I. 2018 Declaration

A renewed commitment to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

1. We, the States participating in the 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, convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 18 to 29 June 2018 to review progress made in the implementation and identify priorities for enhanced implementation, reaffirm our commitment to the full and effective implementation of all of the provisions of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, with a view to ending the human suffering caused by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

2. We recognize that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects continues to sustain conflicts and to exacerbate armed violence, undermining respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and to fuel terrorism and organized crime.
3. We continue to be concerned by the use of small arms and light weapons in terrorist attacks and underline the essential contribution the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument makes to the global fight against organized crime and terrorism.

4. We recognize that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons continues to constitute a major security concern and we underline the need to continue to strengthen our collective action and coordination in this regard.

5. In this context, we reaffirm our respect for and commitment to our obligations under international law and the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as those set out in the Programme of Action, including its eighth to eleventh preambular paragraphs.

6. We recognize that the primary responsibility for solving the problems associated with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects falls on all States. We also recognize that States need close cooperation to prevent, combat and eradicate this illicit trade.

7. We note that important progress has been made in implementing the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument since 2001, including during the period since the Second Review Conference.

8. We stress, however, that implementation remains uneven and that challenges and obstacles still stand in the way of the full implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

9. We further recognize that to facilitate the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and to enhance coordination among relevant arms control and disarmament instruments, there is a need to consolidate and strengthen effective implementation synergies between the Programme of Action, the International Tracing Instrument and other relevant instruments.

10. We also stress the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including Sustainable Development Goal 16 and its target 16.4, which calls for a significant reduction of illicit arms flows by 2030, and acknowledge that sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security and that peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development.

11. We note that the fight against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons has implications for the realization of several Sustainable Development Goals, including those relating to peace, justice and strong institutions, poverty reduction, economic growth, health, gender equality, and safe cities and communities.

12. We welcome the work undertaken within the framework of General Assembly Resolution 72/55 with a view to identifying urgent issues pertaining to the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus with regards to which further progress can be made.

13. We acknowledge and welcome the valuable efforts undertaken at the regional and subregional levels in support of the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

14. We reaffirm our willingness to reinforce regional cooperation, through improved coordination, consultation information exchange and operational
cooperation involving relevant regional and subregional organizations, as well as law enforcement, border control and arms transfer licensing authorities.

15. We recognize that since the adoption of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, new developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design have occurred and resolve to take the steps needed to address these challenges and take advantage of the opportunities they present.

16. We reaffirm the need for States and other actors involved in the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument to fully mainstream gender dimensions into their implementation efforts.

17. We further reaffirm that effective international cooperation and assistance, including improved funding options and adequate training and support programmes, can accelerate the attainment of the objectives of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

18. We renew our commitment to prevent and combat the diversion of small arms and light weapons to illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients by, inter alia, strictly controlling small arms and light weapons throughout their life cycles, including at the time of their export, import, transit and retransfer, and during the time that they are stockpiled by government armed and security forces.

19. We reaffirm our determination to adopt effective measures to prevent the illicit manufacturing, reactivation and conversion of small arms and light weapons in line with international standards and best practices, taking into account the new challenges and opportunities arising from recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, including 3D printing, modular weapons, the use of new materials and new marking techniques.

20. We call for the further strengthening of international cooperation and assistance in preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including by taking into account the needs expressed by recipient States when designing assistance programmes; ensuring the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of assistance programmes; effectively coordinating initiatives between donors and between donors and recipients; and by making optimal use of regional and subregional expertise and resources.

II. Implementation plan for the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, 2018–2024

At the 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, convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 18 to 29 June 2018, 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 challenges to the implementation of the Programme, whether continuing, recent or emerging, 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 2018-2024.

A. Preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small
arms and light weapons in all its aspects at all levels (national,
subregional, regional and global)

1. Coordination and synergies

(a) Implementation at the national level

In implementing the Programme of Action at the national level, States undertake the
following measures:

1. To establish or, as needed, strengthen national laws, regulations and
administrative procedures, as well as relevant national strategies and programmes, in
support of the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action.

2. To establish or, as needed, strengthen national coordination mechanisms for the
implementation of the Programme of Action, involving all relevant government
agencies, including those responsible for law enforcement, border control and arms
transfer licensing, ensuring the meaningful participation and representation of women
in such mechanisms and encouraging strong cooperation with civil society and the
private sector.

3. To establish, designate or, as needed, strengthen, a national point of contact to
act as a liaison between States on all matters relating to the implementation of the
Programme of Action; and to share and update this information regularly; and to
provide the point of contact with the necessary means to carry out its role.

4. In collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including those from civil society,
to develop, adopt and implement national action plans on small arms and light
weapons, or other national policy instruments, and to coordinate the development and
implementation of such plans or instruments with the development and
implementation of plans and instruments relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable
Development and to General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on women,
dismament, non-proliferation and arms control.

5. To strengthen whole-of-government approaches to small arms control involving
all relevant branches of government, including law enforcement, customs, and arms
export licensing authorities.

6. To strengthen the measurement of progress made in the national implementation
of the Programme of Action, in particular by making better use of existing
information, including that collected within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for
Sustainable Development.

(b) Implementation at the regional and subregional levels

In implementing the Programme of Action at the regional and subregional levels,
States undertake the following measures:
7. To encourage the adoption and full implementation of complementary instruments, standards, good practice documents, programmes and plans of action at the regional and subregional levels in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action.

8. To encourage regional and subregional organizations and frameworks to identify areas of comparative advantage in assisting States in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and to coordinate efforts among themselves for this purpose.

9. To reinforce coordination between relevant regional and subregional organizations and frameworks, on the one hand, and States and global organizations, on the other.

10. To encourage relevant regional and subregional organizations and frameworks to designate, and share information on, points of contact for small arms and light weapons-related work.

11. To strengthen the role of the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament in supporting implementation of the Programme of Action.

12. To encourage coordination, including the exchange of relevant information, between law enforcement agencies, customs, and arms transfer licensing authorities at the regional and subregional levels.

(c) Role of relevant international organizations, including United Nations offices, the International Criminal Police Organization and the World Customs Organization

In strengthening the implementation of the Programme of Action in cooperation with relevant international organizations, States undertake the following measures:

13. To encourage States, relevant United Nations offices, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), the World Customs Organization, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to enhance coordination, strengthen synergies and share good practices and lessons learned for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action.

14. To encourage joint operations and other forms of operational cooperation with relevant international organizations, including INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

(d) Strengthening synergies with relevant global instruments, including those related to counter-terrorism and transnational organized crime

In strengthening implementation synergies with relevant global instruments, States undertake the following measures:

15. To establish or strengthen national laws, regulations and administrative procedures for the coordinated implementation of the Programme of Action and other relevant instruments, including legally binding instruments, to which the State is a Party.

16. To exchange and, as appropriate, apply experiences, lessons learned and good practices relating to the implementation of other relevant instruments to which the State is a Party, including legally binding instruments, such as the UN Convention
against Transnational Organized Crime, its Firearms Protocol and the Arms Trade Treaty, in strengthening implementation of the Programme of Action.

17. To encourage States that apply provisions of the Programme of Action to small arms and light weapons ammunition to exchange and, as appropriate, apply experiences, lessons learned and good practices relating to the control of small arms and light weapons ammunition, acquired within the framework of other relevant instruments, including legally binding instruments to which the State is a Party, in strengthening their implementation of the Programme of Action.

18. To eliminate the supply of weapons to terrorists through the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action, including by establishing as a criminal offence the supply of weapons to terrorists, if they have not already done so, and by strengthening judicial and law enforcement cooperation with other States.

19. In accordance with national legal frameworks, to share information with other States on successful trafficking prosecutions, incidents of diversion, trafficking routes and techniques, and good law enforcement practices, including risk management methods and processes.

2. Preventing and combating the diversion of small arms and light weapons

In combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, in particular the diversion of these weapons, States undertake the following measures:

(a) Stockpile management and security

20. In accordance with the provisions of the Programme of Action, to redouble efforts to ensure the safety, security, and effective management of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons held by government armed and security forces, including in conflict and post-conflict situations, at all stages of the small arm/light weapon life cycle, drawing on existing standards and guidelines for this purpose.

21. In accordance with the provisions of the Programme of Action, to redouble efforts to ensure the safety, security, and effective management of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons ammunition held by government armed and security forces, including in conflict and post-conflict situations, at all stages of the small arm/light weapon ammunition life cycle, drawing on existing standards and guidelines for this purpose.

22. To take all necessary measures, in full cooperation with relevant bodies, organs and missions of the United Nations, as well as relevant regional and subregional organizations, to promptly ensure the security of stockpiles of small arms, light weapons and ammunition in conflict and post-conflict situations in order to prevent the diversion and uncontrolled proliferation of these weapons and their ammunition.

23. In accordance with the provisions of the Programme of Action, to apply the strictest possible national regulations and procedures in order to ensure the safety, security, and effective management of man-portable air defence systems, drawing on existing standards and guidelines for this purpose.

24. To encourage States to take advantage of the opportunities new technologies, when available, can offer for enhanced small arms and light weapons stockpile management and security, including through improved marking and record-keeping,
and for the destruction of surplus small arms and light weapons that they have designated for destruction.

(b) **Transportation**

25. To take all necessary measures to ensure the secure transportation, movement, transfer, trans-shipment and delivery of small arms and light weapons.

26. To provide law enforcement authorities, in particular customs authorities, with the mandates, legal frameworks and resources that would enable them to identify and intercept illicit shipments of small arms and light weapons within their territories.

(c) **Unauthorized end users**

27. As necessary, to maintain, develop or establish, and effectively implement, laws, regulations and administrative procedures to ensure effective control over the export, import and transit of small arms and light weapons, taking into account relevant provisions of the Programme of Action and of other instruments to which the State is a Party.

28. To take all necessary measures to reduce the risk of diversion of legally transferred small arms and light weapons to unauthorized end-users, including by using, authenticating, verifying and, as needed, strengthening, end user certificates and end user certification processes.

29. To exchange and, as appropriate, apply experiences, lessons learned and good practices relating to small arms and light weapons export, import and transit control, including end-user certification and risk management processes.

30. To assess applications for export authorizations relating to man-portable air defence systems according to the strictest possible national regulations and procedures, consistent with the existing responsibilities of States under relevant international law, taking into account in particular the specific risks related to the diversion of these weapons into the illegal trade.

31. To encourage the exchange of information between States, in accordance with their national legal frameworks, inter alia through the use of dedicated and secure online platforms, relating to small arms and light weapons transfer diversion risks, including information on groups and individuals engaged in the illegal trade, transfer and financing for acquisition of illicit small arms and light weapons.

32. To strengthen the exchange and use of information for the assessment of diversion risks at the time of export, import or transit licensing, including through the use of web-based databases, such as those of INTERPOL (the INTERPOL Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System and the INTERPOL Ballistic Information Network).

33. To not authorize any international transfer of small arms and light weapons that could be used to commit or facilitate an act constituting an offence under international conventions or protocols relating to terrorism to which the transferring State is a Party.

34. To ensure that any re-export of small arms and light weapons that have previously been imported from another State occurs in accordance with the terms of an end-user undertaking, if such an undertaking has been made by the importing State in relation to such re-export.
(d) Conflict and post-conflict situations, including programmes for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and security sector reform

35. To apply international standards and best practices related to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument in programmes designed to build peace and security in conflict and post-conflict situations, including disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes, community violence reduction programmes and security sector reform.

36. To encourage the Security Council and other competent authorities to include, as relevant, provisions related to the implementation of the Programme of Action in the mandate of peacekeeping missions, and to provide these missions with adequate resources, including for actions related to small arms control, arms embargo monitoring and stockpile management and security.

37. To ensure adequate management and security measures for small arms stockpiles located in conflict and post-conflict situations in line with the provisions of the Programme of Action and other relevant international instruments, including regular inventories and the implementation of appropriate control measures when losses are detected.

38. To ensure adequate management and security measures, including marking and record-keeping, for small arms and light weapons that are seized or recovered in conflict and post-conflict situations.

39. To ensure adequate security for the transport of weapons held by United Nations peacekeeping missions within conflict-affected countries.

40. To take full account of the risk that small arms and light weapons transferred to conflict and post-conflict settings might be diverted and/or misused before authorizing such transfers.

(d) Arms embargoes

41. To take account of applicable arms embargoes in implementing the Programme of Action.

42. To extend full cooperation and assistance to United Nations sanctions committees, similar duly-authorized regional and subregional arrangements and groups of experts monitoring the implementation of arms embargo regimes.

43. In conformity with relevant national laws, regulations and administrative procedures, to collect, compile and share information relating to the diversion of small arms and light weapons into the illicit market in violation of an arms embargo.

44. To encourage States emerging from conflict, including those transitioning from an arms embargo regime, in cooperation with other States, multilateral organizations and civil society, to build sustainable capacity for the control of small arms and light weapons through the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

3. Preventing the illicit manufacturing and conversion of small arms and light weapons
In preventing the illicit manufacturing and conversion of small arms and light weapons, States undertake the following measures:

(a) Preventing the illicit manufacturing of small arms and light weapons

45. To ensure the strict regulation of small arms and light weapons manufacturing, and to effectively enforce applicable laws, regulations and administrative procedures.

46. To establish as a criminal offence the illicit manufacturing of small arms and light weapons as well as the manufacturing and selling of unmarked small arms and light weapons where this is not already the case.

47. To destroy, or appropriately dispose of, confiscated, seized or collected small arms and light weapons that have been illicitly manufactured.

(b) Good practices to ensure irreversible deactivation

48. To consider, as appropriate, adopting national legislation on the deactivation of small arms and light weapons, including a definition of permanent deactivation, and defining technical procedures for the activity of deactivation.

49. To verify that the destruction or deactivation of a small arm or light weapon has rendered the weapon, including all of its essential components, permanently inoperable, in line with international standards, such that illicit reactivation is physically impossible.

50. To produce a deactivation certificate for, keep an up-to-date record of and visibly mark a deactivated small arm or light weapon so as to indicate that it has been permanently deactivated.

51. To ensure that the deactivation of small arms and light weapons is undertaken by authorized entities only.

52. To share good practices, tools and existing standards in permanent weapons deactivation, in order to prevent the diversion of small arms and light weapons to illicit markets, illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients, including in conflict and post-conflict situations.

(c) Preventing the illicit conversion of small arms and light weapons

53. To share national experiences in addressing the problem of illicitly converted small arms and light weapons with a view to developing common understandings regarding the kinds of items that may be readily converted to function as a small arm or light weapon and should therefore be regulated as functioning small arms and light weapons.

54. To ensure adequate record-keeping for items that can be readily converted to function as a small arm or light weapon, and to require formal government authorization of such conversion.

55. To ensure, in line with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument, the unique marking of all items that have been converted to function as small arms or light weapons at the time of their conversion.
4. **Responding to the opportunities and challenges presented by recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design**

In responding to the opportunities and challenges presented by recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, States undertake the following measures:

56. To ensure the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action, notwithstanding recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology, and design and, as appropriate, to take advantage of opportunities presented by such developments in strengthening such implementation, including for the control of manufacture, weapons marking, stockpile management and security and international transfer control.

57. To strengthen cooperation with the private sector for the development of technologies that improve the marking, record-keeping, tracing, and safe and secure storage of small arms and light weapons.

58. To apply the provisions of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument to all forms of small arms manufacture, including 3D printing and distributed manufacturing; and to strengthen cooperation between law enforcement agencies so as to prevent criminals and terrorists from acquiring 3D-printed small arms and light weapons.

59. To raise the awareness of manufacturers and distributors of 3D printers and other distributed manufacturing equipment of the need to comply with national laws regulating the manufacture of small arms and light weapons.

60. To strengthen cooperation and information exchange on new forms of small arms manufacture, including their associated proliferation risks and options for control, drawing on relevant expertise, including from industry and from within government.

61. To ensure that national laws, regulations and administrative procedures applicable to international transfers of small arms and light weapons apply to transactions conducted through the internet.

62. To ensure that national laws, regulations and administrative procedures applicable to international transfers of small arms and light weapons apply to transactions in essential or structural parts and components, as defined in paragraph 10 of the International Tracing Instrument, whether conducted through the internet or through other means.

63. To strengthen cooperation among States in combating the illicit online trade in small arms and light weapons, in particular among law enforcement agencies, including through the exchange of experiences, lessons learned and good practices.

5. **Encouraging transparency and information exchange**

In encouraging transparency and information exchange, States undertake the following measures:

64. To redouble efforts to report on a biennial basis on measures taken to implement the Programme of Action.

65. To share information, through biennial reports and Programme of Action meetings, on national laws, regulations and administrative procedures, national
coordination mechanisms, national action plans and national points of contact, including their core requirements and elements of good practice.

66. To make use, as appropriate, of reporting under the Programme of Action in reporting under other instruments, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and other relevant global, regional and subregional instruments, in order to minimize administrative reporting burdens.

67. To strengthen the collection, analysis, exchange, publication and use of data related to small arms and light weapons; noting in this respect, the importance of transparency mechanisms, such as the United Nation Register on Conventional Arms; acknowledging also, the role played by academic and civil society organizations in this field.

68. To share and make full use of information on illicit trade routes and diversion methods, including through national reports, in order to strengthen implementation of the Programme of Action.

69. To make full use of national reports to provide a baseline for measuring progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, build confidence and promote transparency, and provide a basis for international cooperation.

70. To strengthen the collection, analysis, exchange, publication and use of gender-disaggregated data, including through national reports.

71. To exchange national experiences, lessons learned and good practices on the mainstreaming of gender dimensions into policies and programmes designed to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

72. To encourage the use of national reports to identify needs for cooperation and assistance, as well as available resources and expertise corresponding to such needs.

73. To encourage regional and subregional organizations to report on actions taken at the regional and subregional levels that support the implementation of the Programme of Action.

B. Addressing the adverse consequences of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on peace, security and sustainable development

In addressing the adverse consequences of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on peace, security and sustainable development, States undertake the following measures:

1. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16

74. To take advantage of all relevant synergies between the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, on the one hand, and the achievement of Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 16 and target 16.4, on the other hand.

75. To reflect issues regarding relevant Sustainable Development Goals and related targets in national action plans on small arms and light weapons, and to reflect issues
relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument in national development plans.

76. To ensure the participation of national authorities responsible for planning, implementation and reporting relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the national statistical commission, in the national small arms commission or similar body.

77. To highlight progress made in implementing relevant goals and targets of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

78. To strengthen synergies between data collection, reporting and analysis for the measurement of progress in implementing the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, on the one hand, and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular target 16.4, on the other, at the global, regional, subregional and national levels.

79. To encourage the development of national- and regional-level indicators, based on the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, in order to measure progress made in the implementation of target 16.4 and other relevant SDGs and targets.

2. Gender, including Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), and the impacts of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys

80. To take account of the differing impacts of small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys in policies and programmes designed to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

81. To ensure the equal participation and representation of women, including in leadership roles, and acting as agents of change, in policymaking, planning and implementation processes related to the Programme of Action, such as national small arms commissions and programmes relating to community safety, violence reduction, and conflict prevention and resolution.

82. To ensure the participation of relevant ministries or other national authorities responsible for women’s affairs or gender, as well as women’s civil society groups, in national small arms commissions or similar bodies.

83. To encourage the application of relevant international standards in mainstreaming gender considerations into small arms and light weapons policies and programmes, including in the areas of programme design, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation.

84. To enhance implementation synergies with processes relating to women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, such as those based on General Assembly resolution 65/69, Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), and Sustainable Development Goal 5, in order to strengthen the implementation of the Programme of Action.

85. To coordinate the implementation of national small arms action plans with the implementation of national action plans based on Security Council resolution 1325.

86. To encourage regular cooperation, including information exchange, between national points of contacts established for the Programme of Action and national
points of contact established under Sustainable Development Goal 5 and Security Council resolution 1325.

87. To strengthen the collection of disaggregated data on gender and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and to increase understanding of the gender-specific uses, misuses and impacts of small arms and light weapons, in particular for the purpose of improving corresponding national policies and programmes, and to share this information in national reports on the Programme of Action.

88. To prevent and combat gender-based violence by ensuring, consistent with the provisions of the Programme of Action, adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures, as well as effective law enforcement mandates, capacities and training.

3. Promotion of the rule of law and a culture of peace in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons: specific applications

89. To promote dialogue and a culture of peace through education and public awareness programmes on the problems of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, involving all sectors of society.

90. To promote a culture of peace and non-violence through education and the rule of law at the national, subregional, regional and international levels, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

III. Implementation plan for the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, 2019–2024

At the 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, convened at United Nations Headquarters in New York from 18 to 29 June 2018, States, bearing in mind the different situations and capacities of States and regions, welcomed progress made in the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument; noted the challenges to the implementation of the Instrument, whether continuing, recent or emerging, including the need for enhanced international cooperation and assistance; and resolved to undertake the following measures towards achieving the full and effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument over the period 2018-2024.

In strengthening implementation of the International Tracing Instrument, States undertake the following measures:
A. General

1. To continue to mark, record and trace small arms and light weapons in accordance with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument and to maintain, develop or establish strict national regulatory frameworks for this purpose.

2. To implement the commitments on marking, record-keeping and tracing contained in the International Tracing Instrument, regardless of the materials or methods used in the manufacture of small arms and light weapons, such as polymer frames/receivers and additive manufacturing techniques.

3. To redouble efforts to report on a biennial basis on measures taken to implement the International Tracing Instrument.

B. Marking

4. To adopt legislative and other measures, as necessary, to establish as a criminal offence the manufacture and selling of unmarked small arms and light weapons, as well as the intentional falsification, obliteration, removal or alteration of the unique markings prescribed in subparagraph 8(a) of the International Tracing Instrument.

5. To encourage manufacturers of small arms and light weapons to develop measures against the removal or alteration of markings, including markings made to the polymer frames of small arms and light weapons.

6. To ensure, in line with paragraph 9 of the International Tracing Instrument, that all illicit small arms and light weapons that a State finds on its territory are uniquely marked and recorded, or destroyed, as soon as possible; and to ensure the secure storage of these small arms and light weapons pending such marking, and recording in accordance with section IV of the Instrument, or destruction.

7. To identify in national laws and regulations, including those concerning modular weapons, the essential or structural component of a small arm or light weapon for the purpose of unique marking in line with paragraph 10 of the International Tracing Instrument and to share this information with other States.

8. To exchange information on secondary marking systems for small arms and light weapons, including polymer-frame small arms and light weapons, in use within the State and to strictly ensure its confidentiality.

9. To encourage States to take advantage of the opportunities new technologies, when available, can offer for the marking of small arms and light weapons, including after the time of manufacture.

10. To encourage States to cooperate with the private sector to strengthen the marking of small arms and light weapons in line with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument, taking into account recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design.

C. Record-keeping

11. To apply the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument prescribing the time records pertaining to marked small arms and light weapons will be held to other instruments, including legally binding instruments, to which the State is a Party.

12. To ensure, in accordance with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument, that competent national authorities can access the records needed to trace illicit small arms and light weapons in a timely and reliable manner.
D. **Tracing**

13. To encourage officials responsible for tracing, including in conflict and post-conflict situations, to begin their tracing of a small arm or light weapon by first accessing records held within the State where the weapon is found, in order to determine if it was diverted within that State.

14. To strengthen efforts to ensure the accurate identification of small arms and light weapons for tracing purposes.

15. To encourage States seeking the assistance of another State in tracing a small arm or light weapon to access, for this purpose, the INTERPOL national central bureau system and/or the Online Directory of Competent National Authorities maintained by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

16. As necessary, upon request, to assist States and relevant bodies, organs and missions of the United Nations, as well as relevant subregional and regional organizations, in building capacity for the collection and exchange of information, including tracing information, on illicit small arms and light weapons in conflict and post-conflict situations.

17. In accordance with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument, to strengthen the tracing of small arms and light weapons in conflict and post-conflict situations, including through the provision of capacity-building assistance, for purposes of identifying and containing the illicit flow of small arms and light weapons into such zones, providing early warning of destabilizing flows of such weapons and preventing conflict, including through the voluntary use of tools such as the Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System of INTERPOL.

18. To encourage States, in accordance with their laws and administrative procedures, relevant United Nations entities, international, regional and subregional organizations, in a position to do so and where appropriate, to cooperate and share information, including tracing information, relevant to the illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons with potentially affected States and with relevant United Nations entities and missions.

E. **Encouraging transparency, information exchange and implementation synergies**

19. To take advantage of national reports under the International Tracing Instrument so as to support data collection for relevant indicators relating to the Sustainable Development Goals.

20. To enhance the exchange of tracing results between appropriate authorities, including those responsible for law enforcement, border control and arms transfer licensing, in conformity with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument, in order to prevent the diversion of small arms and light weapons to illicit markets.

21. In accordance with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument, to share and analyse information relating to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in order to identify trends and patterns.

22. To strengthen the exchange and use of information on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, as well as diversion to illicit markets, including through the use of web-based databases, such as those of INTERPOL (the INTERPOL Illicit
Arms Records and Tracing Management System and the INTERPOL Ballistic Information Network).

23. To encourage States to submit information on national marking practices related to markings used to indicate country of manufacture and/or country of import, as applicable, to INTERPOL for inclusion in the INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table (IFRT).

24. To encourage the adoption and full implementation of complementary instruments, standards, best practice documents, programmes and plans of action at the regional and subregional levels in support of the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument.

F. Implications for the International Tracing Instrument of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design

25. To encourage the use of new marking technologies, such as microchips and micromarking, in strengthening the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument.

26. To ensure that polymer-frame small arms and light weapons are marked durably in line with paragraph 7 of the International Tracing Instrument.

27. To identify the essential or structural component of a modular weapon; to apply the unique markings prescribed by the International Tracing Instrument to this component; and to establish and maintain the record that uniquely identifies the modular weapon using the unique markings on this component.

28. To strengthen cooperation among States and with the private sector in addressing the challenges, and taking advantage of the opportunities, posed by recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, including the exchange of national experiences in tracing illicit small arms and light weapons.

29. To promote the development by industry of technologies that ensure the effective marking, record-keeping and tracing of small arms and light weapons in the light of the new challenges.

30. To urge States in a position to do so, in collaboration with requesting States, to build sustainable capacity for the identification, tracing and control of small arms and light weapons in the light of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, in particular through training for law enforcement.

IV. Promoting adequate, effective and sustainable international cooperation and assistance for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument

Stressing that adequate, effective and sustainable international cooperation and assistance remain essential to the full and effective implementation of the Programme
of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, States undertake the following measures:

A. **Encouraging international cooperation for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument**

1. To strengthen partnerships and cooperation at all levels, including South-South cooperation, in particular on border management; stockpile management and security; marking, record-keeping and tracing; and illicit brokering.

2. To strengthen the exchange of information, good practices and lessons learned on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including the gender aspects of such implementation, and in this regard resolve to take full advantage of relevant synergies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

3. To strengthen cooperation with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, research organizations, consumer associations and industry, in strengthening the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and to exchange experiences, expertise and good practices for this purpose.

4. To use national points of contact to strengthen the exchange of information and other forms of international cooperation in support of Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument implementation.

5. To take advantage of relevant synergies with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in strengthening international cooperation for the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

6. To strengthen cooperation between national law enforcement agencies and between such agencies and INTERPOL, including the exchange of good practices, lessons learned and other relevant information, in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

7. To strengthen the exchange of information and the use of databases, including, as relevant, ballistics information and databases, in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including the provision of technical and financial assistance for the purpose of strengthening national capacities in this area.

8. To enhance dialogue with industry regarding the effective marking, record-keeping and tracing of small arms and light weapons, especially in the light of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design.

B. **Ensuring the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument through adequate, effective and sustainable international assistance**

9. To work towards sustainable outcomes and impacts when designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating cooperation and assistance programmes and, for this purpose, to ensure that such programmes have national ownership and reflect national priorities.
10. To urge States, international, regional, and subregional organizations, as well as the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, to make technical assistance and other forms of capacity-building support available to States requesting such assistance.

11. To request the Secretariat to establish and manage a dedicated training programme on all aspects of small arms and light weapons control, including training for the utilization of good practices, lessons learned, and voluntary implementation guidance, in order to support recipient States in building the capacity of their personnel to retain, sustain and strengthen knowledge and skills on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

12. To urge States in a position to do so, in collaboration with requesting States, to build sustainable capacity for the identification, tracing and control of small arms and light weapons, including in conflict and post-conflict situations, consistent with the provisions of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including through training for law enforcement.

13. To identify and take advantage of synergies between assistance aimed at supporting the marking, record-keeping and tracing of small arms and that aimed at strengthening the management and security of small arms and light weapons stockpiles.

14. To use, as appropriate, national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument to identify needs and opportunities for international assistance and cooperation, including the matching of needs with available resources and expertise.

15. To encourage States in a position to do so to provide technical, financial and other assistance to States that apply provisions of the Programme of Action to small arms and light weapons ammunition, including training in the application of international standards such as the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines.

16. To enhance implementation synergies between projects designed to support the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and projects related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

17. To build the capacity of national small arms coordination agencies, or similar bodies, to support the coordinated implementation of the Programme of Action, the International Tracing Instrument and relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets, including with respect to data collection, reporting, measurement and analysis.

18. To take account of the differing impacts of small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys in small arms and light weapons assistance projects and programmes.

19. To strengthen the use of expertise from developing countries in providing international cooperation and assistance for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

20. To urge States in a position to do so to increase assistance to developing countries in order to bridge the technological divide between States, where it exists, in small arms and light weapons marking, record-keeping and tracing systems.

21. To encourage States in a position to do so, in collaboration with requesting States, to build sustainable capacity to report on small arms and light weapons that have been seized, found or surrendered and whose illicit origin or context has been
traced or established by a competent authority in line with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument.

C. Coordination of international assistance for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument

22. To continue to improve coordination among donors, between donors and recipients, and among relevant national authorities.

23. To ensure the complementarity of assistance provided in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and that provided in support of other relevant instruments to which the State is a party.

24. To strengthen the exchange of information on assistance projects and programmes, including experiences on completed assistance projects and on existing and new coordination mechanisms.

25. To increase funding for policies and programmes that take account of the differing impacts of small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys.

26. To increase funding for advocacy, education, training and research that enhances understanding of the gender-specific uses, misuses and impacts of small arms and light weapons and strengthens gender-sensitive small arms and light weapons control.

27. To encourage donors and affected countries to meet regularly to discuss international cooperation and assistance, and to share information on assistance projects, lessons learned and good practices.

28. To encourage the use of existing funding mechanisms, as well as the establishment, where necessary, of new mechanisms, to strengthen donor coordination at the subregional, regional and global levels.

V. Follow-up to the Third Review Conference of the Programme of Action 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

States,

Reaffirming the importance of enhancing the coherence, effectiveness and continuity of the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument implementation process,

Noting the convening of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States (2014), the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States (2016) and the Second Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts (2015) during the 2012-2018 meeting cycle, and also reaffirming, in this regard, the utility of standardizing the schedule of meetings to the fullest extent possible,
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.

**Schedule of meetings for 2018-2024**

1. Decide to hold, in accordance with the relevant provision of the Programme of Action, a one-week biennial meeting of States in 2020 and 2022 and a one-week open-ended meeting of governmental experts in 2021 to consider the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

2. Decide to hold a fourth 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 2024. This Conference will be scheduled as a two-week event and be preceded by a preparatory committee meeting, to be held in early 2024, of not more than five days.

3. Stress that international cooperation and assistance, including capacity building, 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 continue to be an integral element of all Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument meetings.

4. 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 for them, consider their political and technical aspects and the relevant and emerging issues that have a direct impact on the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and ensure, to the extent possible, the participation of appropriate experts/officials from States.

5. Decide that the Seventh Biennial Meeting of States (2020) will consider key challenges and opportunities relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument for the purpose of preventing and combating the diversion of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized end-users, in particular terrorists and transnational organized criminal groups, including in conflict and post-conflict situations, with particular emphasis on: stockpile management and security; border controls; and control over the transportation of small arms and light weapons. This discussion will be prepared by a report of the Secretary-General presenting good practices, lessons learned and new recommendations in these areas, based on inputs received from the UN system, in particular those agencies participating in the small arms coordination mechanism within the United Nations (UN CASA), and from relevant international organizations, including INTERPOL and WCO.

6. Decide that the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States (2022) will consider the coordinated implementation of the Programme of Action, the International Tracing Instrument and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development; and the application of the provisions of the Programme of Action to small arms and light weapons ammunition.

7. Reaffirm the importance of the early designation of the Chair of future Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument meetings.
Regional meetings

8. Encourage interested States and subregional, regional and international organizations in a position to do so to convene subregional or regional meetings in preparation for, and/or to follow up on, the meetings on the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

9. Encourage, where relevant, the alignment of the timing of regional meetings regarding illicit 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, subregional, regional and global levels.

10. Encourage the Secretariat, as appropriate, to seek funding for and help organize subregional and regional meetings in preparation for, and/or to follow up on, the meetings on the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

Engagement of civil society

11. Further encourage civil society, including non-governmental organizations and industry, to engage, as appropriate, in all aspects of international, regional, subregional and national efforts to implement the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument.

Reporting

12. Reaffirm the utility of synchronizing national reporting on the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument with biennial meetings of States and review conferences as a means to increase the submission rate and improve the utility of reports, as well as to contribute substantively to meeting discussions.

13. Request the Secretariat to examine, within existing resources, implementation trends, challenges and opportunities relating to the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, based on available information, including information submitted and/or provided by States, for presentation at upcoming meetings of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument for their consideration and appropriate follow-up.

14. Request the Secretariat to report on support provided by the UN system for the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including good practices and lessons learned regarding the efficient use of available resources, for presentation at upcoming meetings of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

Support for meeting participation

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