International Instrument to Enable States to Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons

Implementation Plan 2012-2018

At the United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, convened at UN headquarters in New York from 27 August to 7 September 2012, Member States resolved to redouble their efforts to achieve the full and effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument in the period from 2012 to 2018, in particular through the following actions.

I. Marking, record-keeping and cooperation in tracing

Taking into account the interlinked and mutually reinforcing nature of marking, record-keeping and tracing, Member States undertake:

1. To strengthen national measures on weapons marking, including marking upon import and, where possible, measures to recover erased or altered markings;

2. To enhance procedures for the accurate identification of firearms and the establishment of accurate and comprehensive records, including the continuous and sustainable training of law enforcement officials;

3. To strengthen, as necessary, inter-agency coordination at the national level in order to ensure timely responses to tracing requests, by, inter alia: designating one or more national points of contact and clarifying their roles; enhancing access to information by the points of contact; and establishing or strengthening national coordination bodies and national action plans;

4. To enhance measures to prevent weapons diversion, including the increased exchange of tracing results to appropriate authorities, as well as the harmonization of relevant tools and practices, at the national, regional and global levels;

5. To cooperate with the United Nations to strengthen the tracing of illicit small arms and light weapons by peace operations and sanctions monitoring groups, including through utilizing the UN’s pool of civilian and military experts and training resources.

II. Implementation

Taking into account the importance of national measures and international cooperation and assistance to the full and effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument (ITI), Member States undertake:

6. If they have not already done so, to put in place or strengthen the laws, regulations and administrative procedures needed to comply with the marking, record-keeping and cooperation in tracing requirements of the ITI;
7. To seriously consider, where in a position to do so, rendering technical and financial assistance, such as the provision of necessary technology, equipment and training to improve national marking, tracing, record-keeping capacities, where requested;

8. To consistently include in their weapons tracing procedures the use of INTERPOL tracing and firearm identification tools, such as the INTERPOL Illicit Arms Records and tracing Management System (iARMS), and to enhance cooperation with INTERPOL and WCO in building capacity for marking, record-keeping and tracing at the national, regional and global levels;

9. To enhance the sharing of information on national marking practices and of relevant technical research, including through the enhanced utilization of the Programme of Action Implementation Support System (PoA-ISS);

10. To enhance linkages with the UN Firearms Protocol and other relevant processes, in particular by streamlining implementation efforts at the national, regional and global levels;

11. To establish a technical committee, which may draw upon expertise available from industry, that would seek to strengthen ITI implementation by considering, inter alia,

   (a) the implications of recent developments in small arms and light weapons technology and design for effective marking, record-keeping and tracing;

   (b) ways to support the uptake and effective utilization of available tools and technologies for marking, record-keeping and tracing;

   (c) best practices in international assistance and capacity-building, including the transfer of technology;

   (d) focus areas for future ITI meetings;

12. As part of their biennial PoA national reports to continue to submit information on their implementation of the ITI, and to utilize these national reports, together with the PoA-ISS matching needs with resources clearing house mechanism, to submit assistance requests;

13. To also utilize national reports to provide information on technical, financial and other assistance, including the provision of relevant equipment and international cooperation on technology development, where appropriate.