Working paper submitted by Mexico

Towards coherent, strategic, and effective implementation of the Programme of Action

The Government of Mexico recognizes those efforts carried out by States aimed at having both international and regional instruments and mechanisms on arms control and regulation. Mexico also welcomes the progress reached so far by the Programme of Action to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons in all its aspects as the universal key instrument that has guided the international community in this century. Nevertheless, it is necessary to recognize that the isolated treatment of aspects of small arms and light weapons transfers regulation and crime-control has not been proportional and adequate enough to reduce the human suffering caused by these arms. Diversion to illicit trade, illegal transfers, destabilizing accumulation, as well as the misuse of small arms and light weapons continue causes significant loss of life and contribute to armed conflicts and armed violence. The illicit trafficking also bring about more instability and insecurity, undermine the rule of law, facilitate illegal activities by armed groups, terrorist acts, and transnational organized crime.

In this context, the Third Review Conference of the Programme of Action is our opportunity to address some issues that are not currently present in the document and yet are crucial for it to have the desired outcome on the ground, such as the following:

- Enhancing the scope of the PoA for the inclusion of ammunitions, parts and components and technology related to small arms and light weapons, as well as explosives and improvised explosive devices.
The adoption of shared-responsibility approaches between States to strengthen cross border controls and management, to effectively combat the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons across borders (cross border illicit trafficking).

Strengthening the capacity of States with regard to control and verify the authorized end—use and end—user of SALW, transferred and nationally manufactured, and preventing hand to hand flows and easy access during the complete arm cycle to eradicate the diversion to non-authorized recipients.

Improving States transfer control, national regulations and standards on use and possession by all recipients, including civilians, to avert misuse of SALW.

Strengthening national measures on culture of peace and education for disarmament.

Develop formal cooperation mechanisms to address expeditiously and consistently diversion alerts and to agree joint mitigation measures.

Enhancing international cooperation, through designation of technical focal points of contact for effective liaison with international organizations and States to address, with a shared-responsibility approach, crosscutting response to related illegal activities transnational organized crime, among others illicit financial flows and terrorist activities.

The establishment of a voluntary peer review mechanism on national measures for the implementation of the PoA and the ITI.

Establishing a mandate for the Secretary General to prepare a report containing proposals and recommendations relating to the need to revitalize the global strategy to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, with special consideration to routes and elements that facilitate the illicit markets and flows.

Promoting the coherence and effectiveness for the implementation of relevant international instruments and adopting a multidimensional and comprehensive approach for the fulfillment of international commitments to prevent and combat illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, aligned to 2030 Agenda. Among others relevant instruments such as, the Arms Trade Treaty, such as the Arms Trade Treaty, the Firearms Protocol that supplements the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the Sustaining Peace Agenda and regional instruments (Interamerican Convention against the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking un firearms, ammunition, explosives, and related materials.

Therefore, the outcome document of the Third Review Conference of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons should:

[Final Declaration]
• Recognize that preventing, combating, and eradicating the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons is an indispensable requirement for peace, security and sustainable development.

• Recognize that, sustainable development, peace and security are mutually reinforcing conditions and aim at saving lives. The violence, insecurity and injustice, inequality, corruption, poor governance and illicit financial and arm flows, demand immediate and unequivocal answers. All lives should be transformed for the better, as we achieve success in building peaceful, just, and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights, on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels, and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions.

• Reaffirm the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and its SDG 16.4, which engages our commitment to significantly reduce illicit arms flows by 2030 with a view to eliminating them.

• Commit to work for the implementation and to build upon the achievements of the 2030 Agenda, the Programme of Action, and all relevant instruments, strategies and programmes in a balanced and integrated manner, within and in collaboration with the UN System, with a view of realizing the SDGs to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

• Commit to the full implementation of the Programme of Action by aligning our efforts towards coherent and effective realization of the peace and security, sustaining peace and sustainable development agendas through combating the negative effects and consequences of illicit arms trade.

• Resolve to enhance international cooperation for capacity-building at all levels, and to work together to strengthen the national regulatory framework at all levels to further increase transparency and accountability to combat the illicit arms trade, and on the basis of common interest and mutual benefit.

• Decide to enhance international cooperation to increase coordination of information and cooperation on legal activities for promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels in the achievement of the Agenda 2030 and SDG 16.4.

[Programme of Action]

• Resolve to adopt a comprehensive and holistic approach with respect to the means of integrating the sustainable development dimension to tackling the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons.

• Decide to develop practical measures, concrete policies and actions with an aim to fostering coherence between the 2030 Agenda, Programme of Action, and relevant international and regional instruments, with an overall strategic approach and enhancing the efficiency of the UN System.
• Identify synergies and cross-cutting areas of opportunity that can be built upon and make a critical contribution for the achievement of the SDG, in particular, SDG 16.4.

• Welcome the endorsement of the indicator of the SDG 16.4.2.

• Undertake to improve national and global capacity for data collection on proportion of seized small arms and light weapons that are recorded and traced, in accordance with international standards.

• Identify additional indicators within the Programme of Action to provide numerical targets to better inform the measurement of progress SDG 16.

[Follow-up and review]

• Recognize that international cooperation and assistance, including capacity building and technical, triangular and South-South cooperation, are of critical importance towards advancing the implementation of Programme of Action, the International Tracing Instrument, as well as the SDG 16.4 of Agenda 2030, and therefore, decide that this topic should be part of the discussion at the PoA and ITI review meetings.

• Stress the importance of identifying critical implementation actions to build on the measurement of progress and contributions to the Agenda 2030 and potential challenges the biennial meetings of States in 2020 will consider, and ensure, to the extent possible, the participation of all actors involved and other stakeholders, particularly representatives of civil society.