Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

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 Programme of Action in the period from 2012 to 2018, in particular through the following actions.

I. Preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects at the national level

In implementing the Programme of Action at the national level, Member States undertake:

1. To support the development and implementation of adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to prevent the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including illicit brokering and illicit craft production;

2. To establish or strengthen national coordination agencies or bodies to improve coordination among governmental agencies to implement the Programme of Action, in particular among customs, border control, police, judicial and arms transfer licensing authorities;

3. To establish or designate a national point of contact to act as liaison between States on matters relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action, and to share and update this information regularly;

4. To ensure adequate government authorization of international transfers of small arms and light weapons;

5. To enhance the effective control over the export and transit of small arms and light weapons, including by strengthening the end-user certification and verification process;

6. To take appropriate measures to ensure the effective implementation of UN arms embargoes and to enhance the effectiveness of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes conducted within a peace operation framework;

7. To combat the proliferation of man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS) and their components;

8. To improve the management of small arms and light weapons stockpiles, in particular by implementing adequate standards and procedures for stockpile safety and security, including the responsible disposal, preferably through destruction, of surpluses;
9. To increase the participation and representation of women in small arms policy making, taking into account the link between the Programme of Action and Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000); and

10. To encourage, as appropriate, the development and implementation of national action plans, and promote the sharing of experiences on the design and implementation of such plans.

II. Preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects at the regional level

In implementing the Programme of Action at the regional level, Member States undertake:

11. To encourage the establishment of points of contact by regional and subregional organizations in order to facilitate cooperation on small arms issues, including the sharing of information and experiences between regions;

12. To enhance synergies between the Programme of Action and relevant regional and subregional instruments and processes, including through harmonized reporting templates;

13. To explore ways in which regional and subregional organizations can assist States in the preparation of their national reports for the PoA and relevant regional instruments;

14. To support, as appropriate, regional and sub-regional organizations in building member state capacity on small arms issues, including through enhanced cooperation, as well as through the exchange of information and experiences on model legislation, best practices and other relevant matters; and

15. To establish or strengthen regional and subregional mechanisms on border control, and to enhance regional-level cooperation among customs, border control, police and judicial authorities in order to address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons across borders.

III. Preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects at the global level

In implementing the Programme of Action at the global level, Member States undertake:

16. To consider ways to strengthen cooperation between UN sanctions monitoring groups and peace operations in order to increase their effectiveness;

17. To cooperate with the United Nations system to strengthen the safe storage and responsible disposal of illicit small arms and light weapons by peace operations, including the development of appropriate mandates and mission structures, including through utilizing the UN's pool of civilian and military experts and training courses;

18. To increase their cooperation with relevant international organizations, such as the World Customs Organization and INTERPOL, on building capacity for
effectively countering the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons at the national, regional and global levels;

19. To encourage States, who have not done so, to consider ratifying or acceding to related international legal instruments; and

20. To facilitate cooperation with civil society and academia in activities related to the prevention, combat and eradication of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

IV. Implementation, international cooperation and assistance

Member States stress that international cooperation and assistance remain critical to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action, including the continuing commitment of donor and recipient States to ensuring its effectiveness and measurability.

To this end, Member States undertake:

21. To continue to promote and enhance bilateral and regional cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation, in sharing experiences, good practices, resources, technology and expertise to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action;

22. To encourage the efforts of the United Nations system and of relevant regional organizations to coordinate the implementation of the Programme of Action and to assist in matching needs and resources;

23. To encourage assistance to States in building capacity to identify, prioritize and communicate their assistance needs;

24. To make full use of national reports as a tool for communicating assistance needs and information on the resources and mechanisms available to address such needs; and

25. To encourage the development of tools and mechanisms to increase the effectiveness of international cooperation and assistance, including for the mechanisms to identify assistance needs and on indicators to assess the adequacy and effectiveness of assistance.

Member States that are in a position to do so undertake:

26. To prioritize responding to assistance requests to enhance the capacity of States to effectively implement the Programme of Action;

27. To strengthen capacity-building, the provision of technical expertise and the transfer of relevant technology, equipment and requisite training to States in small arms-related areas;

28. To explore means of ensuring the sustainability of assistance, including improving trust fund arrangements, in cooperation with relevant international
and regional organizations, including the UN Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament; and

29. To provide financial assistance, where appropriate through a voluntary sponsorship fund, to enable States that are otherwise unable to do so to participate in Programme of Action meetings.