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Seventh 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

New York, 26–30 July 2021

Report of the Seventh 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

I. Introduction

1. In its resolution [56/24](#) V, the General Assembly welcomed the adoption by consensus of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and decided to convene a conference, no later than 2006, to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, the date and venue of which were to be decided by the Assembly at its fifty-eighth session. The Assembly also decided to convene a meeting of States on a biennial basis, commencing in 2003, to consider the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action.

2. Pursuant to General Assembly resolutions [57/72](#) and [59/86](#), the first two biennial meetings were held in New York, from 7 to 11 July 2003 and from 11 to 15 July 2005. In accordance with Assembly resolutions [58/241](#) and [59/86](#), the 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 held in New York from 26 June to 7 July 2006. Pursuant to resolutions [61/66](#) and [62/47](#), the third biennial meeting was held from 14 to 18 July 2008 and, pursuant to resolutions [63/72](#) and [64/50](#), the fourth was held from 14 to 18 June 2010. Pursuant to resolutions [65/64](#) and [66/47](#), 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 (the Second Review Conference) was held in New York from 27 August to 7 September 2012.

3. Pursuant to General Assembly resolution [67/58](#), the fifth biennial meeting was held from 16 to 20 June 2014. Pursuant to Assembly resolution [69/51](#), 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 was held from 1 to 5 June 2015.

4. The sixth biennial meeting was held from 6 to 10 June 2016.

5. 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 (the Third Review Conference) was held in New York from 18 to 29 June 2018.

II. Organizational matters

A. Opening and duration

6. The Seventh 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 was held at United Nations Headquarters from 26 to 30 July 2021, during the course of which 10 meetings were held to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action.

7. By its decision 74/552, the General Assembly noted with concern the situation concerning the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and decided to postpone the biennial meeting of States, scheduled for 15 to 19 June 2020. In its resolution [75/241](#), the General Assembly decided that the biennial meeting would be convened from 26 to 30 July 2021.

8. Secretariat services were provided by the Department for General Assembly and Conference Management. The Office for Disarmament Affairs provided support on substantive issues.

9. The Seventh Biennial Meeting was opened by the Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, who also conducted the election of the Chair.

B. Officers

10. At the 1st meeting, on 26 July 2021, the following officers were elected by acclamation:

Chair:

Martin Kimani (Kenya)

Vice-Chairs:

Algeria, Germany, Hungary, Jamaica, Latvia, Philippines.

C. Adoption of the agenda

11. Also at the 1st meeting, the provisional agenda ([A/CONF.192/BMS/2021/L.1](#)) was approved as follows:

1. Opening of the meeting by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs.
2. Election of the Chair.
3. Statement of the Chair.
4. Adoption of the agenda and other organizational matters.
5. Election of other officers.

6. Consideration of 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, at the national level, the regional level and the global level, including considerations to preventing and combating the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients.
7. Consideration of the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, including an exchange of views on the implications of the developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, taking into account all views and proposals of Member States, as well as relevant deliberations during previous meetings and relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted by consensus.
8. Consideration of international cooperation and assistance, including capacity-building, for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and including the proposals on the establishment of a dedicated fellowship training programme on small arms and light weapons, as well as national, regional and global target-setting, where applicable.
9. Exchange of views on the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States.
10. Other issues and topics of relevance for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.
11. Consideration of the draft final document.
12. Adoption of the report.
12. At the same meeting, the provisional programme of work ([A/CONF.192/BMS/2021/L.2](#)) was approved.

D. Rules of procedure

13. Also at the 1st meeting, it was decided that the rules of procedure of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects ([A/CONF.192/16](#)), held in 2001, would be applied mutatis mutandis ([A/CONF.192/BMS/2021/L.3](#)).
14. At the same meeting, a decision was taken on the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Seventh Biennial Meeting ([A/CONF.192/BMS/2021/INF/1](#)).

E. Documentation

15. The documentation of the Seventh Biennial Meeting was issued in document [A/CONF.192/BMS/2021/INF/2](#).
16. National reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action were submitted to the Seventh Biennial Meeting by the following States: Albania, Algeria, Andorra, Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Australia, Belarus, Belgium, Belize, Benin, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Botswana, Bulgaria, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Ecuador, Egypt, El Salvador, Ethiopia, Finland, France, Germany, Guatemala, Guinea, Hungary,

India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Liberia, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mexico, Mongolia, Montenegro, Morocco, Namibia, Nauru, Netherlands, Panama, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, South Sudan, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Turkey, Uganda, Ukraine, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United Republic of Tanzania, United States of America, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of) and Zambia.

III. Proceedings

A. **Consideration of 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, at the national level, the regional level and the global level, including considerations to preventing and combating the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients**

17. Agenda item 6 was considered at the 1st to 3rd meetings, on 26 and 27 July 2021. At the 1st meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the European Union, Costa Rica, Saint Kitts and Nevis (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), Lebanon, Mexico, Switzerland, Indonesia, Belgium, the Sudan (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Colombia, the Republic of Korea, Spain, Ireland, Kenya, Peru, Algeria, Egypt, Malaysia, Brazil, Thailand, Ecuador, Bulgaria, the United States, South Africa, China, Cuba, Ukraine, Romania, Pakistan, Mauritania and the Russian Federation. At the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran (also on behalf of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cuba, Nicaragua, Syrian Arab Republic and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), Iraq, Côte d'Ivoire, the United Kingdom, Australia, Israel, Sierra Leone, Argentina and the Russian Federation. Also, statements were made by the representatives of India, Japan, Germany, France and Mexico using the Interpretive virtual platform. At the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Mexico, Iraq and the Philippines.

B. **Consideration of the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, including an exchange of views on the implications of the developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, taking into account all views and proposals of Member States, as well as relevant deliberations during previous meetings and relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted by consensus**

18. Agenda item 7 was considered at the 2nd, 3rd, 4th and 6th meetings, on 26, 27 and 28 July 2021. At the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the European Union, Colombia, Malaysia, Switzerland, Egypt, the Sudan (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Indonesia and China. Also, a statement was made by the representative of India using the Interpretive platform. At the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran (speaking also on behalf of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cuba, Nicaragua, Syrian Arab

Republic and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), Jamaica, Canada, Peru, Australia, South Africa, Namibia, Algeria, Cuba, Ecuador, the Republic of Korea, Ghana, Guatemala, Indonesia, Brazil, the United States of America and Ireland. Also, statements were made by the representatives of France, Belgium and Japan using the Interprefy virtual platform. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Bulgaria, Costa Rica, Mexico (who also spoke on agenda item 6), Colombia, Ghana, Jamaica and Egypt. At the 6th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Costa Rica (on behalf of a number of States),¹ Lebanon, Burundi, the Republic of Korea, Senegal and Jamaica.

C. Consideration of international cooperation and assistance, including capacity-building, for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and including the proposals on the establishment of a dedicated fellowship training programme on small arms and light weapons as well as national, regional and global target-setting, where applicable

19. Agenda item 8 was considered at the 3rd, 4th and 6th meetings, on 27 and 28 July 2021. At the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the Islamic Republic of Iran and Malaysia. Also, a statement was made by the representative of India using the Interprefy platform. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Switzerland, Iraq, Cuba, Germany, the United States, Ecuador, China, Ghana and Mexico. At the 6th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the European Union, Mali, Canada, Austria, Costa Rica, Peru, the Philippines, Belgium, France, Kenya, the United Kingdom, Guatemala, Algeria, Egypt, Colombia, the Sudan (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Pakistan and Burundi.

D. Exchange of views on the eighth Biennial Meeting of States

20. Agenda item 9 was considered at the 7th and 8th meetings, on 29 July 2021. At the 7th meeting statements were made by the representatives of Côte d'Ivoire, the Islamic Republic of Iran (also on behalf of the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Cuba, Egypt, Nicaragua, Syrian Arab Republic and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela), Colombia, Brazil (on behalf of the member and associated States of MERCOSUR) and Egypt. At the 8th meeting statements were made by the representative of the Sudan (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), as well as by the representatives of Japan and Mexico who delivered theirs using the Interprefy platform.

¹ Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Namibia, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Republic of Korea, Thailand, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, United States of America, Uruguay and Costa Rica.

E. Other issues and topics of relevance for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument

21. Agenda item 10 was considered at the 7th meeting, on 29 July 2021. A statement was made by the representative of the Islamic Republic of Iran (also on behalf of Belarus, Cuba, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic and the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela).

22. At its 5th meeting, on 28 July 2021, statements were made by the representatives of the following international and regional organizations on all substantive items on the agenda: United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms, the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, the International Committee of the Red Cross and the Economic Community of West African States. Statements were also made by representatives of the following non-governmental organizations and civil society: the World Forum on Shooting Activities, the National Rifle Association, the National Firearms Association, the Sporting Arms and Ammunition Manufacturers' Institute, the International Action Network on Small Arms, Esfuerzos de Mujeres Bolivianas, Women for Peace and Democracy Nepal, The Halo Trust, the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons, and the Gender Equality Network for Small Arms Control.

IV. Adoption of the draft final document

23. At the 10th meeting, on 30 July 2021, under agenda item 11, the Meeting decided to retain paragraph 92 of the draft outcome document ([A/CONF.192/BMS/2021/CRP.2/Rev.1](#)) by a recorded vote of 100 to 1 with 10 abstentions.

The voting was as follows:²

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malaysia, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Namibia, Netherlands, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Viet Nam and Yemen.

Against:

Iran (Islamic Republic of)

Abstaining:

Belarus, Cambodia, Congo, Cuba, Madagascar, Nepal, Nicaragua, Russian Federation, Syrian Arab Republic and Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of).

² Subsequently the delegations of Botswana, Nepal, Sao Tome and Principe and Ukraine informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour of the paragraph.

24. Also at its 10th meeting, the Meeting adopted the draft outcome document, by a recorded vote of 114 to 0 with 0 abstentions.

The voting was as follows:³

In favour:

Albania, Algeria, Angola, Argentina, Armenia, Australia, Austria, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Barbados, Belarus, Belgium, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Brunei Darussalam, Bulgaria, Burundi, Cambodia, Canada, Chile, China, Colombia, Congo, Costa Rica, Côte d'Ivoire, Croatia, Cuba, Cyprus, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Egypt, Estonia, Fiji, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Honduras, Hungary, India, Indonesia, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Jamaica, Japan, Jordan, Kenya, Kuwait, Latvia, Lebanon, Libya, Liechtenstein, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Malta, Mauritania, Mexico, Monaco, Morocco, Namibia, Nepal, Netherlands, Nicaragua, Nigeria, Pakistan, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Romania, Russian Federation, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Africa, Sri Lanka, Switzerland, Syrian Arab Republic, Thailand, Timor-Leste, Togo, Trinidad and Tobago, Tunisia, Turkey, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom, United States, Uruguay, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of), Viet Nam and Yemen.

Against:

None.

Abstaining:

None.

25. At the same meeting, it was decided to include in the present report the outcome of the Seventh Biennial Meeting on agenda items 6 to 10 (see annex).

V. Adoption of the report

26. At the 10th meeting, on 30 July 2021, the participants considered and adopted the draft report of the Seventh Biennial Meeting ([A/CONF.192/BMS/2021/L.4](#)) and authorized the Chair to finalize the report.

³ Subsequently the delegations of Botswana, Montenegro and Ukraine informed the Secretariat that they had intended to vote in favour of the draft outcome document.

Annex

Outcome of the Seventh 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

1. In the context of the Seventh 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, States considered key challenges and opportunities relating to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument at the national, regional and global levels for the purposes of preventing and combating the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients.
2. States highlighted that 2021 marks the twentieth anniversary since the adoption of the Programme of Action and recognized the important contribution that the instrument had made to the dialogue and concerted actions of States to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.
3. States reaffirmed their respect for and commitment to the principles and provisions set out in the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and their continued relevance and importance as global frameworks to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.
4. States reiterated the need for the full and effective implementation of all the principles and provisions of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and recognized the provisions contained in the outcome documents of previous Biennial Meetings of States, Review Conferences and relevant General Assembly resolutions.
5. States reaffirmed their respect for and commitment to their obligations under international law and the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, as well as their commitments set out in the Programme of Action, including its eighth to eleventh preambular paragraphs.
6. States reiterated that Governments bear the primary responsibility for preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and underlined the importance of States assuming strong national ownership of the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.
7. States noted that preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including preventing and combating the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients was a global challenge, requiring concerted efforts at the national, regional and global levels.
8. States recognized that national-level efforts should ensure multi-sectoral and interdepartmental collaboration across relevant entities.
9. States underscored, in particular, the valuable efforts undertaken at the global, regional and subregional levels in support of national efforts for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument.
10. States recognized the need for the equal, full and effective participation of women in all decision-making and implementation processes relating to the

Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and encouraged mainstreaming gender perspectives into their implementation efforts to address the differential impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys.

11. States underscored the role which civil society plays in supporting States' efforts for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and recognized the positive contributions youth can bring in this regard.

12. States continued to stress that the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument remains uneven and that challenges and obstacles still stand in the way of their full and effective implementation and underlined the need for enhanced, effective and sustainable international cooperation and assistance.

13. States called 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.

14. States recognized the importance of preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons in efforts to prevent and combat domestic and transnational organized crime, terrorism, drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, money laundering, and the illegal exploitation of natural resources.

15. States further recognized that the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument support conflict prevention, crisis management and peacebuilding policies and programmes which involve all relevant parties, including victims and survivors impacted by armed violence.

16. States acknowledged that the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument was vital for sustainable peace, security, socioeconomic development and the protection of lives, also as outlined in the relevant provisions on small arms and light weapons in the Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament.

17. States further acknowledged the importance of addressing the root causes of armed conflict and armed violence in preventing and combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

18. States reiterated their grave concern that the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including illicit manufacture, brokering, transfer and circulation, their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled proliferation, continued to have a wide range of negative humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences, undermined the rule of law, respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and impeded the provision of humanitarian assistance to victims and survivors of armed conflict.

19. States recognized that recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, such as modular weapons, and the use of new materials, such as polymers, have implications for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and should be addressed by all States, taking into account opportunities, challenges, the role of industry, as well as financial and technical support.

20. States recalled paragraph 38 of the International Tracing Instrument and took note of the dedicated, informal consultations on opportunities and challenges posed

by recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacture, technology and design pursuant to the report of the Third Review Conference, that stressed the importance of consultations on this topic with a view to facilitating consensus, and which took into account concerns raised by States.

21. States noted that diversion risks exist at each stage of the life cycle of a weapon, including manufacture, before and during transfer, post-delivery storage in stockpiles and end use or disposal.

22. States acknowledged that diversion to the illicit market includes illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients, inter alia cross-border trafficking without appropriate authorization, unauthorized State retransfer or the violation of arms embargoes imposed by the Security Council.

23. States recognized the need for continued dialogue, information exchange and concerted action at the national, regional and international levels on the implementation of measures to prevent the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients.

24. States took note of the ongoing, governmental expert process established by General Assembly resolution 72/55, which was adopted by consensus, mandated to address problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus, taking into account discussions in open, informal consultations held throughout 2018 and 2019.

I. Consideration of 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, at the national level, the regional level, and the global level, including considerations to preventing and combating the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients

Bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions, States resolved to undertake the following measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacture and trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, as well as their diversion and illicit international transfer to unauthorized recipients:

1. At the national level

25. To put in place, where they do not exist, adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to exercise effective national control over the whole life cycle of small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including their manufacture, within State's areas of jurisdiction and the export, import, transit, trans-shipment or retransfer of such weapons.

26. To enforce and apply adequate national controls to the entire life cycle of small arms and light weapons, in accordance with national legal frameworks, to minimize the risk of diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to illegal armed groups, criminals, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients.

27. To establish, in accordance with national legal frameworks, as a criminal offence the illegal manufacture of small arms and light weapons, including manufacture without a licence, and to effectively enforce applicable laws, regulations and administrative procedures.

28. To comply with all commitments under the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument related to the international transfer of small arms and light weapons and to put in place, where they do not exist, and apply measures in order to prevent diversion to illicit markets, including to terrorists and other unauthorized recipients, which may include export risk assessments, authenticated end user and/or end use certification and effective legal and enforcement measures, including, where appropriate, and in accordance with applicable bilateral agreements, post-shipment verifications.
29. To make every effort, in accordance with national laws and practices and in accordance with applicable bilateral agreements, to prevent the unauthorized re-exports of small arms and light weapons, including by stipulating the parameters for the timing of re-exports and to consult the original exporting State before the retransfer of those weapons.
30. To ensure that adequate steps, such as risk assessments, are taken 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 and illicit trade.
31. To ensure that international humanitarian law and international human rights law are taken into consideration in national small arms and light weapons transfer decisions.
32. To take effective measures to prevent and combat the illicit brokering of small arms and light weapons.
33. In accordance with the provisions of the Programme of Action, to redouble national efforts to provide for the safe, secure, comprehensive and effective management of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons held by Governments to prevent and combat the diversion of those weapons.
34. To ensure that adequate marking, record-keeping, inventory management and accounting control measures are in place, in accordance with national laws and regulations, to enable States to identify the diversion of small arms and light weapons from their stockpiles and the implementation of appropriate measures when losses are detected.
35. To continue to regularly assess, bearing in mind States' security requirements, national stockpiles held by armed forces, police, or any other body authorized to hold small arms and light weapons for surpluses and to responsibly dispose of stocks that no longer meet operational needs, preferably through destruction, and to ensure the safe, secure, comprehensive and effective management of such stocks until disposal.
36. To acknowledge that States that apply provisions of the Programme of Action to small arms and light weapons ammunition can integrate applicable policies and practices into their small arms and light weapons control efforts with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Programme of Action.
37. To strengthen national organizational capabilities and to allocate adequate resources to mitigate diversion risks, bearing in mind the importance of a whole-of-government approach which involves all relevant branches of government, including police and judiciary, customs, and arms export and import licensing authorities.
38. To support, where consistent with domestic laws, long-term, standardized, systematic and disaggregated data collection and analysis, including small arms surveys, to identify trafficking routes and patterns, diversion points and other methods of concealing weapons for the purpose of trafficking to inform evidence based, effective policymaking and programming to prevent and combat the diversion and illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients.

39. To enhance inter-agency coordination and cooperation to identify and act against groups and individuals involved in the illegal manufacture, trade, stockpiling, transfer, possession, as well as financing for acquisition, of illicit small arms and light weapons.

40. To enhance national inter-agency information exchange systems to prevent the diversion of small arms and light weapons, including, where applicable, feasible and in compliance with national law, but not limited to national small arms and light weapons registries and licensing authorities, customs, border control, law enforcement and criminal justice services which enhance operational efficiency.

41. To prevent diversion of small arms and light weapons and accidental explosions by safeguarding national stockpiles through their safe, secure and efficient management, including record-keeping, regular inventories, secure transportation, surplus/obsolete disposal and the implementation of appropriate control measures when losses are detected to reduce the risk of diversion.

Addressing emerging challenges related to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons

42. To apply, consistent with relevant national laws, regulations and administrative procedures, to prevent the illicit conversion of replica, blank-firing or toy guns into functional weapons and make such illicit conversions a criminal offence.

43. To consider sharing national experiences in addressing the problem of illicitly converted small arms and light weapons, including on 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.

44. To ensure that relevant national laws, regulations and administrative procedures applicable to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons also apply to transactions conducted through the Internet.

45. To apply existing provisions of the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument to small arms and light weapons manufactured using 3D printing (additive manufacturing), including privately-made weapons used or possessed unlawfully, and other similar models that use novel technologies.

46. To combat the use of small arms and light weapons related new technologies, including additive manufacturing technologies, for illicit purposes, including trafficking, by strengthening, inter alia, the protection of intellectual property rights relating to small arms and light weapons and national capacities to enforce them.

47. To take 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, consistent with domestic law, over their export, import and transit.

48. To put in place, as appropriate, and consistent with national laws, regulations and administrative procedures, practical measures to detect postal shipments which include illicitly trafficked small arms and light weapons, both fully assembled and disassembled.

49. To undertake, to the greatest extent possible, the destruction of surplus small arms and light weapons, which should be undertaken and verified by authorized entities only and to ensure that when small arms and light weapons are permanently deactivated, that standards as close as possible to destruction are applied and that the weapons have been rendered permanently inoperable; and exchange information, tools and existing standards in this regard, with a view to identifying good practices,

including certificates of irreversible deactivations which can supplement existing records and the requirement that deactivation is undertaken and verified by authorized entities only.

Strengthening measurability and implementation of the Programme of Action

50. To consider the establishment of voluntary national and regional targets in line with the provisions of the Programme of Action, taking into account varying national and regional contexts, with a view to strengthening national and regional ownership and the measurability of implementation progress.

51. To encourage the development and implementation of national action plans, capacity-building programmes and/or other national policies which address all stages of the life cycle of a weapon, in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action, and which enable States to define national priorities and targets, and to coordinate the implementation of strategies, stakeholder involvement and resources allocation.

52. To consider including the collection of disaggregated data by sex on the impacts of small arms and light weapons as part of voluntary national and regional targets.

53. To make full use of voluntary national reports to assess progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, to build confidence and promote transparency, as well as to identify needs and opportunities for international cooperation and assistance.

54. To seek to reinforce national control measures in line with other relevant subregional, regional, and global instruments to which a State is a Party, noting the benefit of coordinated action, with a view to preventing and reducing the risks of diversion, illicit manufacturing and trafficking of small arms and light weapons.

55. To strengthen the cooperation with civil society, youth, victims and survivors of armed violence, parliamentarians, industry and the private sector for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument.

56. To recognize the important and positive contribution that young people can make to efforts to combat the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons and to promote their meaningful and inclusive participation.

2. At the regional level

57. To recognize the existing road maps to address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and encourage the adoption, establishment and the further strengthening, where appropriate and as agreed by the States concerned, of relevant regional and subregional instruments, mechanisms, targets and good practices to complement the global process and support the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

58. To consider the establishment and implementation of further regional and/or subregional action plans which could include goals and targets, measurable objectives and concrete indicators with a view to address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in a comprehensive, sustainable and coordinated manner in respective regions.

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

60. To promote and strengthen border cooperation and subregional, regional and cross-regional coordination and information-sharing mechanisms, including the

sharing of good practices and peer-to-peer exchanges, between law enforcement agencies, customs, and export and import licensing authorities, with a view to preventing and combating the diversion of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients across borders.

61. To promote, where consistent with domestic law, standardized data collection within regions to strengthen the comparability of data and to support the exchange of information between law enforcement agencies, customs, and export and import licensing authorities.

62. To continue strengthening the role of the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament in supporting the implementation of the Programme of Action.

3. At the global level

Programme of Action in the context of conflict and post-conflict settings

63. To ensure the safe, secure and effective management of all small arms and light weapon stockpiles in conflict and post-conflict situations.

64. To encourage and enable States emerging from conflict, in cooperation with other States, multilateral organizations and civil society, to build sustainable capacity which enables national authorities to fully and effectively implement the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

65. To reduce the illicit flows of small arms and light weapons through weapons recovery and voluntary surrender programmes.

66. To encourage the consideration, as relevant, of provisions related to preventing and combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in the relevant mandates of United Nations and regional peace support operations, in particular the collection, identification, recording, tracing and destruction of illicit small arms and light weapons and support to national capacity-building efforts to prevent and combat the diversion of and illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

67. To strengthen national capacities to fully comply with arms embargoes decided by the Security Council in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

Armed violence and the broader peace, security, and sustainable development nexus

68. To ensure that the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action is integrated into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including all relevant Goals and targets, in particular Sustainable Development Goal 16, and efforts undertaken as part of the Decade of Action.

69. To highlight progress made under indicator 16.4.2 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, in order to minimize administrative reporting burdens.

70. To address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons through, among others, national development strategies and frameworks, where they exist.

71. 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.

72. To ensure the equal, full and effective participation of women, including in leadership roles and as agents of change, in all policy, planning and implementation

processes, mechanisms and fora and at all levels related to the implementation of the Programme of Action, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, General Assembly resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, and other relevant United Nations resolutions.

73. To encourage, as appropriate, the harmonization of national policies, including action plans, on small arms and light weapons and the Women, Peace and Security agenda and its four pillars – prevention, protection, participation and relief and recovery.

74. To take account of the differing impacts of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys by collecting, where feasible, disaggregated data by sex, age and disability and utilizing analysis mechanisms to inform evidence-based gender-sensitive policymaking and programming with a view to strengthening the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels.

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

76. 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.

77. To recognize that eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is a key part of combating gender-based violence and sexual violence in conflict.

78. To report, on a voluntary basis, gender-relevant information and initiatives as part of the national reports submitted on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

79. To take account of the disproportionate impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, children and youth and to develop, where they do not exist, or strengthen response mechanisms.

II. Consideration of the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, including an exchange of views on the implications of the developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, taking into account all views and proposals of Member States, as well as relevant deliberations during previous meetings and relevant General Assembly resolutions adopted by consensus.

Bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions, States resolve to undertake the following measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacture and trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, as well as their diversion and illicit international transfer to unauthorized recipients:

80. To recognize the importance of developing or establishing strict national regulatory frameworks for the marking, recording and tracing of small arms and light weapons, in line with the International Tracing Instrument to prevent and combat the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients.

81. To reaffirm that the choice of methods for marking small arms and light weapons is a national prerogative to be exercised in accordance with the requirements set out in the International Tracing Instrument.
82. To reinforce efforts 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 and administrative frameworks for this purpose, including, where applicable, information exchange among relevant national authorities with a view to including all relevant information when responding to tracing requests in a timely and effective manner.
83. To redouble efforts to submit national reports on the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument and to take advantage of them to support data collection for relevant indicators, in particular indicator 16.4.2, relating to the Sustainable Development Goals.
84. To encourage that the national, regional and global implementation of the International Tracing Instrument is integrated into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and efforts undertaken as part of the Decade of Action where relevant.
85. To ensure, to the greatest extent feasible, retrievability of all relevant data to enhance the traceability and response time for tracing requests.
86. To consult records within the State where the illicit small arm or light weapon was found and/or consult with the State of manufacture of that weapon when tracing illicit small arms and light weapons.
87. To reinforce the judicial and law enforcement cooperation between States on tracing requests to facilitate criminal investigations and criminal justice response.
88. To encourage States in a position to do so to assist other States to build sustainable national capacity for weapons marking, identification and tracing with a view to enhance the submission and responses of tracing requests and covering issues such as the interpretation of markings and the determination of the likely traceability of a weapon.
89. To encourage, as relevant, the consideration of provisions related to the International Tracing Instrument in the mandates of United Nations and regional peace support operations, in particular marking, recording-keeping and tracing of small arms and light weapons.

Recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, in particular polymer and modular weapons, and ways of addressing them

90. To reinforce efforts to implement the commitments on marking, record-keeping and tracing contained in the International Tracing Instrument regardless of the materials, design or methods used in the manufacture of small arms and light weapons.
91. To take into account 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 and to strengthen normative frameworks, where needed, and cooperation between law enforcement agencies so as to prevent unauthorized recipients, including criminals and terrorists, from acquiring small arms and light weapons.
92. To continue exchanging views on recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, in particular polymer and modular

weapons, and on ways of addressing them and to consider the proposal of an open-ended technical expert group at the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States, inter alia mandate, funding, time frame and modalities that could develop action-oriented next steps agreed by consensus that address challenges and opportunities of such technologies to the marking, tracing and record-keeping of such weapons.

93. To consider including national experiences on recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design in the biennial national reports submitted on the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument.

94. To request the Secretariat, within existing resources, to develop a good practice document on marking practices for modular and polymer weapons taking into account the views of all Member States and the role of manufacturers.

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

96. To take advantage, as appropriate and where available, of opportunities presented by recent technologies, such as data matrix codes, radio frequency identification and biometrics, to strengthen the identification and record-keeping of small arms and light weapons.

III. Consideration of international cooperation and assistance, including capacity-building, for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and including the proposals on the establishment of a dedicated fellowship training programme on small arms and light weapons as well as national, regional and global target-setting, where applicable

Bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions, States resolve to undertake the following measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacture and trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, as well as their diversion and illicit international transfer to unauthorized recipients:

97. To note the need for adequate, measurable, sustainable, and timely international cooperation and assistance to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

98. To strengthen adequate, accessible, effective and sustainable international cooperation and assistance measures, including, as appropriate, improved funding arrangements, technology transfer and adequate training and support programmes, as well as strong national ownership, in order to accelerate the attainment of the objectives of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

99. To ensure that international cooperation and assistance is effective regardless of where along the life cycle of small arms and light weapons the assistance is provided, keeping in mind the aim for coherent and sustainable life-cycle management.

100. To encourage the reinforcement of the international cooperation and assistance to the appropriate use of new technologies for marking, record-keeping and tracing, where available, in strengthening the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument in the light of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design.

101. To ensure that international cooperation and assistance are underpinned by national ownership, involve national authorities in the planning, implementation and evaluation, and support government structures, processes, capabilities and normative frameworks, while taking into account the needs and priorities of the recipient State.

102. To increase the impact of international cooperation and assistance in small arms and light weapons control.

International cooperation to prevent and combat the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients

103. To explore ways to ensure and further strengthen comprehensive international cooperation, including South-South and triangular cooperation.

104. To deepen cooperation, in accordance with national laws and regulations, with organizations such as the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization to prevent and combat the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients.

105. To continue 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) and other relevant information exchange mechanisms.

106. To make use of bilateral and multilateral cooperation as well as subregional, regional and global mechanisms to exchange information and experiences, including existing challenges, to expose and cut off illicit arms trafficking channels and to improve the capacity for risk assessments in arms export control processes.

107. To encourage States in a position to do so, to share information and experiences on measures taken in response to cases of unauthorized re-export and non-compliance with end user certificates.

108. To work with judicial and law enforcement, including in manufacturing, exporting and importing States, through bilateral, regional or international cooperation to identify and address diversion points into the illicit market.

International assistance to strengthen the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument through assistance, including preventing and combating the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients

109. To explore ways to ensure and further strengthen comprehensive international assistance related to all aspects of the life cycle management of small arms and light weapons.

110. To encourage States in a position to do so, to share expertise, provide financial support, transfer knowledge, resources, equipment and technology, and build institutional capacities to strengthen border control, customs and law enforcement to prevent diversion, in particular, loss and theft, and accidental explosions by safeguarding national stockpiles through their safe, secure and efficient management.

111. To incorporate marking, recordkeeping, and tracing consistent with the International Tracing Instrument into trainings, capacity-building and assistance programmes.

112. To encourage States in a position to do so, to build expertise through capacity-building and training to ensure that national authorities can benefit from opportunities and address challenges related to new technologies.

113. To establish or strengthen subregional, regional, cross-regional and global cooperation, coordination and information-sharing mechanisms in order to enhance the effectiveness of assistance programmes, strengthen the matching of needs with resources, improve dialogue between donors and recipients, avoid duplications and maximize complementarities.

114. To encourage States in a position to do so, in collaboration with requesting States, to build sustainable capacity on the identification of weapons and other issues related to recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, in particular polymer and modular weapons, and ways of addressing them.

115. To encourage States in a position to do so, to embed technology transfers in broader cooperation frameworks aiming at building sustainable capacities for the life cycle management of small arms and light weapons, through the establishment of appropriate normative frameworks, dedicated structures, processes and capabilities, including, *inter alia*, adequate training, equipment, personnel, financial and infrastructure management, in line with international standards.

116. To consider establishing voluntary national and regional targets in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, with a view to ensuring that national and regional ownership and priorities underpin resource mobilization, assistance requests and the assistance programmes.

117. To welcome the proposal for 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 and with a view to its expedient establishment and request the Secretariat to present funding and administrative arrangements, for consideration by Member States at the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States.

118. To encourage States in a position to do so to contribute to the Secretary-General's Saving Lives Entity, 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 other existing funding arrangements such as the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation and to encourage the timely and effective implementation of respective initiatives under those arrangements.

119. To request the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to seek the views of Member States, international and regional organizations and other stakeholders for enhancing international cooperation and assistance modalities and procedures in the framework of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, taking into account good practice and lessons learned, and to present recommendations for consideration by Member States at the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States.

IV. Exchange of views on the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States

120. To recall the decision, pursuant to the schedule of meetings for the period from 2018 to 2024 agreed upon at the third Review Conference, to convene a one-week biennial meeting of States in 2022 and the fourth United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent,

Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in 2024, to be preceded by a preparatory committee meeting in early 2024 of not more than five days.

121. The Eighth Biennial Meeting of States will 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 and the International Tracing Instrument, including means of enhancing modalities and procedures for international cooperation and assistance.

V. Other issues and topics of relevance for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument

122. During the discussion of agenda item 6, some States indicated that, without prejudice to the views of other States, in their view, certain issues were important for the implementation of the Programme of Action. On those issues, other delegations expressed a different opinion. The issues included:

(a) Some States encouraged the application of the provisions of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument to small arms and light weapons ammunition and called for further dialogue among States in this regard.
