International Instrument to Enable States to Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons
[Implementation Plan 2012-2018]¹

At the Second 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, bearing in mind the different situations and capacities of States and regions, welcomed the progress made in the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument, noted the continuing challenges to the implementation of the Instrument, including the need for enhanced international cooperation and assistance, and resolved to redouble their efforts, starting in the period from 2012 to 2018, to achieve the full and effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument, in particular through the following actions.

I. Marking, record-keeping and cooperation in tracing

“Recalling that in the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects marking, record-keeping and tracing are highlighted as key measures to fight the illicit trade of SALW,

Taking into account the interlinked and mutually reinforcing nature of marking, record-keeping and tracing, and reaffirming that the choice of methods for marking and record-keeping, as well as the choice of tracing systems, are national prerogatives,

States undertake:

1. To strengthen national measures on the marking of small arms and light weapons, including, to the extent possible, marking upon import and, where possible, measures to recover erased or altered markings; and, where appropriate, to mark components of the weapon other than those that are deemed essential or structural in accordance with paragraph 10 of the International Tracing Instrument in order to assist in tracing

¹ The decision on the title of this document is subject to the overall decision under consideration regarding all other drafts outcome documents.
2. To enhance procedures for the accurate identification of small arms and light weapons and the establishment of accurate and comprehensive record-keeping, including, to the extent possible, the training of relevant personnel, including when appropriate those working in law enforcement, on matters relating to the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument;

3. To strengthen, when necessary and in accordance with their constitutional processes, inter-agency coordination at the national level in order to facilitate timely responses to tracing requests by, inter alia, enhancing access by the points of contact to relevant information;

4. To enhance the exchange of tracing results, as well as other relevant information, between appropriate authorities at the national, regional and international levels in conformity with paragraphs 14 and 15 of the International Tracing Instrument as this may help significantly to prevent small arms and light weapons from being diverted.

5. To cooperate, when appropriate, with relevant bodies, organs and missions of the United Nations, as well as with relevant regional organizations, in accordance with their respective mandates and competencies, in regard to the tracing of illicit small arms and light weapons in accordance with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument, in particular those relating to the protection of confidential information and of ongoing criminal investigations.

5.bis To designate, where they have not done so, one or more national points of contact in accordance with paragraph 25 of the International Tracing Instrument, including inter alia facilitating cooperation in tracing in accordance with the provisions of the ITI, and to update this information regularly before the next review conference.

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. To put in place, where they do not exist, or as appropriate strengthen, in accordance with their constitutional processes, the laws, regulations and administrative procedures needed for the effective implementation of the ITI;

6.bis To increase, as needed and appropriate, national, regional and global efforts for cooperating on legal and administrative aspects related to the effective implementation of the ITI;
7. To provide, when in a position to do so and upon request, adequate technical and financial assistance, relevant technologies, equipment, in particular marking machines, and training, in order to improve national marking, record-keeping and tracing capacities necessary for the effective implementation of the ITI;

8. To 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 relevant international organizations in building capacity, upon request, for marking, record-keeping and tracing;

9. To enhance the sharing of information on national marking practices in accordance with Paragraph 31 of the ITI, taking into consideration the usefulness of the web-based Programme of Action Implementation Support System for practitioners and policymakers involved in the implementation and reporting procedures for the International Instrument.

10. To enhance linkages, when appropriate, with the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC) and its Supplementary Protocols, in particular the Protocol against Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, and other relevant legally binding instruments, by their States Parties with regards to implementation efforts of the ITI at the national, regional and global levels;

11. To consider, within the existing structures of POA meetings, the implications of recent developments in small arms and light weapons design and manufacturing technology and design for effective marking, record-keeping and tracing, and ways to support the uptake and effective utilization of available tools and technologies for marking, record-keeping and tracing; as well as best practices in international assistance and capacity-building, including the transfer of technology

11. bis. To mandate existing structures of POA meetings 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 as identified in para 11 above;
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 utilize the national reports to provide information on technical, financial and other assistance, including the provision of relevant equipment, in particular marking machines, and technology, as well as expertise for the development of relevant regulatory and legal measures, upon request and where appropriate.