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

Strengthened Implementation at the National, Regional and Global levels

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 bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions, undertook the following measures to achieve full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action over the period 2012-2018:

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

In the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national level and with a view towards reducing the suffering caused by the illicit trade, excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons, Member States, where they have not yet done so, undertake:

1. To support the development and implementation of adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to prevent illegal manufacture of and illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and in their respective parts, components and ammunition, including illicit brokering and illicit craft production, taking into account the urgency of combating this trade simultaneously from both a supply and demand perspective;

2. To establish or strengthen, as appropriate, national coordination agencies or bodies to improve coordination among governmental agencies to implement the Programme of Action. This should include aspects of the illicit manufacture, control, trafficking, circulation, brokering and trade as well as tracing, finance, collection and destruction of small arms and light weapons in particular among customs, border control, police, judicial and arms transfer licensing authorities;

3. To establish or strengthen, as appropriate, 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 that international transfers of small arms and light weapons are authorized by Government;
5. To put in place where they do not exist, adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures including through available and relevant documents submitted by import countries and authorities, to exercise effective control over the production of small arms and light weapons within their areas of jurisdiction and over the export, import, transit or retransfer of such weapons, including by strengthening the end-user certification and verification process, in order to prevent illegal manufacture of and illicit trafficking in SALW or their diversion to unauthorized recipients;

6. To take appropriate measures against any activity that violates a United Nations Security Council arms embargo and to implement effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes within a peace operations framework;

7. To ensure, subject to the respective constitutional and legal systems of States, that the armed forces, police or any other body authorized to hold small arms and light weapons establish adequate and detailed standards and procedures relating to the management and security of their stocks of these weapons, and to ensure that such stocks declared by competent national authorities to be surplus to requirements are clearly identified, that programmes for the responsible disposal, preferably through destruction, of such stocks are established and implemented and that such stocks are adequately safeguarded until disposal;

8. To increase the participation and representation of women in small arms policymaking, taking into account the link between the Programme of Action and Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) and GA resolution 65/69 and to explore means to eliminate the negative impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women; and

9. To encourage, as appropriate, the development and implementation of national action plans, and promote, on voluntarily basis, 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 in cooperation with the United Nations Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament, where they have not yet done so, undertake;
10. To encourage the establishment or designation, as appropriate, of a point of contact within sub-regional and regional organizations to act as liaison on matters relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action including the sharing of experiences between the regions;

11. To establish or strengthen regional and sub-regional coordination 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;

12. To enhance where necessary, synergies between the Programme of Action and relevant regional and sub-regional instruments and processes, including those that are legally binding and to encourage relevant regional and sub regional instruments to develop where appropriate and on a voluntary basis, measures to enhance reporting templates;

13. To explore ways in which regional and sub regional organizations can assist states upon request in the preparation of national reports for the POA and relevant regional instruments in the development of national action plans;

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

15. To establish, where appropriate, sub regional or regional mechanisms, in particular trans-border customs cooperation and networks for information sharing among law enforcement, border and customs control agencies, with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating 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 where they have not yet done so, undertake:

16. To cooperate with the United Nations system to ensure the effective implementation of arms embargoes decided by the United Nations Security Council in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

17. To cooperate within the United Nations system in allocating adequate resources and assistance to member states upon their request to strengthen the safe storage
and responsible disposal of surplus stocks or unmarked or inadequately marked illicit small arms and light weapons;

18. To increase, as appropriate, cooperation in concrete ways 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 and to identify those groups and individuals engaged in the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects in order to allow national authorities to proceed against them in accordance with their national laws;

19. To encourage States, which have not done so, to consider ratifying or acceding to related international legal instruments against terrorism and transnational organized crime, including the Firearms Protocol; and

20. To encourage the appropriate 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

States stress that international cooperation and assistance remain critical to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including the continuing commitment of donor and recipient States to ensuring their effectiveness and measurability

To this end, States, where they have not yet done so, undertake:

21. States undertake to cooperate and to ensure coordination, complementarity and synergy in efforts to deal with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects at the global, regional, subregional and national levels, including through South-South and triangular cooperation and to encourage the establishment and strengthening of cooperation and partnerships at all levels among international and intergovernmental organizations and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and international financial institutions;

22. To encourage assistance from states, regional and international organizations, including the UNODA, to states, upon their request, in building capacity to implement the POA fully and effectively as well as to identify, prioritize and communicate their assistance needs to UNODA, including by supporting comprehensive needs assessments;

23. To encourage the development of mechanisms to increase the effectiveness of international cooperation and assistance, including to identify assistance needs and effectiveness of such assistance;
24. To seriously consider responding to assistance requests to enhance the capacity of States to effectively implement the Programme of Action;

25. 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

26. 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 and the International Tracing Instrument meetings.