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, States\(^1\), resolved to redouble their efforts, within their reach and capacity, with a view 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, and that the choice of methods for marking small arms and light weapons is a national prerogative, States undertake:

1. To strengthen national measures on weapons marking, including where possible, marking upon import, measures to recover erased or altered markings; and markings which aim at preventing parts and components for being subsequently reassembled without markings;

2. To enhance procedures for the accurate identification of small arms and light weapons and the establishment of accurate and comprehensive record keeping, including the continuous and sustainable training of law enforcement officials in registering the marks;

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 of competent national authorities to information by the points of contact; and establishing or strengthening national coordination between relevant bodies and national action plans, where and as appropriate;

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

5. To cooperate, when appropriate, with the relevant bodies, organs and missions of the United Nations, in accordance with their respective mandates and competencies, to

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\(^1\) Usage of States here is meant to be conforming with the own ITI’s usage of the term.
strengthen the tracing of illicit small arms and light weapons when and as stipulated in the provisions of the ITI.

5. bis to establish national points of contact to facilitate cooperation in tracing as required by the ITI.

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), States undertake:

6. If they have not already done so, to put in place or strengthen the laws, regulations and administrative procedures needed for the marking, record-keeping and cooperation in tracing requirements of the ITI, in accordance with their constitutional processes, and in order to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit trafficking of SALW;

6.bis to increase, when needed and as appropriate, national, regional and global efforts on the establishment of the necessary legal, administrative and technical infrastructure to allow for the effective implementation of the requirements of the ITI;

7. To provide, when in a position to do so and upon request, technical and financial assistance measures to facilitate relevant technology, equipment and training, and capacity building to improve national marking, tracing, record-keeping capacities, as necessary to support the effective implementation of this instrument by States;

8. To consistently include, where appropriate, in their small arms and light weapons tracing procedures the use of INTERPOL tracing and firearm identification tools and to enhance cooperation, as appropriate, with INTERPOL and WCO in building capacity, upon request, for marking, record-keeping and tracing at the national, regional and global levels;

9. To enhance, as appropriate and on voluntary basis, 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, when appropriate, with the with the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Supplementary Protocols, and other relevant processes in particular with regards to implementation efforts at the national, regional and global levels;

11. To consider elements regarding the role, function, frequency of meetings, composition and budgetary implications, in particular resources required, for establishing 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 design and manufacturing 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;

12. As part of their biennial PoA voluntary 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; and

13. To also utilize voluntary national reports to provide information on technical, financial and other assistance, including the provision of relevant equipment and international cooperation on technology development, including the provision of marking machines as well as expertise for the development of appropriate regulatory and legal measures where appropriate.

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