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, including the inherent right to individual or collective self-defence
in accordance with Article 51 and the right of each State to manufacture, import and retain small arms and light weapons for its self-defence and security needs, as well as for its capacity to participate in peacekeeping operations; and our commitments set out in the Programme of Action.

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 sustaining peace, furthering 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 crime, undermine respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and aid terrorism and crime, 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 renew our commitment to prevent and combat the diversion of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients, including terrorists, transnational organized criminal groups and non-state actors, inter alia, by establishing effective national control measures throughout their life cycles, in particular 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.

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

9. 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.

10. We stress, however, that implementation remains uneven and that challenges and obstacles still stand in the way of the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including the need for enhanced international cooperation and assistance.
11. We further recognize that to facilitate the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument there is a need, as appropriate, 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.

12. 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, in particular Goal 16 and 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.

13. We acknowledge the negative impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on the lives of women and children and recognise that eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is a key part of combating gender-based and domestic violence. 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 and recognize the need for the equal participation of women and men in disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control processes.

14. We welcome the process established by General Assembly Resolution 72/55, adopted by consensus, with a view to identifying urgent issues pertaining to the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus on which progress can be made.

15. 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.

16. 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 international arms transfer licensing authorities.

17. 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; we resolve to take the steps needed to address these challenges and take advantage of available opportunities, avoiding undue restrictions, and stressing the importance of sustainable capacity-building measures, including the transfer of relevant technology and equipment.

18. We reaffirm that national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument can serve, inter alia, to provide a baseline for measuring progress in their implementation, build confidence and promote transparency, provide a basis for information exchange and for action and serve to identify needs and opportunities for international assistance and cooperation, including the matching of needs with available resources and expertise.
19. We reaffirm our determination to take effective national measures to prevent the illicit manufacturing, illicit reactivation and illicit 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 best practices.

20. We further reaffirm the need to take effective measures for international cooperation and assistance, including improved funding options, technology transfer, and adequate training and support programmes, in order to accelerate the attainment of the objectives of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

21. 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; ensuring the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of assistance programmes; effectively coordinating initiatives among donors and between donors and recipients; and by making optimal use of global, regional and subregional expertise and resources, including from developing countries.

II. Implementation of 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, where they have not yet done so, 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

1. To establish or 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 strengthen whole-of-government approaches for the implementation of the Programme of Action, including the establishment, or as appropriate the designation of national coordination agencies or bodies involving relevant government agencies, including those responsible for law enforcement, border control and international arms transfer licensing, promoting the meaningful participation and representation of women in such mechanisms and encouraging strong cooperation with all relevant stakeholders, including civil society, industry and the private sector.

3. To establish or designate a national point of contact to act as a liaison between States on 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. To develop, adopt and implement national action plans or other national policy instruments in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action and to coordinate the development and implementation of such plans or instruments, as appropriate, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including those from civil society and industry, with those relating to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 16 and target 16.4, and to relevant General Assembly and Security Council resolutions on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

5. To improve 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, in particular Goal 16 and target 16.4.

6. To significantly reduce the illicit flows of small arms and light weapons, including through illicit weapons recovery and voluntary surrender programmes.

(b) Implementation at the regional and subregional levels

7. To encourage the adoption and full implementation of complementary instruments, standards, best practice documents, programmes and plans of action, including the establishment of measurable targets and timelines, at the regional and subregional levels in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action.

8. To reinforce coordination between relevant regional and subregional organizations and arrangements, on the one hand, and States and international organizations, on the other.

9. To encourage relevant regional and subregional organizations and arrangements 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 and with recipient States for this purpose.

10. To encourage relevant regional and subregional organizations and arrangements 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 cross-border cooperation and regional and subregional coordination, including as appropriate the exchange of information, relating to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons between law enforcement agencies, customs, and international arms transfer licensing authorities.
(c) Implementation at the global level

13. To encourage States, relevant United Nations offices, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization to enhance coordination, and share best 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.

16. To establish or strengthen national laws, regulations and administrative procedures for the coordinated national 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 best practices, including reporting practices, relating to the implementation of other relevant instruments to which the State is a Party, such as the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, its Firearms Protocol and the Arms Trade Treaty, in strengthening the 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 relevant experiences, lessons learned and best practices 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, 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, including through the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action by, inter alia, establishing as a criminal offence the intentional supply of weapons to terrorists and by strengthening judicial and law enforcement cooperation with other States.

20. In accordance with national legal frameworks, as appropriate, to share information with other States on successful prosecutions, incidents of diversion, illicit brokering, trafficking routes and techniques, and good law enforcement practices, including risk management methods and processes, related to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

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

(a) Stockpile management and security

21. In accordance with the provisions of the Programme of Action, to redouble national 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 man-portable air defence systems, in particular 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 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 their life cycles, 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, regional and subregional arrangements and organizations, to promptly ensure the security of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons in conflict and post-conflict situations in order to prevent diversion to illicit markets and the uncontrolled proliferation of these weapons.

24. 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.

(b) Transnational transportation

25. To take all necessary measures to ensure the secure transnational transportation, transit, trans-shipment and delivery of small arms and light weapons, including by air and sea, in accordance with relevant international law, with a view to preventing their diversion.

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, national laws, regulations and administrative procedures to ensure effective control over the production, 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), of international conventions or protocols relating to terrorism, and of other instruments to which the State is a Party.

28. When authorizing the international transfer of small arms and light weapons, to take all necessary measures to prevent the diversion of such weapons to unauthorized recipients, including by using and, as needed, strengthening authenticating and verifying end-user/use certificates and end-user/use certification processes, as well as, where appropriate, by not authorizing the export and, as relevant, considering post-shipment verification measures.

29. 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.
30. Recognizing that small arms and light weapons can be diverted to the illicit market through corruption, to make use of relevant 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 best 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 cross-borders in small arms and 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 best practices relating to small arms and light weapons export, import and transit control, including end-user-use certification and risk assessment processes.

34. To strengthen the exchange and use of information, in accordance with States’ national legal frameworks and security requirements, inter alia through the use of dedicated and secure online platforms and web-based databases relating to small arms and light weapons 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.

(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 promote the inclusion, as relevant, with the consent of host States, of 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, UN Security Council arms embargo monitoring, the identification and recording of weapons, 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 measures when losses are detected.

38. To ensure adequate management and security measures, including marking, record-keeping and, as appropriate, tracing, for illicit small arms and light weapons that are found, 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 before authorizing such transfers.

41. To take account, in post-conflict reconstruction programmes, where
appropriate, without prejudice to the mandate of relevant bodies of the United
Nations, and with the consent of the concerned State, of the problems and
consequences of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and to consider the
benefit that the tracing of these weapons can bring to conflict prevention, crisis
management, and peacebuilding policies and programmes.

(e) **Security Council arms embargoes**

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

43. To extend full cooperation and assistance to United Nations sanctions
committees and groups of experts monitoring the implementation of arms embargo
regimes.

44. 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.

45. 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**

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

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

47. 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.

48. 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) **Best practices to ensure irreversible deactivation or destruction**

49. 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, through effective measures of destruction or permanent deactivation and
share best practices, tools and existing standards in this regard.
50. To consider, as appropriate, adopting national measures on the deactivation or destruction of small arms and light weapons, including a definition of permanent deactivation, and defining technical procedures for these activities.

51. To verify, when a decision to destroy or deactivate a small arm or light weapon has been made, that this operation has rendered the weapon, including all of its essential components, permanently inoperable in line with relevant standards.

52. To consider, as appropriate, the production of a deactivation certificate for keeping an up-to-date record of a deactivated small arm or light weapon so as to indicate that it has been permanently deactivated.

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

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

54. To share national experiences in addressing the problem of illicitly converted small arms and light weapons with a view to developing common understandings of the kinds of items that may be easily and illicitly converted and consider specific and appropriate responses to the challenges that they pose.

55. To consider ensuring adequate record-keeping for non-lethal small arms and light weapons that can be easily and illicitly converted to function as a small arm or light weapon, and to require formal authorization of such conversion.

4. Responding to the opportunities and challenges presented by recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design

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, 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 of small arms and light weapons.

57. 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.

58. To take account of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design in the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including for 3D printing and distributed manufacturing and to strengthen cooperation between law enforcement agencies so as to prevent unauthorized recipients, including criminals and terrorists, from acquiring small arms and light weapons.

59. To encourage initiatives that raise the awareness of risks associated with certain recent technological developments in manufacture and sale of small arms and light weapons, while also acknowledging the opportunities offered by such technologies.
60. To specifically take into account the challenges related to 3D printing, modular design and use of polymers, notably the difficulties encountered in marking and tracing, while avoiding undue restrictions.

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

62. To ensure that national laws, regulations and administrative procedures applicable to international transfers of small arms and light weapons and their essential or structural components apply to transactions conducted through the internet.

63. To prevent the illicit international online trade in small arms and light weapons, through cooperation among States, including through the exchange of experiences, lessons learned and best practices.

5. Encouraging transparency and information exchange

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 best practice.

66. To make use, as appropriate, of reporting under the Programme of Action in reporting under other instruments, and vice-versa, including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 16 and target 16.4 and other relevant international, regional and subregional instruments to which the State is a Party, 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 in order to enhance the understanding of related challenges and opportunities to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in these weapons, noting in this respect, the importance of transparency mechanisms, such as the United Nations Register on Conventional Arms, and acknowledging the role played by academic and civil society organizations in this field.

68. In order to strengthen implementation of the Programme of Action, to share and make full use of information on illicit trade routes of small arms and light weapons and diversion methods, including through national reports, in accordance with national legal frameworks.

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 encourage the collection, analysis, exchange, publication and use of gender-disaggregated data related to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including through national reports.

71. To exchange national experiences, lessons learned and best 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 make 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 relevant regional and subregional arrangements and 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

1. **2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 16 and target 16.4**

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

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

76. To coordinate between national authorities responsible for planning, implementing and reporting related to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including the national statistical commission, and those responsible for small arms and light weapons policies and programmes.

77. To highlight progress made in implementing relevant goals, targets and indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 16 and target 16.4, in national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, on a voluntary basis.

78. To strengthen coordination 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 Goal 16 and target 16.4, on the other, at the global, regional, subregional and national levels.

79. To encourage the development on a voluntary basis 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 Goal 16 and target 16.4 and other relevant goals 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 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.

81. To encourage 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 coordination of authorities responsible for the implementation of the Programme of Action with relevant ministries or other national authorities responsible for women’s affairs or gender, as well as women’s civil society groups.

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

84. To enhance, as appropriate, coordination processes relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action 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), the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 5.

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 Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 5.

87. To encourage 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 impacts of small arms and light weapons, in particular for the purpose of improving corresponding national policies and programmes.

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

88. 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.

89. To promote a culture of peace and non-violence through education and the rule of law at the national, subregional, regional and global 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 of 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, where they have not yet done so, the following measures to achieve the full and effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument over the period 2018-2024.

A. General

1. 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.

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 to establish as a criminal offence the unauthorized manufacture or sale of unmarked or inadequately marked small arms and light weapons, as well as the illicit falsification, obliteration, removal or alteration of the unique markings prescribed in subparagraph 8(a) of the International Tracing Instrument.

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

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

7. To take advantage of the opportunities that recent technologies, when available, can offer for the marking, recording and the recovery of marking of small arms and light weapons, including after the time of manufacture.

8. To cooperate with the private sector, in particular industry, for the effective 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, as a minimum, the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument prescribing the time that States should hold records pertaining to marked small arms and light weapons.
10. To facilitate, in accordance with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument, the access of competent national authorities to the records needed to trace illicit small arms and light weapons in a timely and reliable manner.

D. Tracing

11. To encourage competent national authorities responsible for tracing, to begin their tracing of an illicit small arm or light weapon by first accessing records held within the State where the weapon is found, in order to determine whether 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 an illicit 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 tracing of small arms and light weapons in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as for the collection and exchange of information, including tracing information on those weapons.

15. To encourage States, in accordance with their national legal framework, as well as relevant United Nations entities and missions, and international, regional and subregional organizations, to cooperate and share, as appropriate, information relevant to the illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons, including pertaining to tracing information, with potentially affected States and with relevant stakeholders.

E. Encouraging transparency, information exchange and coordination

16. To take advantage of national reports under the International Tracing Instrument so as to support data collection for relevant indicators relating to 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 16 and target 16.4.

17. To enhance the exchange, in accordance with national legal frameworks, of tracing results between appropriate authorities, including those responsible for law enforcement, border control and international 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.

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

19. To strengthen the exchange and use of information on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, as well as on the diversion to illicit markets, including as relevant through the voluntary 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).
20. 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).

21. To encourage the implementation of best practices 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

22. To encourage the use of recent developments in technologies for marking, record-keeping and tracing, where available, in strengthening the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument.

23. 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.

24. 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, in conformity with national legislation, this component in such a way that it can be distinguished from other components of the same modular weapon; and to establish and maintain the record that uniquely identifies this modular weapon using the unique markings on the essential or structural component.

25. 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.

26. 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 illicit 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 resolve to undertake, where they have not yet done so, 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 control; stockpile management and security; destruction and disposal; marking, record-keeping and tracing; and illicit brokering.

2. To take advantage of commonalities between the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 16 and target 16.4, including by strengthening the exchange of information, best practices and lessons learned on their implementation, including the gender aspects of such implementation.

3. To strengthen cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies and subregional and regional organizations, in strengthening the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

4. To strengthen cooperation with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, research organizations and industry, in furthering the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and to draw on their experiences, expertise and best practices for this purpose.

5. 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.

6. To strengthen cooperation between national law enforcement agencies, national policy-making bodies, INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, including the exchange of best 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, as well as the provision of technical and financial assistance for the purpose of strengthening national capacities in this area.

9. To enhance dialogue and partnerships 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 provide technical assistance, including training and, as appropriate, other forms of capacity-building support, including relevant technology and equipment, 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 fellowship training programme on all aspects of small arms and light weapons 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.

13. To urge States in a position to do so, in collaboration with requesting States, to build sustainable capacity for the identification and tracing of small arms and light weapons 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 light weapons and that aimed at strengthening the management and security of small arms and light weapons stockpiles.

15. To make full 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 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 in all its aspects, including training in the application of all relevant international standards.

17. To consider supporting, 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 draw on and promote expertise from developing countries providing international cooperation and assistance, including in the framework of regional and
subregional organizations, 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, upon request, 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 national ownership of international assistance projects by, inter alia, involving national authorities in the project planning and implementation cycle and tailoring assistance to local structures and procedures.

25. 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.

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

27. To establish or strengthen, where appropriate, subregional, 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.

28. To encourage States in a position to do so to increase funding for relevant 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.

29. To encourage States in a position to do so to increase funding for advocacy, education, training and research that enhances understanding of gender-specific impacts of illicit small arms and light weapons and strengthens gender-sensitive small arms and light weapons control.

30. 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 best practices.
31. 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.

32. 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, in particular Goal 16 and target 16.4.

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 at the national, regional and global levels 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. This discussion will be prepared by a report of the Secretary-General presenting best 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 ways of strengthening the coordination of the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument at the national, regional and global levels, taking account of relevant processes, such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 16 and target 16.4, and the process established by General Assembly Resolution 72/55.

7. Decide, as part of the 2018-2024 intersessional process, to consider 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 the Second Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts (2015), in particular those relating developments 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, 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 an analysis of implementation trends, challenges and opportunities relating to the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including needs for cooperation and assistance, 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 United Nations system for the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including experiences, best 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.