1.1. Ensure universalisation, domestication and implementation of the ATT and UNSCR 1325, including different aspects ranging from drafting of legislation to budget allocations, and work towards that politically binding instruments and tools for arms control to be legally binding and mandatory for all UN member states.
- 1.2. Include the gender equality and youth perspective when working with legislation regarding SALW control, both in terms of content in the legislation and promoting women's and youth's participation and leadership roles in the legislative process.

### 2. Oversight

- 2.1. Ensure financial sustainability such as encouraging governments to secure sufficient funding for effective implementation through state budget or external sources e.g. the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund and/or secure the allocation of the necessary budgets to allow state agencies to collect statistics relevant that facilitates the evaluation of implementation.
- 2.2. Stay informed by seeking advice from civil society organisations and research institutes in the oversight tasks, as these can provide expertise, experiences and voice issues.

### 3. Awareness raising

- 3.1. Promote the development of formal or informal cross-party groups/networks to raise awareness on SALW-related violence and champion relevant instruments.
- 3.2. Join forces with young people in the implementation of the ATT and UNSCR 1325 at the national, regional and international level.

<sup>3</sup> The recommendations were identified at the regional seminar in Latin America and the Caribbean on June 31-July 1 2023.

<sup>4</sup> The recommendations were identified at PFSALW's regional seminar in the Middle East and North Africa on 24-25 September 2019.