Follow-up of the 2012 Review Conference of the Programme of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in Small arms and Light Weapons and Schedule of meetings during 2012–2018

1. States, having gathered 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;

2. Reaffirming the importance of enhancing the coherence, effectiveness and continuity of the Programme of Action implementation process;

3. Noting the convening of the Third Biennial Meeting of States (2008), the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States (2010) and the Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts (2011) during the 2006-2012 meeting cycle, and also reaffirming, in this regard, the utility of standardizing the schedule of meetings to the fullest extent possible;

4. Recalling the recommendation to clearly define and distinguish the mandates of Programme of Action meetings, as well as to link, and ensure the complementarity of, meeting mandates and outcomes, such as those of the review conferences, biennial meetings of States and the open-ended meeting of governmental experts;

5. Also recalling that the Second Review Conference is expected to consider the possibility of convening a further open-ended meeting of governmental experts;

6. Reiterating that States have agreed to review the implementation and future development of the International Tracing Instrument within the framework of conferences that review the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects;

Schedule of meetings

7. Decide to hold, in accordance with the relevant provision of the Programme of Action, a one-week biennial meeting of States in 2014 and 2016 and a one-week open-ended meeting of governmental experts in 2015 in light of arising priorities in implementing the Programme of Action. In this regard, if there is consensus among

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1 A/CONF.192/BMS/2010/3, paras. 34, 48.
States to do so, one or both biennial meetings of States will focus on technical aspects of Programme implementation.

8. Decide to hold a Third 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 in 2018. This conference will be scheduled as a two-week event and be preceded by a one-week preparatory committee meeting.

9. Stress that international cooperation and assistance, including capacity building and consideration of relevant and emerging issues, are of critical importance in furthering the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and therefore decide that this topic should be an integral element of all meetings under the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

10. Also stress the importance of identifying the topics of Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument meetings well in advance so that States can prepare and consider, not only every single issue covered in the Programme of Action, but also their technical aspects, as well as the emerging issues that may influence the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action. These issues include, but are not limited to, for example, stockpile management of small arms and light weapons and border controls.

11. Reaffirm the importance of the early designation of the Chair of future Programme of Action meetings and encourage the relevant regional group to make such a nomination, if possible, one year in advance of the meeting.4

Regional meetings

12. Emphasize the importance of regional approaches to the implementation of the Programme of Action and, in this regard, further encourage interested States and regional and international organizations in a position to do so to convene regional meetings in preparation for, and/or to follow up on, the meetings on the Programme of Action.5

13. Consider, where relevant, aligning the timing and agendas of regional meetings regarding small arms and light weapons with the global cycle of meetings, so as to ensure, as appropriate, a maximum of synergies between actions taken at the national, regional and global levels.

14. Reaffirm the important role that civil society plays in relation to the prevention, combat and eradication of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, and continue to encourage relevant regional and international organizations

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4 A/CONF.192/BMS/2010/3, paras. 34, 45.
5 A/RES/65/64, para. 22.
and States to facilitate the appropriate cooperation of civil society, including non-governmental organizations, in these areas; and further encourage civil society, including non-governmental organizations, to engage, as appropriate, in all aspects of international, regional, subregional and national efforts to implement the Programme of Action.

**National reporting**

15. Reaffirm the utility of synchronizing voluntary national reporting, as regards the Programme of Action, with biennial meetings of States and review conferences as a means to increase the submission rate and quality of reports, as well as to contribute substantively to the discussion at the meetings.  

**Support for meeting participation**

16. Encourage States in a position to do so, with a view to promoting wider and more equitable participation of States in the meetings on the Programme of Action, to provide financial assistance, through a voluntary sponsorship fund where appropriate, to enable States that are otherwise unable to do so to participate in meetings of the Programme of Action.

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