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 of the United Nations charter 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 in accordance with the United Nations Charter; and reaffirm the commitments, as well as the principles, 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, exacerbates armed violence, including crime, contributes to the displacement of civilians, undermines respect for international humanitarian law, and impedes the provision of humanitarian assistance to victims of armed conflicts.

5. We recognize that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects also undermines respect for international human rights laws and fuels crime and terrorism, as well as trafficking in humans, drugs, certain natural resources and protected wildlife.

6. 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.

7. 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.

8. We renew our commitment to prevent and combat the diversion of small arms and light weapons, as well as their illicit transfer, taking into consideration that in the International Tracing Instrument small arms and light weapons are considered illicit if they are transferred without a licence or authorization by a competent national authority, namely by establishing effective national control measures pursuant to the provisions of the PoA.

9. 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.

10. 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.
11. 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 a lack of resources and differing capacities in many States, creating a need for enhanced and effective international cooperation and assistance.

12. 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 coordination between the Programme of Action, the International Tracing Instrument and other relevant instruments to which the State is a Party.

13. 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.

14. We remain gravely concerned about the negative impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on the lives of women, men, girls and boys and recognize that eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is a key part of combating gender-based violence. We recognize the need for strengthened participation of women in decision-making and implementation processes relating to the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument and reaffirm the need for States to mainstream gender dimensions in their implementation efforts.

15. 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.

16. We emphasize that States willing to do so can continue to apply provisions of the Programme of Action to material additional to that mentioned in the International Tracing Instrument definition of small arms and light weapons.

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

18. We reaffirm our willingness to pursue international cooperation and 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 export and import licensing authorities.

19. We recognize that recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, 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 in this regard, and stressing the importance of sustainable capacity-
building measures, including the transfer, as appropriate, of relevant technology and
equipment.

20. We reaffirm that national reports on the implementation of the Programme of
Action and the International Tracing Instrument may provide a baseline for
measuring progress in their implementation, to 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.

21. 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 illicit trafficking in small arms and light
weapons, including the illicit online trade, taking advantage of relevant standards
and best practices.

22. We further reaffirm the importance of taking effective measures for
international cooperation and assistance, including, as appropriate, 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.

23. 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 implementation at all levels

(a) Implementation at the national level

1. To establish or strengthen national laws, regulations and administrative procedures in support of the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action.

2. To strengthen coordinated national approaches for the implementation of the Programme of Action, including, as appropriate, the establishment or the designation of national coordination agencies or bodies involving relevant government agencies, including those responsible for law enforcement, border control and export and import licensing.

3. To promote the full participation and representation of women in mechanisms relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action and to encourage strong cooperation with civil society, parliamentarians, industry and the private sector.

4. 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.

5. To encourage the development, adoption and implementation of national action plans or other national policies in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action and to coordinate the development and implementation of such plans or policies, as appropriate, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including those from civil society and industry, with those relating to Goal 16 and target 16.4 as part of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to relevant resolutions on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

6. To significantly reduce the illicit flows of small arms and light weapons, as appropriate, 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 measures and best practices, 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 mechanisms, on the one hand, and States and international organizations, on the other.

9. To encourage relevant regional and subregional organizations and mechanisms 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 mechanisms 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 promote and strengthen, recognizing the importance of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, border cooperation and regional and subregional coordination, as appropriate, through effective measures and enhanced exchange of information, between law enforcement agencies, customs, and export and import licensing authorities, in relation to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

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, namely 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, in order to prevent and combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

16. To establish or strengthen, as appropriate, 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 a 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 all other relevant legally binding instruments to which a State is a Party, such as the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, its Firearms Protocol, 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 to which a State is a Party, as well as relevant international standards, in strengthening their implementation of the Programme of Action.

19. To eliminate the supply of small arms and light 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, where appropriate, judicial and law enforcement cooperation with other States.
20. To share information with other States, in accordance with national legal frameworks, as appropriate, on successful prosecutions, incidents of diversion, illicit transfers and 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 provide for the safe, secure and effective management of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons held by government armed and security forces, including portable launchers of anti-aircraft missile systems, in particular in conflict and post-conflict situations.

23. To take all appropriate measures, in full cooperation with relevant bodies, organs and missions of the United Nations, regional and subregional arrangements and organizations, to secure stockpiles of small arms and light weapons in conflict and post-conflict situations in order to prevent diversion to illicit markets and the 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 disposal of surplus small arms and light weapons that have been designated for destruction.

(b) Transnational transportation

25. To take all appropriate steps to secure transnational transportation, transit, transshipment of small arms and light weapons, including by air and sea with a view to preventing their diversion.

26. To provide law enforcement 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 recipients

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 resolutions, including Security Council Resolution 2370 (2017), of international conventions or protocols relating to terrorism and transnational organized crime and of other instruments to which a State is a Party.

28. When authorizing the international transfer of small arms and light weapons, to take all appropriate measures to prevent their diversion, including by assessing applications according to strict national regulations and procedures consistent with existing responsibilities of States under relevant international law.
29. To put in place and, as needed, strengthen end-user/end-use certification processes, as well as effective legal and enforcement measures.

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

32. To take all necessary measures to prevent and combat the illicit brokering of small arms and light weapons, taking advantage of relevant 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.

33. To take all effective measures to prevent and combat the illicit online trade cross-borders in small arms and light weapons, including measures to ensure effective control over their export, import and transit.

34. To exchange and, in accordance with States’ national legal frameworks and 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.

35. 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 actors involved in activities related to 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

36. To fully apply the provisions 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.

37. To encourage the consideration, as relevant, with the consent of host States, of provisions related to preventing and combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping missions.

38. To put in place 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.

39. To put in place 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.
40. To consider appropriate measures in response to 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 potential benefits of tracing these weapons in this context.

(e) Taking into account United Nations Security Council arms embargoes in implementing the Programme of Action

42. To reaffirm the undertakings made in the Programme of Action at the national level, including those contained in section II, paragraph 15.

43. To extend full cooperation and assistance to United Nations sanctions committees and groups of experts monitoring the implementation of United Nations Security Council arms embargo regimes in relation to small arms and light weapons.

44. Consistent with national legal frameworks, to collect, compile and share information relating to the diversion of small arms and light weapons into the illicit market in violation of a United Nations Security Council 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 manufacture and sale of small arms and light weapons; as well as the manufacture and sale of unmarked small arms and light weapons.

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, inter alia, 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.

51. To take necessary measures when a final decision is made to dispose of a small arms and light weapon, to ensure that its destruction or deactivation 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 certificate of deactivation to supplement existing records of the deactivated small arm or light weapon.

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, including replica and blank-firing small arms and light weapons, 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 consider strengthening 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 possible 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.

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

62. 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.

63. To consider ways to prevent the illicit international online trade in small arms and light weapons, including through cooperation among States.

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.

66. To consider measures, at the national level, related to the compilation and submission of reports under the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and under relevant global, regional and subregional instruments and mechanisms, in order to minimize administrative reporting burdens.

67. To strengthen the collection, analysis, exchange, and use of data related to the illicit trade in 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 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 assess progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, to build confidence and promote transparency, as well as to provide a basis for international cooperation.

70. To encourage the collection, analysis, exchange, 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 organizations and mechanisms 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. Consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action in the light of target 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

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 relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument through national action plans on small arms and light weapons, where they exist, and national sustainable development strategies.

76. To encourage coordination between national authorities responsible for planning, implementation, collecting data and reporting on small arms and light weapons policies and programmes with, inter alia, those entities responsible for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

77. To highlight progress made under indicator 16.4.2. in national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, in order to minimize administrative reporting burden.

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 hand, at the global, regional, subregional and national levels.

2. The impacts of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys

79. 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.
80. To encourage the full 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, collection and destruction of small arms and light weapons and conflict prevention and resolution.

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

82. 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.

83. 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 relevant United Nations resolutions.

84. To encourage the coordinated implementation of national action plans on small arms and light weapons with national action plans established under relevant United Nations resolutions and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

85. 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.

86. To recognize that the implementation of the Programme of Action through the establishment and enforcement of adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures, as well as effective law enforcement mandates, capacities and training plays a key part in preventing and combating gender-based violence.

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

87. To promote, at all levels, a culture of peace through education, the rule of law and inclusive public awareness programmes on the problems of 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 effective national legal 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 including criminal measures, to prohibit the illegal manufacture 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, namely the frame or receiver, for the purpose of unique marking consistent 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 frames or receivers of small arms and light weapons, including those made of polymer.

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, such as at the time of import.

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 ensure the maintenance of records pertaining to marked small arms and light weapons.

10. To facilitate, in accordance with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument, the availability to competent national authorities of 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, including in conflict and post-conflict situations, to consult records held within the State where the small arm or light weapon is found when tracing that weapon. 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.

12. 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.

13. 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 illicit 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.

14. 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**

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

16. 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 export and import 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.

17. In accordance with national legal frameworks and 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 with a view to closing illicit trafficking routes and networks.

18. 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).

19. 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).

20. 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

21. To encourage the appropriate use of new technologies for marking, record-keeping and tracing, where available, in strengthening the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument.

22. To continue 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.

23. 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, namely the frame or receiver, in conformity with national legislation; and to establish and maintain the record that uniquely identifies this modular weapon using the unique markings on the essential or structural component.

24. To strengthen cooperation among States and with the private sector and 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.

25. To urge States in a position to do so, in collaboration with requesting States, to build sustainable capacity for the identification, tracing and recording 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, in particular on border control; stockpile management and security; destruction and disposal; marking, record-keeping and tracing; and illicit brokering.

2. 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.

3. 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.

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 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.

6. To strengthen international cooperation, including as appropriate, 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.

7. To strengthen the exchange of information and the use of 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.

8. 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**

9. To work towards sustainable outcomes and impacts when designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating cooperation and assistance programmes
and, for this purpose, to ensure that such programmes have national ownership and reflect national priorities.

10. To urge States, international, regional, and subregional organizations, as well as the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, 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.

11. To urge States in a position to do so, in collaboration with requesting States, to build sustainable capacity for the identification and tracing of illicit 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.

12. To identify and take advantage of synergies between, on the one hand, assistance aimed at supporting the marking and record-keeping of small arms and light weapons, as well as the tracing of illicit small arms and light weapons, and on the other hand, assistance aimed at strengthening the management and security of small arms and light weapons stockpiles.

13. To make full use, as appropriate, of 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.

14. To encourage States in a position to do so to provide technical, financial, and other assistance, including training to States to fully and effectively apply the provisions of the Programme of Action.

15. To consider building the capacity of national small arms coordination mechanisms, including with respect to data collection, reporting, measurement and analysis.

16. 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.

17. 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.

18. 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 for States in a position to do so to enhance the transfer of relevant knowledge, technology and equipment for this purpose.

19. 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

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

21. 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 support, as appropriate and upon request by the recipient State, national structures, procedures and legal frameworks.

22. 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.

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

24. 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.

25. To encourage States in a position to do so to increase funding for relevant policies and programmes, advocacy, education, training and research that take account of the differing impacts of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys.

26. 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.

27. 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.

28. To enhance coordination between projects designed to support the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and projects related to Goal 16 and target 16.4 of 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,

Encouraging all relevant initiatives at all levels to strengthen the day-to-day implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument by States, including through informal meetings,

**Programme of activities**

1. Recommend that the General Assembly, at its seventy-third session, considers mandating the Office for Disarmament Affairs to establish and manage a dedicated training programme based on voluntary contributions in order to strengthen technical knowledge and expertise in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, particularly in developing countries.

2. Acknowledge the Secretary-general’s initiative to establish a multi-partner trust facility dedicated to providing sustainable, cross-sectional, multi-year programming focused on eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in settings of conflict and pervasive crime, and to encourage States in a position to do so, to contribute to it.

3. Request the Secretary-General to include in his next annual report on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects possible elements that could be included in a guidance document for the full and effective implementation of the ITI, taking into account recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology, and design, particularly polymer and modular weapons, to be further developed and considered for adoption by Member States at BMS7 in 2020.

**Schedule of meetings for 2018-2024**

4. Decide to hold, in accordance with the relevant provision of the Programme of Action, a one-week biennial meeting of States in 2020 to 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, in particular to terrorists and to transnational organized criminal groups. 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 the views of Member States and inputs received from the UN system, in particular those agencies participating in the small arms coordination mechanism and inputs from INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization.

5. Decide to hold, in accordance with the relevant provision of the Programme of Action, a one-week biennial meeting of States in 2022, to consider, and to the extent possible address, key challenges and opportunities relating to implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument at the national, regional and global levels.

6. 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 and the International Tracing Instrument 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.

7. 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.

8. 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.

9. 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

10. 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.

11. 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.
12. 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**

13. 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**

14. 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.

15. 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.

16. 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**

17. 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.