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 implementation and identify priorities for strengthened 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 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.

3. We affirm the continued relevance and vital importance of the Programme of
Action and the International Tracing Instrument, which constitute the global
framework to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light
weapons in all its aspects, as reiterated annually in the General Assembly resolution
entitled “The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects”, and
remain convinced that the full and effective implementation of both instruments is
essential for furthering peace, reconciliation and security, protecting lives and
promoting sustainable development.

4. We emphasize that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its
aspects continues to sustain conflicts, exacerbate armed violence, including urban
violence, undermine respect for international humanitarian law and international
human rights law, and aid terrorism, crime and illegal armed groups, as well as
trafficking in humans, drugs, certain natural resources and protected wildlife.

5. We acknowledge that by threatening security, safety and stability, the illicit
trade in small arms and light weapons continues to have devastating humanitarian
and socioeconomic consequences, including by impeding the provision of
humanitarian assistance to victims of armed conflict, contributing to the displacement
of civilians and undermining sustainable development and poverty eradication
efforts.

6. We are particularly concerned by the use of small arms and light weapons in
terrorist attacks throughout the world in recent years 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 all forms of
violence and crime, including terrorism, and in this regard resolve to strengthen our
collective action and coordination.

7. We continue to 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 continue to recognize that States need close
international cooperation to prevent, combat and eradicate this illicit trade.

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

9. 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.

10. 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 to which the State is
a Party.

11. 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, and note that 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 on which 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 recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, including 3D printing, modular weapons and the use of new materials, have implications for the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument; and resolve to take the steps needed to address such challenges and, as appropriate, take advantage of available opportunities, stressing, in this regard, the importance of capacity-building measures, including the transfer of relevant technology and equipment.

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 unauthorized recipients, including terrorists, inter alia, by 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 lawfully held by government armed and security forces, as well as by strengthening the exchange of relevant information between government officials and other stakeholders throughout the small arm/light weapon life cycle.

19. We reaffirm our determination to adopt effective measures to prevent the illicit manufacturing, reactivation and conversion of small arms and light weapons, and to combat new forms of trafficking in small arms and light weapons, including the illicit online trade, taking advantage of relevant international standards and good practices for this purpose.

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, capacities and priorities 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, as appropriate, 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, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control that are relevant to small arms and light weapons.

5. To strengthen whole-of-government approaches to preventing and combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, 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 work relating to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

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 information, relating to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons 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.

15. To encourage States, relevant United Nations offices and international, regional and subregional organizations to enhance their cooperation with international governmental and non-governmental transport organizations, including the International Civil Aviation Organization and the International Maritime Organization, in order to prevent and combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

(d) **Strengthening implementation 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:

16. 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.

17. To exchange and, as appropriate, apply experiences, lessons learned and good practices, including reporting 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.

18. 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, as well as relevant international standards, such as the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, in strengthening their implementation of the Programme of Action.

19. In accordance with Security Council Resolution 2370 (2017), 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 intentional supply of weapons to terrorists, if they have not already done so, and by strengthening judicial and law enforcement cooperation with other States.

20. In accordance with national legal frameworks, to share information with other States on successful trafficking prosecutions, incidents of diversion, illicit brokering, 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 preventing and combating the diversion of small arms and light weapons, States undertake the following measures:

(a) Stockpile management and security

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 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.

22. To encourage States that apply the provisions of the Programme of Action to ammunition to redouble their 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.

23. 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 and light weapons in conflict and post-conflict situations in order to prevent the diversion and uncontrolled proliferation of these weapons.

24. 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.

25. 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 have been designated for destruction.

(b) Transportation

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

27. 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

28. 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, of relevant Security Council
resolutions, including Resolution 2370 (2017), and of other instruments to which the State is a Party.

29. When authorizing the transfer of small arms and light weapons, to take all necessary measures to prevent the diversion of such weapons to unauthorized end-users, including by using, authenticating, verifying and, as needed, strengthening end-user certificates and end-user certification processes, as well as, where appropriate, by establishing mitigation measures or by not authorizing the export.

30. Recognizing that small arms and light weapons can be diverted to the illicit market through corruption, to make use of global instruments that combat corruption, to which the State is a Party, in order to prevent and combat such diversions.

31. To take all necessary measures to prevent and combat the illicit brokering of small arms and light weapons, taking advantage of relevant international standards and good practices for this purpose, including the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to resolution 60/81 to consider further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons.

32. To take all necessary measures to prevent and combat the illicit online trade in small arms, light weapons and their parts and components, including measures to ensure effective control over their export, import and transit.

33. To exchange and, consistent with national security requirements, 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 assessment processes.

34. 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.

35. 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.

36. To strengthen the exchange, and consistent with national security requirements the 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).

37. To not authorize any international transfer of small arms and light weapons if there is a significant risk that the transferred weapons 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.

38. 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

39. 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.

40. To encourage the Security Council, as well as competent authorities at the regional and subregional levels, to include, as relevant, with the consent of host States, provisions related to the implementation of the Programme of Action in the mandates of peacekeeping missions, and to provide these missions, as necessary, with adequate resources, including for actions related to small arms control, arms embargo monitoring, the identification and registration of weapons, and stockpile management and security.

41. 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.

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

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

44. 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.

(e) Arms embargoes

45. To take account of arms embargoes applicable to the State in implementing the Programme of Action.

46. 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 applicable to the State.

47. 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 applicable to the State.

48. 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, reactivation and conversion of small arms and light weapons

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

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

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

50. 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.

51. Subject to any legal constraints associated with the preparation of criminal prosecutions, to destroy confiscated, seized or collected small arms and light weapons that have been illegally manufactured, unless another form of disposition or use has been officially authorized and provided that such weapons have been duly marked and registered.

(b) Good practices to ensure irreversible deactivation

52. 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.

53. 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 relevant international standards.

54. 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.

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

56. 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, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients, including in conflict and post-conflict situations.

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

57. 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.

58. 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.
59. 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:

60. 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, as well as new forms of illicit trafficking, and, as appropriate, to take advantage of opportunities presented by such developments in strengthening such implementation, including for the control of manufacture and international transfer, weapons marking, and stockpile management and security.

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

62. 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 small arms and light weapons, including those produced using 3D printers.

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

64. 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.

65. 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.

66. 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.

67. 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:

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

69. 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.

70. 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 to which the State is a Party, in order to minimize administrative reporting burdens.

71. 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.

72. 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.

73. 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.

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

75. 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.

76. 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.

77. 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
78. 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 the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 16 and target 16.4, on the other hand.

79. 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.

80. 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.

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

82. 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.

83. 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

84. To take account of the differing impacts of the illicit trade in 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.

85. 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.

86. 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.

87. 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.

88. 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.
89. To coordinate the implementation of national small arms action plans with the implementation of national action plans based on Security Council resolution 1325.

90. 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 Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and Sustainable Development Goal 5.

91. 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.

92. 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**

93. 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.

94. 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, 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, capacities and priorities 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 to achieve 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, if they have not yet done so, legislative and other measures to establish as a criminal offence the manufacture and sale of unmarked or inadequately marked 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 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.

7. 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.

8. To encourage States to cooperate with the private sector, in particular industry, 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

9. 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.

10. 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

11. 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.

12. To strengthen efforts to ensure the accurate identification of small arms and
light weapons for tracing purposes including through training and the use of technical
aids such as the INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table.

13. 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.

14. 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, to build capacity for the collection and exchange of information,
including tracing information, on illicit small arms and light weapons in conflict and
post-conflict situations.

15. 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.

16. 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**

17. 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.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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).

21. 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).

22. 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 International Tracing Instrument.

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

23. To encourage the use of new marking technologies, where available, such as microchips and micro-marking, in strengthening the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument.

24. To ensure that small arms and light weapons are marked durably in line with paragraph 7 of the International Tracing Instrument regardless of the material used in their manufacture.

25. To apply the unique markings prescribed in subparagraph 8(a) of the International Tracing Instrument to the essential or structural component of a modular weapon; to mark this component in such a way that it can be distinguished from other components of the modular weapon; and to establish and maintain the record that uniquely identifies the modular weapon using the unique markings on the essential or structural component.

26. To strengthen cooperation among States and with the private sector, in particular industry, 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.

27. 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.

28. 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 officials and other relevant stakeholders.

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 in preventing and combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including South-South and North-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, including operational 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 and World Customs Organization, 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 international cooperation, including operational cooperation, in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons linked to drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and terrorism, including through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the counter-terrorism mechanisms of the United Nations, in accordance with their mandates.

8. 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.

9. 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**

10. 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.

11. To urge States, international, regional, and subregional organizations, as well as the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, in a position to do so, to make technical assistance, including training and, as appropriate, other forms of capacity-building support, including relevant technology and equipment, available to States requesting such assistance.

12. To recommend that the General Assembly, at its seventy-third session, mandate the Office for Disarmament Affairs to establish and manage a dedicated training programme on all aspects of small arms and light weapons control in order to strengthen technical knowledge and expertise in areas related to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, particularly in developing countries. The dedicated training programme should be launched in 2020 and funded through the regular budget of the United Nations.

13. 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.

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. To encourage, as appropriate, 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.

17. To support, in particular through voluntary financial contributions, the multi-partner trust facility that the Secretary-General will establish and that will be dedicated to providing adequate, effective and sustainable assistance in building national capacity, particularly in developing countries, to implement the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and to fulfil related commitments undertaken in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

18. 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.

19. 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.

20. 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.

21. 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 implementing the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including in the area of weapons marking, record-keeping and tracing; and to enhance the transfer of relevant knowledge, technology and equipment for this purpose.

22. 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

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

24. 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.

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

26. To establish or strengthen, where appropriate, sub-regional, regional and cross-regional cooperation, coordination and information-sharing mechanisms in order to enhance the effectiveness of assistance programmes, strengthen the matching of needs and resources, improve dialogue between donors and recipients, avoid duplication and maximize complementarity.

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

28. 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.
29. 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.

30. To encourage the use of existing mechanisms wherever possible, but also the establishment, where necessary, of new mechanisms, to strengthen donor coordination at the subregional, regional and global levels in preventing and combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, specifically with a view to avoiding duplication, maximizing coordination and complementarity and enhancing the effectiveness of assistance programmes.

31. To enhance coordination 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.

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 in accordance with the topics of these meetings.

5. Decide that the Seventh Biennial Meeting of States (2020) will consider, and to the extent possible address, 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 and export 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 the World Customs Organization.

6. Decide that the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States (2022) will consider, and to the extent possible address, key challenges and opportunities relating to the coordinated implementation of the Programme of Action, the International Tracing Instrument and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the complementary work undertaken within the framework of the process established by General Assembly Resolution 72/55.

7. Decide, as part of the 2018-2024 intersessional process, to negotiate an annex to the International Tracing Instrument in order to address the implications of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design for the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument, building on the discussions at Second Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts (2015), in particular those relating to the use of polymer in small arms and light weapons manufacture and modular weapons design.

8. Reaffirm the importance of the early designation of the President of the Review Conference and the Chair of future Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument meetings, and encourage the relevant regional group to make such a nomination, if possible, at least one year in advance of the meeting.

**Regional meetings**

9. 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.

10. 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.

11. 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

12. 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

13. 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.

14. Request the Secretariat, within existing resources, to present on implementation trends, challenges and opportunities relating to the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, based on information submitted by States, at upcoming meetings of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

15. 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 experiences, 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

16. 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.