



# General Assembly

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## **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**

New York, 18–29 June 2018

### **Report of 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**

#### **I. Introduction**

1. At its seventy-second session, the General Assembly adopted resolution [72/57](#), in which it decided to convene 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 in New York from 18 to 29 June 2018, preceded by the meeting of the preparatory committee in New York, from 19 to 23 March 2018.
2. The Preparatory Committee held its session at United Nations Headquarters from 19 to 23 March 2018, the report of which is contained in document [A/CONF.192/2018/RC/1](#).
3. By its recommendation III, the Preparatory Committee recommended Jean-Claude Brunet (France) for the presidency of the Conference and requested that he undertake informal consultations, including open-ended informal consultations, if required, in the period before the Conference.

#### **II. Organizational matters and proceedings of the Conference**

##### **A. Opening and duration of the Conference**

4. 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 was convened at United Nations Headquarters from 18 to 29 June 2018. The Conference was opened



on 18 June by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. At that meeting, Jean-Claude Brunet was elected President of the Conference. The Chef de Cabinet of the Executive Office of the Secretary-General of the United Nations delivered a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Daniël Prins of the Office for Disarmament Affairs served as the Secretary-General of the Conference. The Conference held plenary meetings and informal meetings. The list of participants is contained in document [A/CONF.192/2018/RC/INF/3](#).

## **B. Rules of procedure**

5. At its 1st meeting, on 18 June, the Conference adopted its rules of procedure ([A/CONF.192/2018/RC/L.3](#)).

## **C. Agenda**

6. At its 1st meeting, on 18 June, the Conference adopted the agenda ([A/CONF.192/2018/RC/L.1](#)) as follows:

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the President.
3. Statement by the President.
4. Address by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
5. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
6. Adoption of the agenda.
7. Organization of work.
8. Election of officers other than the President.
9. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
  - (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
  - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
10. General exchange of views.
11. Statements by intergovernmental and other organizations.
12. Statements by non-governmental organizations.
13. Adoption of the final documents of the Conference.
14. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

## **D. Officers**

7. The composition of the Bureau of the Conference was as follows:

### *President*

Jean-Claude Brunet (France)

### *Vice-Presidents*

Austria  
Croatia  
Egypt  
Estonia

Greece  
 Iran (Islamic Republic of)  
 Japan  
 Kenya  
 Nepal  
 Russian Federation  
 Sierra Leone

## E. Documentation

8. The documents of the Conference are available from the Conference website: [www.un.org/disarmament/revcon3](http://www.un.org/disarmament/revcon3).

## III. Credentials

9. Pursuant to rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Conference (A/CONF.192/2018/RC/L.3), according to which the composition of the Credentials Committee shall be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its seventy-second session, the Conference appointed Cabo Verde, China, Dominica, Indonesia, Ireland, the Russian Federation, Uganda, the United States of America and Uruguay as members of the Credentials Committee of the Conference.

10. At its 18th meeting, on 29 June, the Conference adopted the draft resolution recommended by the Credentials Committee, which had examined the credentials of the representatives of the member States of the Conference and found them to be in order (A/CONF.192/2018/RC/2, para. 10).

## IV. General exchange of views

11. At its 1st to 4th meetings, on 18 and 19 June, the Conference held its high-level segment and general exchange of views and heard statements by the representatives of the following States: Indonesia (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Algeria (on behalf of the Group of Arab States and in its own capacity), Antigua And Barbuda (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Nigeria (on behalf of the Group of African States and in its own capacity), Paraguay (on behalf of the Southern Common Market and associated States), Madagascar, China, Switzerland, Belarus, Israel, Finland, Germany, Canada, Hungary, Cambodia, United States of America, Philippines, Romania, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Nepal, Russian Federation, Thailand, Namibia, Sierra Leone, Liberia, Republic of Korea, Cuba, South Africa, Ukraine, Argentina, Netherlands, Mexico, Egypt, Brazil, Colombia, Peru, Chile, Uruguay, Ghana, Australia, Slovenia, Estonia, Pakistan, Japan, Guatemala, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Sudan, Jamaica, Ireland, Mauritania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Bulgaria, Sri Lanka, Spain, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Syrian Arab Republic, Portugal, Iraq, El Salvador, Kenya, Kuwait, New Zealand, Poland, Côte d'Ivoire, Malaysia, Honduras, Trinidad and Tobago, Uganda, Costa Rica, Ecuador, France, Viet Nam, Togo, Belgium, Bangladesh, Sweden, Ethiopia, Libya, Dominican Republic, Liechtenstein, Mali, Lesotho, Armenia, Senegal, Qatar, Haiti, India, Cameroon, Morocco, Zambia, United Republic of Tanzania, Saudi Arabia, Malawi and Djibouti. A statement was also made by the observer of the European Union (on behalf of the member States of the European Union, and Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina,

Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Serbia, The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Turkey and Ukraine).

#### **Statements by intergovernmental organizations**

12. At its 5th meeting, on 20 June, the Conference heard statements from the following organizations: League of Arab States; International Committee of the Red Cross; Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; East African Community; Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States; European Union; African Union; Economic Community of West African States; United Nations; Organization of American States; and North Atlantic Treaty Organization.

#### **Statements by non-governmental organizations**

13. At its 5th meeting, on 20 June, the Conference heard statements by representatives of the following organizations: World Forum on Shooting Activities; National Firearms Association of Canada; International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA); Amnesty International — Senegal; IANSA Women's Network; IANSA — Middle East and North Africa region; IANSA Survivors Network; and IANSA (Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida, United States).

## **V. Consideration and adoption of the final documents of the Conference and the report of the Conference to the General Assembly**

14. At its 6th to 17th meetings, from 20 to 29 June, the Conference considered and negotiated the draft outcome document.

15. At its 18th meeting, on 29 June, the Conference decided to retain paragraph 16 of section I of the draft outcome document ([A/CONF.192/2018/RC/CRP.1/Rev.3](#)) by a recorded vote of 63 to 2, with 28 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

#### *In favour:*

Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, France, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Mexico, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Viet Nam.

#### *Against:*

Israel, United States of America.

#### *Abstaining:*

Algeria, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, China, Cuba, Egypt, Germany, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Slovakia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, United Republic of Tanzania, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen.

16. Also at its 18th meeting, the Conference decided to orally amend paragraph 18 of section II of the draft outcome document by consensus.

17. At the same meeting, the Conference decided to retain paragraph 18 of section II, as amended, by a recorded vote of 62 to 2, with 29 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Honduras, Hungary, Indonesia, Ireland, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lesotho, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland.

*Against:*

Israel, United States of America.

*Abstaining:*

Algeria, Bahrain, Brunei Darussalam, China, Cuba, Egypt, Germany, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Myanmar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Singapore, Slovakia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen.

18. Also at the 18th meeting the Conference decided to retain paragraph 13 of section I of the draft outcome document by a recorded vote of 65 to none, with 25 abstentions. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Malta, Mexico, Myanmar, Namibia, Netherlands, New Zealand, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Turkey, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, Viet Nam.

*Against:*

None.

*Abstaining:*

Algeria, Bahrain, China, Cuba, Djibouti, Egypt, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Morocco, Nepal, Nicaragua, Oman, Pakistan, Qatar, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Sudan, Syrian Arab Republic, United Arab Emirates, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Yemen.

19. Also at its 18th meeting, the Conference ultimately adopted the draft outcome document (see annex), as orally revised and amended, by a recorded vote of 98 to none. The voting was as follows:

*In favour:*

Algeria, Angola, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain,

Bangladesh, Belgium, Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Cameroon, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Djibouti, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Haiti, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Latvia, Lebanon, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malawi, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Morocco, Myanmar, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nigeria, Oman, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, Peru, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Spain, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Turkey, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam, Yemen.

*Against:*

None.

*Abstaining:*

None.

20. At the 18th meeting, on 29 June, the Conference adopted its report to the General Assembly ([A/CONF.192/2018/RC/L.5](#)), as orally revised, by consensus.

## Annex

### **Outcome document of 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**

#### **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 Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, 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 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 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 Charter; and we also reaffirm the commitments, as well as all the principles, set out in the Programme of Action, including its preamble.

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 law and aids crime, terrorism and illegal armed groups, 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 that 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 implementation and coordination efforts.

8. We renew our commitment to prevent and combat the diversion of small arms and light weapons, as well as their illicit international 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 issued by a competent national authority.

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 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.

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, and underline the need for enhanced and effective international cooperation and assistance.

12. We further recognize that to facilitate the national implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument there is a need to consolidate and strengthen, as appropriate, effective coordination between the Programme of Action, the International Tracing Instrument and other relevant instruments to which a 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 we 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.

15. We recognize the need for strengthened participation of women in decision-making and implementation processes relating to the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and reaffirm the need for States to mainstream gender dimensions in their implementation efforts.



16. We welcome the process established by General Assembly resolution [72/55](#), which was 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.
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 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 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 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 the 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 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; 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 and implementation of national action plans or other national policies in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action by making better use of existing information to improve the measurement of progress 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 relevant to target 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the relevant United Nations resolutions on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.
6. To significantly reduce the illicit flows of small arms and light weapons through, as appropriate, illicit weapons recovery and voluntary surrender programmes.

**(b) Implementation at the regional and subregional levels**

7. To encourage the adoption and full implementation of 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 the implementation of the Programme of Action.
12. To promote and strengthen 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, with a view to eradicating and combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons across borders.

**(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, as appropriate, 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, as appropriate, to enhance their cooperation with relevant international governmental and non-governmental 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 instruments to which a State is a party, in strengthening the implementation of the Programme of Action.
18. To acknowledge that States that apply provisions of the Programme of Action to small arms and light weapons ammunition can 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, at the national level, as a criminal offence the intentional supply of a weapon or 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

international 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, in particular in conflict and post-conflict situations.

22. 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, post-conflict and non-conflict situations in order to prevent the diversion to illicit markets and the proliferation of these weapons.

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

### **(b) Transportation**

24. To take all appropriate steps, in accordance with national legal frameworks, during export, import and transit of small arms and light weapons to secure their transport, including by air and sea, with a view to preventing their diversion.

25. To provide national law enforcement authorities with mandates and resources to assist them in preventing and combating illicit small arms and light weapons that are imported into, exported from or transiting through their territories.

### **(c) Unauthorized recipients**

26. 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 Security Council resolution [2370 \(2017\)](#), relevant provisions of the Programme of Action, as well as relevant conventions or protocols to which a State is a party.

27. 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 the existing responsibilities of States under relevant international law.

28. To make every effort, in accordance with national laws and practices, without prejudice to the right of States to re-export small arms and light weapons that they have previously imported, to notify the original exporting State in accordance with their bilateral agreements before the retransfer of those weapons.

29. To put in place and, as needed, strengthen certification processes/end-user certificates, as well as effective legal and enforcement measures.

30. 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 a State is a party, in order to prevent and combat such diversions.

31. To take effective measures to prevent and combat the illicit brokering of small arms and light weapons, taking advantage of the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to General Assembly 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 effective measures to prevent and combat the illicit online trade in small arms and light weapons taking place within the areas of jurisdiction of concerned States, including measures to ensure effective control over their export, import and transit.

33. 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 certification processes/end-user certificates.

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 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**

35. 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 and community violence reduction programmes.

36. 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.

37. 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, surplus disposal, including through destruction, and the implementation of appropriate measures when losses are detected.

38. To put in place adequate management and security measures, including marking, record-keeping and, as appropriate, tracing by law enforcement authorities, for illicit small arms and light weapons that are found, seized or recovered in conflict and post-conflict situations.

39. 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.

40. To take account, in post-conflict reconstruction programmes, where appropriate, without prejudice to the mandates 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, including considering the potential benefits of tracing, surplus disposal and stockpile management of these weapons in this context.

41. To encourage States emerging from conflict, 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.

**(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, and to cooperate with and assist the United Nations system in implementing our commitment under its section II, paragraph 32.

**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**

43. To ensure, according to their national legal frameworks, the strict regulation of small arms and light weapons manufacturing, and to effectively enforce applicable laws, regulations and administrative procedures.

44. To establish, in accordance with national legal frameworks, as a criminal offence the illicit manufacture of small arms and light weapons.

45. 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, in which case such weapons have been duly identified, marked and recorded.

**(b) Best practices to ensure irreversible deactivation or destruction**

46. 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 to share best practices, tools and existing standards in this regard.

47. To consider, as appropriate, adopting national measures on the deactivation or destruction of small arms and light weapons.

48. To take necessary measures, when a final decision is made to dispose of a small arm or 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.

49. To consider, as appropriate, the production of a certificate of deactivation to supplement existing records of the deactivated small arm or light weapon.

50. To consider ensuring, as appropriate, in accordance with national legal frameworks, 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**

51. 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.

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

52. 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 weapons marking and stockpile management and security of small arms and light weapons.

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

54. 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 additive 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.

55. To encourage initiatives that raise the awareness of possible risks associated with certain recent technological developments in the manufacture and sale of small arms and light weapons, while also acknowledging the opportunities offered by such technologies.

56. To specifically take into account the challenges related to modular design and the use of polymers, notably the difficulties encountered in marking and tracing.

57. To strengthen cooperation and information exchange, as appropriate, on new forms of illicit small arms and light weapons manufacture.

58. To ensure that relevant national laws, regulations and administrative procedures prohibit, in the areas under the State's jurisdiction and control, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons conducted through the Internet.

**5. Encouraging transparency and information exchange**

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

60. To share information, through biennial reports and meetings on the Programme of Action, on national laws, regulations and administrative procedures, national coordination mechanisms, national action plans and national points of contact.

61. 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.

62. To strengthen, as appropriate, at the national level, the 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 industry, academic and civil society organizations in this field.

63. 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, as appropriate and in accordance with national legal frameworks.

64. 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.

65. 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.

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

67. To encourage relevant regional and subregional organizations and mechanisms to report on actions they have 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**

68. 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 target 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, on the other hand.

69. 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.

70. To encourage coordination between national authorities responsible for planning, implementation, collecting data and reporting on illicit small arms and light weapons policies and programmes with, inter alia, those entities responsible for sustainable development.

71. 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 burdens.

72. 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 for target 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, on the other hand, at the global, regional, subregional and national levels.

### **2. Impacts of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys**

73. 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.

74. To encourage the full participation and representation of women, including in leadership roles and 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.

75. To ensure 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 equality, as well as women's civil society groups.

76. 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.

77. To enhance, as appropriate, the coordination of processes relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action with processes relating to women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

78. 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 target 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

79. To encourage the collection of data disaggregated by gender on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including through national reports, and to increase understanding of the gender-specific impacts of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, in particular for the purpose of improving corresponding national policies and programmes.

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

80. To promote, at all levels, a culture of peace through education 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 consider adopting 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, as appropriate, 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 States when tracing illicit small arms and light weapons, including those found in conflict and post-conflict situations, to consult records within the State where the small arm or light weapon was found and/or consult with the State of manufacture of that weapon.
12. To strengthen efforts to ensure the accurate identification of illicit 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 the capacity of competent national authorities 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, as appropriate, tracing information, on those weapons.

15. To encourage States, in accordance with their national legal frameworks, 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.

## **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 target 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

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 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.

18. In accordance with national legal frameworks and the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument, to share and analyse information relating to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in order to identify trends and patterns with a view to closing illicit trafficking routes and networks.

19. To strengthen, in accordance with the International Tracing Instrument, the exchange and use of information on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, as well as on 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, on a voluntary basis, to INTERPOL for inclusion in the INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table.

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

23. 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.

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, 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.

25. To strengthen cooperation among States and with the private sector and industry, in addressing the challenges, and taking advantage of the opportunities, presented 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 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, as appropriate, 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 encourage and, as appropriate, 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 the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

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, as appropriate, for the purpose of strengthening national capacities in this area.
8. To enhance dialogue and partnerships with industry regarding effective small arms and light weapons marking and record-keeping, as well as tracing of illicit 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 also to urge 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 national structures, procedures, and legal frameworks, as appropriate, upon request by the recipient State and with the consent of the donor(s).
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 a 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 duplications and maximize complementarities.
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 target 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

## **V. Follow-up to 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**

States,

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

Noting the convening of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider 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 (2014), the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States (2016) and the second Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts on 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 (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 the meetings on the Programme of Action, as well as to link, and ensure the complementarity of, meeting mandates and outcomes, such as those of the review conferences, the biennial meetings of States and the open-ended meetings of governmental experts,

Encouraging the strengthened day-to-day implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument by States,

### **Programme of activities**

1. Acknowledge the proposal on the establishment of a dedicated fellowship training programme on 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.

2. Welcome the Secretary-General's initiative to establish a multi-partner trust facility, within the peacebuilding fund, 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, in particular through voluntary contributions.

3. Request the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States with regard to the recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, particularly polymer and modular weapons, including on their associated opportunities and challenges, as well as their impact on the effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument and make recommendations on ways of addressing them, and to submit a report thereon, before the end of 2018, for consideration by Member States. Stress the importance of informal consultations, with a view to facilitating consensus before the Seventh Biennial Meeting of States.

#### **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 and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients. The discussion will be informed by a report of the Secretary-General, containing views of Member States on best practices, lessons learned and new recommendations in these areas, and based on views from the United Nations 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 the specific issues decided at the Seventh Biennial Meeting of States.

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. The Conference will be scheduled as a two-week event and will 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 meetings on the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

8. Also stress the importance of identifying the topics to be addressed at meetings on the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument 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 meetings on the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and encourage the relevant regional group to make such a nomination, if possible, at least one year in advance of the corresponding 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 follow-up 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 follow-up to 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 on 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 on 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 meetings on the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, to provide financial assistance through a voluntary sponsorship fund to enable States that are otherwise unable to do so to participate in meetings on the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.