International Tracing Instrument
Overview – The problem

➢ Tracing: search for last legitimate owner: point of diversion!

➢ Mark weapon upon production, import

➢ Ensure adequate record-keeping

➢ Mark existing stocks
Overview – Genesis

- Programme of Action (2001)
  - To undertake a United Nations study for examining the feasibility of developing an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace in a timely and reliable manner illicit small arms and light weapons

- Open-Ended Working Group to negotiate the ITI (2003)

- ITI adopted by the General Assembly (2005)

- ITI meetings, ITI national reports: not separate from PoA meetings
Overview – Key provisions (1)

➢ General objectives

• Enable *tracing* of illicit SALW
• Facilitate international *cooperation* and *assistance*
• Enhance and *complement* bilateral and regional *agreements*
Overview – Key provisions (2)

➢ Marking
  • Choice of method is national prerogative
  • Must be visible, readable, durable, recoverable
  • Manufacture: Unique marking, with mandatory information
  • Import: To the extent possible
  • Illicit SALW found: uniquely marked, recorded; or destroyed

➢ Record-keeping
  • Indefinite, to the extent possible
    o Manufacturing records: at least 30 years
    o All other records, including imports and exports: at least 20 years

➢ Cooperation in tracing
  • Keep information confidential
  • Provide sufficient information
  • Respond within reasonable amount of time
  • Explain restricted response
Overview – Key provisions (3)

➢ Implementation

- Adopt appropriate **national regulations**
- Designate **national points of contact**
- Render **international assistance**
- **Cooperate** with United Nations and INTERPOL
- Biennial **national report**
National reports: Requests for ITI assistance

➢ 73 national reports have been submitted as of 18 March

➢ 29 request international assistance: Top thematic areas:

- Stockpile management / destruction
- International tracing
- Marking, Record-keeping
New trends in technology

- SG report on recent developments in SALW manufacturing, technology and design and implications for the implementation of the ITI (2014)
  - Materials
  - Concept designs
  - Methods of production
  - New technology applications
Manufacture: materials

- Plastics / polymers replace metal
  - Marking: no stamping
  - Durability of markings
Modularity

- Can change caliber: a fundamental characteristic for identification
- ITI: unique marking on essential component (frame, receiver)
- ITI encourages marking of other parts (barrel, slide, cylinder)
Methods of production

➢ 3D printing
  • Currently too expensive
  • Price will go down
  • Control measures
New technology applications (1)

➢ Micro-stamping

• Opportunity: difficult to detect for those who wish to erase it
• Challenge: ITI requires markings to be clearly visible
New technology applications (2)

➢ Identification, data collection technology
  • Barcodes
  • Radio-frequency identification
  • Biometrics (fingerprint)
    ▪ Challenges:
      o ITI requires marks to be readable, recognizable, durable
      o Limited use for identification across borders

➢ Global Positioning System for tracking
  • Could complement the ITI
Recommendations

➢ Value of harmonized regional approaches
➢ Enhancing dialogue with industry
➢ Negotiate a supplement to the ITI, such as an annex
  • Currently agreed schedule of meetings may guide such discussions

RevCon3 may wish to consider taking a decision to advance collective action by States on this issue