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 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 United Nations 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 progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action; noted the continuing challenges to the implementation of the Programme, including the need for enhanced international cooperation and assistance; and resolved to undertake the following measures to achieve the 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 implementing the Programme of Action at the national level, 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, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects including diversion to unauthorized recipients;

2. To establish, designate or strengthen, as appropriate, national coordination agencies or bodies to improve coordination among governmental agencies, such as customs, border control, police, judicial and arms transfer licensing authorities, 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;

3. To establish, designate 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, in line with the commitments contained in the Programme of Action, 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 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 certification of end users and end use, and the verification of information contained in end-user or end-use documentation, in order to prevent illegal manufacture of and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, including their diversion to unauthorized recipients;

6. To develop further mechanisms to assess the concrete risk of diversion in the context of transfer authorizations to effectively help preventing diversion of small arms and light weapons into the illegal trade.

7. To take appropriate measures against any activity that violates a United Nations Security Council arms embargo in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations;

bis To implement effective disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, particularly within the framework of post-conflict situations, including peace agreements and peacekeeping operations;

8. 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;

9. To increase the participation and representation of women in small arms policymaking, taking into account relevant resolutions of the Security Council and the General Assembly, and to explore means to eliminate the negative impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, children and other vulnerable groups, and to document such impacts;

8bis To increase their efforts to submit, on a biennial basis, national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action, taking advantage, where possible, of the reporting template provided by the United Nations Secretariat;
10. To develop and implement, as appropriate, national action plans, that identify national priorities, mechanisms for measuring impact and promoting sustainability and to share 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, States, where they have not yet done so, undertake:

10. To encourage the establishment or designation, as appropriate, of a point of contact within subregional and regional organizations to act as liaison and to facilitate cooperation on matters relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action;

11. To enhance, where necessary, synergies between the Programme of Action and relevant subregional and regional instruments and processes, including those that are legally binding, and to encourage measures to harmonize and consolidate reporting templates;

12. To explore ways and means by which subregional and regional organizations can assist States, upon request, in the preparation of national reports for the Programme of Action and relevant regional instruments and in the development of national action plans;

13. To encourage, as appropriate, subregional and regional and organizations, upon request, to assist States in building national capacity to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including through enhanced cooperation, as well as through the exchange of information and experiences on model legislation and best practices;

14. To establish or strengthen, where appropriate, subregional or regional cooperation, coordination and information-sharing mechanisms, in particular trans-border customs cooperation and networks for information sharing among governmental agencies, such as law enforcement, border and customs control agencies, and arms transfer licensing authorities, 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, 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 encourage, as appropriate, the United Nations system to allocate adequate resources and assistance to States, upon their request, to strengthen the safe storage and responsible disposal of surplus stocks or of unmarked or inadequately marked small arms and light weapons;

18. To increase, as appropriate, cooperation with relevant international organizations, such as the World Customs Organization and INTERPOL, to build capacity to effectively prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, and to identify those groups and individuals engaged in such trade in order to allow national authorities to proceed against them in accordance with their laws;

19. To encourage States, which have not done so, to consider ratifying or acceding to international legal instruments against terrorism and transnational organized crime, including the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Supplementary Protocols, in particular the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, ;

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

20bisTo further explore possibilities of assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action through peer review mechanisms, indicators, and standards;

20ter To report, where relevant, on transfers of small arms and light weapons under the United Nations Register on Conventional Arms;

20qua To promote dialogue and a culture of peace, by continuing to encourage, as appropriate, education and public awareness programmes on the consequences of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, involving all sectors of society.

IV. Implementation, international cooperation and assistance
Stressing that international cooperation and assistance remain critical to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, States, where they have not yet done so, undertake:

21. 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, North-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;

21bis To render, when in a position to do so, in cooperation with appropriate regional and international organizations, upon request, assistance, including technical and financial assistance where needed, such as small arms funds, to support the implementation of the measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects as contained in the Programme of Action;

22. To encourage States, regional and international organizations to seriously consider providing assistance to States, upon their request, in building capacity for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action, including the identification, prioritization and communication of their assistance needs, as well as, where relevant, the enhanced monitoring, measurement and analysis of small arms casualties;

23. To encourage the further development of mechanisms to increase the measurability and effectiveness of international cooperation and assistance, including monitoring and evaluation frameworks, and other relevant tools developed by the United Nations and other regional and international organizations;

24. To explore, in cooperation with relevant regional and international organizations, including the United Nations Secretariat and the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, means of ensuring the sustainability of assistance, including by improving trust fund arrangements, facilitating the transfer of relevant technology, further enhancing the Programme of Action Implementation Support System (www.un.org/disarmament), coordinating with relevant regional and international organizations and ensuring the alignment of assistance with national priorities;

25. To establish a multi donor facility, in cooperation with UNODA and UNDP to mobilise assistance and for other relevant organizations upon their requests to implement the Programme of Action
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.

Other issues of priority

In assessing the implementation of the Programme of Action, some states highlighted without prejudice to the views of other states, a number of issues not presently addressed in the Programme of Action but which are critical to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and in this regard undertook the following actions;

To include the respective parts, components and ammunition, illicit craft production and illicit brokering in the development and implementation of national laws, regulations and procedures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

To take all necessary steps to prevent the illicit proliferation of MANPADS and their components, including specific measures with regard to stockpile security and transfer control.

And

To address the negative impact of the excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons on civilians by integration, armed violence, prevention and reduction programmes, as appropriate, into national and local strategies related to security, development, poverty reduction, crime prevention and post conflict reconstruction.