



# General Assembly

Distr.: Limited  
12 July 2022

Original: English

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## **Eighth 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, 27 June–1 July 2022

### **Report of the Eighth 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. 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 [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, and 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 also convened in New York, from 18 to 29 June 2018.
3. The biennial meetings of States were held in New York, with the first two taking place from 7 to 11 July 2003 and from 11 to 15 July 2005. The Third Biennial Meeting was held from 14 to 18 July 2008, the Fourth Biennial Meeting from 14 to 18 June



2010, the Fifth Biennial Meeting from 16 to 20 June 2014 and the Sixth Biennial Meeting from 6 to 10 June 2016.

4. 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 Seventh Biennial Meeting of States, scheduled for 15 to 19 June 2020. Pursuant to resolution [75/241](#), the Seventh Biennial Meeting was held from 26 to 30 July 2021.

5. Pursuant to 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.

## **II. Organizational matters**

### **A. Opening and duration**

6. The Eighth 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 27 June to 1 July 2022, during the course of which 10 meetings were held to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action.

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

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

### **B. Officers**

9. At the 1st and 10th meetings, on 27 June and 1 July 2022, the following officers were elected by acclamation:

*Chair:*

Enrique Manalo (Philippines)

*Vice-Chairs:*

Algeria, El Salvador, Ghana, Guatemala, Hungary, Jamaica, Latvia, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Thailand and Togo.

### **C. Adoption of the agenda**

10. Also at the 1st meeting, the provisional agenda ([A/CONF.192/BMS/2022/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.
  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.
  8. Consideration of international cooperation and assistance, including capacity-building, and means of enhancing modalities and procedures for international cooperation and assistance.
  9. Other issues and topics for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.
  10. Consideration of the draft final document.
  11. Adoption of the report.
11. At the same meeting, the provisional programme of work ([A/CONF.192/BMS/2022/L.2](#)), as orally revised, was approved.

#### **D. Rules of procedure**

12. 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/2022/L.3](#)).
13. At the same meeting, a decision was taken on the participation of non-governmental organizations in the work of the Eighth Biennial Meeting ([A/CONF.192/BMS/2022/INF/1](#)).

#### **E. Documentation**

14. The list of documents before the Eighth Biennial Meeting was issued in document [A/CONF.192/BMS/2022/INF/2](#).
15. National reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action were submitted to the Eighth Biennial Meeting by the following States: Albania, Argentina, Australia, Bangladesh, Belgium, Benin, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Bosnia and Herzegovina, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Canada, Central African Republic, China, Colombia, Côte d'Ivoire, Czechia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Denmark, Egypt, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Gambia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Grenada, Guatemala, Guinea, Honduras, Hungary, India, Iran (Islamic Republic of), Iraq, Ireland, Israel, Italy, Japan, Kazakhstan, Kenya, Latvia, Liberia, Lithuania, Madagascar, Malaysia, Maldives, Mali, Mauritius, Montenegro, Morocco, Netherlands, New Zealand, Nicaragua, Niger, Nigeria, Peru, Philippines, Poland, Qatar, Republic of Korea, Russian Federation, Rwanda, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sierra Leone, Singapore, Slovakia, Slovenia, South Sudan, Sudan, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Togo, Türkiye, Uganda, United Arab Emirates, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and United Republic of Tanzania.
16. Reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action were submitted to the Eighth Biennial Meeting by the following intergovernmental and regional organizations: Economic Community of West African States, International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), League of Arab States, Organization of American

States, Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States, South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons and World Customs Organization.

### **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**

17. Agenda item 6 was considered at the 1st to 3rd meetings, on 27 and 28 June 2022. At the 1st meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Spain, Suriname (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), the European Union (also on behalf of other States), Mexico, Togo, Ethiopia, Mauritania (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Chile, Nigeria (on behalf of the Group of African States), Ghana, Canada, Egypt, Switzerland, Japan, Thailand, Costa Rica, the Russian Federation, Colombia, Algeria, Romania, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Honduras, Malaysia, Indonesia, El Salvador, Uruguay, Djibouti, Ireland, Sri Lanka, Guatemala, Timor Leste, Bulgaria, France and Mali. At the 2nd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Cuba, Brazil, Pakistan, Paraguay (on behalf of the South American Common Market), Australia, Ecuador, Poland, South Africa, Belgium, India, Iraq, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Republic of Korea, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, the United States of America, China, Burkina Faso, Ukraine, Germany, the United Kingdom, Lebanon, Argentina, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela and Viet Nam. At the 3rd meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Peru, Türkiye, Portugal, Kenya 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**

18. Agenda item 7 was considered at the 4th and 6th meetings, on 28 and 29 June 2022. At the 4th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Costa Rica, the European Union (also on behalf of other States), Mauritania (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Colombia, Jordan, Malaysia, Algeria, the Republic of Korea, Egypt, Iraq, the Islamic Republic of Iran, France, Switzerland, Germany, Ghana (also on behalf of the Economic Community of West African States), Australia, Mali, El Salvador, China, India, Pakistan, Cuba, the United Republic of Tanzania, Belgium, Guatemala, Indonesia, and the United States. At the 6th meeting, a statement was made by the representative of Peru.

#### **C. Consideration of international cooperation and assistance, including capacity-building, and means of enhancing modalities and procedures for international cooperation and assistance**

19. Agenda item 8 was considered at the 6th and 7th meetings, on 29 and 30 June 2022. At the 6th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of the European Union (also on behalf of other States), Mauritania (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Côte d'Ivoire, the United States, Algeria, Malaysia, Switzerland, the Republic of Korea, Mali, Egypt, France, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Canada, Japan,

China, Cuba, Australia, Brazil, Germany, El Salvador, Argentina, Togo, Kenya, Iraq, India, Indonesia, Costa Rica, the Syrian Arab Republic, Colombia, Lebanon, Mexico and Nicaragua. At the 7th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Peru, Belgium and Iraq.

#### **D. Other issues and topics for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument**

20. Agenda item 9 was considered at the 7th and 8th meetings, on 30 June 2022. At the 7th meeting, statements were made by the representatives of Colombia, Egypt, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Pakistan, Costa Rica, Peru, Mexico, Algeria, Cuba, the Syrian Arab Republic, Jamaica, the Russian Federation, Honduras, the Dominican Republic, Ghana, Belgium, Uruguay, Austria, Ireland, the United States, France, Brazil, Australia, the Philippines, Italy and Germany. At the 8th meeting, a statement was made by the representative of El Salvador.

21. At its 5th meeting, on 29 June 2022, statements were made by the representatives of the following international and regional organizations on all substantive items on the agenda: Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe, League of Arab States, North Atlantic Treaty Organization, International Committee of the Red Cross, Organization of American States, INTERPOL, United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms Mechanism, Economic Community of West African States and the Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States. Statements were also made by the representatives of the following non-governmental and civil society organizations: International Action Network on Small Arms, Nonviolence International Southeast Asia, Disarmament and Arms Control, International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War, Associazione Nazionale Produttori Armi e Munizioni Sportive e Civili, Women's Institute for Alternative Development, Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace, International Action Network on Small Arms youth network, Vision GRAM International, World Forum on Shooting Activities, Arias Foundation for Peace and Human Progress, Tech 4 Tracing, Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Fondation pour l'étude des relations internationales et du développement, Small Arms Survey, Mines Advisory Group and Maat for Peace, Development and Human Rights Association.

### **IV. Adoption of the draft final document**

22. At the 10th meeting, on 1 July 2022, under agenda item 10, it was decided to include in the present report the outcome of the Eighth Biennial Meeting on agenda items 6 to 9 (see annex).

23. Statements were made by the representatives of Japan, the Islamic Republic of Iran, Romania, the Russian Federation, the Syrian Arab Republic, Egypt (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Indonesia, Pakistan, the Philippines, Colombia, Mexico, Costa Rica, Cuba, Algeria, India, the United States, Djibouti, Switzerland, the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela, the European Union and Brazil.

### **V. Adoption of the report**

24. At the 10th meeting, on 1 July 2022, the participants considered and adopted the draft report of the Eighth Biennial Meeting ([A/CONF.192/BMS/2022/L.4](#)) and authorized the Chair to finalize the report.

## Annex

### **Outcome of the Eighth 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 Eighth 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 Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons at the national, regional and global levels, including means of enhancing modalities and procedures for international cooperation and assistance.
2. 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, including the legitimate right to self-defence and the right of each State to acquire, manage and transfer small arms and light weapons for its self-defence and security needs, as well as the principle of non-interference.
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, including its eighth to eleventh preambular paragraphs, 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 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.
5. 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.
6. States expressed grave concern that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including illicit manufacture, brokering, transfer and circulation, their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled proliferation, initiates, exacerbates and sustains armed violence, has a wide range of negative humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences, undermines the rule of law, as well as the respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and impedes the provision of humanitarian assistance to people affected by armed violence.
7. States recognized the importance of preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons as part of efforts to prevent and combat domestic and transnational organized crime, drug trafficking, trafficking in persons, money-laundering, the illegal exploitation of natural resources and the smuggling of migrants. States also recognized the adverse effects of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in that it exacerbated terrorism, and emphasized the role of the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument in addressing the threat posed by terrorism.

8. States acknowledged that the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument is vital for advancing efforts towards sustainable peace, security, socioeconomic development, the enjoyment of human rights and the protection of lives, including as outlined in the relevant passages on small arms and light weapons in the Agenda for Disarmament of the Secretary-General.
9. States recognized the need for the full, equal, meaningful, 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 a gender perspective 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.
10. States underscored the role that civil society plays in supporting the efforts of States to fully and effectively implement the Programme of Action and recognized the positive contributions young people can bring in that regard.
11. States continued to stress that the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument remained uneven and that challenges and obstacles still stood in the way of full and effective implementation, and underlined the need for enhanced, effective and sustainable international cooperation and assistance.
12. States reiterated that there was a need for the full and effective implementation of all the principles and provisions of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and recalled the provisions contained in the outcome documents of previous biennial meetings of States, review conferences and relevant resolutions of the General Assembly.
13. States recognized that recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, in particular polymer and modular weapons, and firearms produced using three-dimensional (3D) printing 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, the need for financial and technical support, technological gaps between States and the need to foster international cooperation.
14. 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 and their willingness to take national ownership of their efforts to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons; 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, South-South and triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that they are not a substitute for North-South cooperation.
15. States reaffirmed the importance of identifying individuals and groups engaged in the illegal manufacture of, trade in, brokering of, stockpiling of, transfer of, possession of and financing of the acquisition of illicit small arms and light weapons and taking action under appropriate national law against such individuals and groups, including by investigating and prosecuting.
16. States noted the importance of effective tracing of small arms and light weapons to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in conflict and post-conflict settings.

17. States recognized 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 of small arms and light weapons and their illicit international transfer to unauthorized recipients.

18. States reconfirmed that there was a need 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.

19. States took note of the establishment pursuant to General Assembly resolution [76/233](#) of an open-ended working group to elaborate a set of political commitments as a new global framework that will address existing gaps in through-life ammunition management.

20. States acknowledged the respective roles of those involved in the different stages in the entire life cycle of small arms and light weapons, including the importance of cooperation with the industry and private sector, as appropriate, to effectively prevent the illicit manufacture of and trade in small arms and light weapons.

## **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, regional and global levels**

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 of 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**

21. 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.

22. To apply and enforce adequate national controls with regard 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 unauthorized recipients, including organized criminal groups and terrorists, by, among other things, encouraging the implementation of best practices on disposal.

23. To take into account, where applicable, complementarities between the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and other relevant instruments to which a State is a Party, in particular regional and subregional instruments, in order to enhance, as appropriate, coordination at the national level of the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including with regard to national reporting.

24. To encourage the development and implementation of voluntary national action plans, capacity-building programmes and/or other national policies that address all



stages in the life cycle of a weapon, in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action, and enable States to define national priorities and targets, and to coordinate the implementation of strategies, stakeholder involvement and the allocation of resources.

25. To highlight, as appropriate and on a voluntary basis, progress in data collection efforts under indicator 16.4.2 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as part of national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, optimizing the use of national reports.

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

27. To submit, in a timely manner, voluntary national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action for consideration at 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, to be held in 2024, recognizing the importance of such reports in assessing progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, building confidence and promoting transparency and identifying needs and opportunities for international cooperation and assistance.

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

29. To comply, in line with national rules, laws and regulations, 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 the diversion of small arms and light weapons to illicit markets and to unauthorized recipients, including to terrorists, 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.

30. 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 that enhance operational efficiency.

31. To strengthen the cooperation with civil society, young people, people affected by armed conflict, parliamentarians, industry and the private sector, as appropriate, with a view to fully and effectively implement the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

32. To encourage States in a position to do so to increase funding for relevant policies and programmes, advocacy, education, training and research, taking into account the differential impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys.

33. To make every effort, in accordance with national laws and practices and in accordance with applicable bilateral agreements, to prevent 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 such weapons.

34. To ensure that international humanitarian law and international human rights law are taken into consideration in national small arms and light weapons transfer decisions.

35. To take effective measures to prevent and combat the illicit brokering of small arms and light weapons.

36. To apply measures consistent with relevant national laws, regulations and administrative procedures, aimed at preventing the illicit conversion of non-lethal firearms, or blank-firing or toy guns into functional weapons and make such illicit conversions a criminal offence.

37. To apply existing provisions of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument to small arms and light weapons, including those partially or totally manufactured using 3D printing (additive manufacturing), including privately made weapons used or possessed unlawfully.

38. 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.

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

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

## **2. At the regional level**

41. To recognize the existing regional road maps and initiatives to address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and encourage the adoption, establishment and further strengthening, where appropriate and as agreed by the States concerned, of relevant and applicable 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.

42. To encourage the sharing of experiences and lessons learned among regional and subregional organizations and mechanisms engaged in the establishment and implementation of regional road maps.

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

44. To consider, where appropriate, 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 addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in a comprehensive, sustainable and coordinated manner in the respective regions.

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

46. To promote and strengthen border cooperation and subregional, regional and cross-regional coordination and information-sharing efforts and mechanisms, including the sharing of good practices and peer-to-peer exchanges, between law enforcement agencies, customs agencies 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, in line with national laws and regulations.

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

48. To continue to strengthen 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**

#### *Armed violence, terrorism and the broader peace, security and sustainable development nexus*

49. 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 Sustainable Development Goals and targets, in particular Goal 16, and efforts undertaken as part of the decade of action to deliver the Goals.

50. To ensure the full, equal, meaningful and effective participation of women, including in leadership roles and as agents of change, in all policy, planning and implementation processes, mechanisms and forums 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.

51. To take account of the differential impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys, including by collecting, where feasible, data disaggregated 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.

52. To exchange national experiences, lessons learned and good practices on mainstreaming a gender perspective, including reporting, 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.

53. To recognize that eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons contributes to combating gender-based violence and sexual violence in conflict.

54. To take account of the differential impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys, and to strengthen or, where they do not exist, develop response mechanisms to address that impact.

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

55. To ensure the safe, secure and effective management of all small arms and light weapon stockpiles in conflict and post-conflict situations.
56. To encourage and enable States emerging from conflict, in cooperation with other States, multilateral organizations and civil society, to build sustainable capacity that enables national authorities to fully and effectively implement the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and assume strong national ownership.
57. To encourage the consideration, where appropriate and on a case-by-case basis, of relevant provisions related to preventing and combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in the relevant mandates of United Nations peace operations, follow-up missions and regional peace support operations, in particular provisions on the collection, identification, recording, tracing and destruction of illicit small arms and light weapons, in coordination with development and specialized agencies in the United Nations system, and the support to national capacity-building efforts, with the consent of host States, to prevent and combat the diversion of and illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including to ensure the adequate allocation of resources to relevant missions in that regard.
58. To strengthen national capacities to fully comply with arms embargoes decided by the Security Council in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.
59. To seek to reinforce national control measures in line with other relevant instruments to which a given State is a Party, in particular regional and subregional instruments, noting the benefit of coordinated action, with a view to preventing and reducing the risks of diversion of, illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in small arms and light weapons.
60. To request the Secretariat to prepare a comprehensive analysis, within existing resources, of progress in the trends, challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including with regard to national frameworks, based on available credible information, including information submitted and/or provided by Member States, for presentation at the fourth Review Conference for consideration and appropriate follow-up. Prior to their presentation at the fourth Review Conference, the findings and recommendations will be shared with Member States in one or more informal meetings.
61. To promote and strengthen, where applicable, coordination between national focal points responsible for the implementation of the Programme of Action and national focal points responsible for implementing the women and peace and security agenda, including in response to relevant sections of voluntary national reports, and to encourage the sharing of good practices and experiences between them at the national, regional and global levels.

## **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**

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 of and trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, as well as their diversion and illicit international transfer to unauthorized recipients:

62. 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 reliable and effective national legal and administrative frameworks for that 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.
63. To strengthen adequate, timely and constructive responses to tracing requests between States and to reinforce judicial and law enforcement cooperation between them with regard to tracing requests to facilitate criminal investigations and a criminal justice response, in line with national laws and regulations.
64. To encourage States in a position to do so to assist other States in building a sustainable national capacity in the marking, identification and tracing of weapons, including in interpreting markings on small arms and light weapons and determining the traceability of small arms and light weapons with a view to enhancing the submission of and responses to tracing requests, and to encourage States receiving that assistance to take strong national ownership and ensure the sustainability of the assistance provided.
65. To encourage the consideration, where appropriate and on a case-by-case basis, of relevant provisions related to the International Tracing Instrument in the mandates of United Nations peace operations, follow-up missions and regional peace support operations, in particular provisions on marking, record-keeping and tracing with regard to small arms and light weapons, and to support national efforts, with the consent of host States, in the area of marking, record-keeping and tracing with regard to small arms and light weapons, including to ensure the adequate allocation of resources to relevant missions in that regard.
66. To explore means to enhance international cooperation in tracing through dedicated voluntary reporting and the sharing of information on the handling of tracing requests with the United Nations.

*Implications of new technologies for the strengthening of the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument*

67. To strengthen cooperation with the private sector and industry in the development of technologies that improve the marking, record-keeping, tracing and safe, secure and effective storage of small arms and light weapons.
68. To take advantage, as appropriate and where they are 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, including by facilitating the transfer of such technologies, in particular to developing countries, where appropriate, by States in a position to do so.
69. To continue to raise awareness and exchange information, knowledge, techniques, experiences, best practices and views on recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, in particular polymer and modular weapons, and firearms produced using 3D printing, and on ways of addressing their aggravating effects on the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument.
70. To reinforce efforts to implement the commitments regarding 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.

71. 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 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.

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

73. To reinforce in a concrete manner international cooperation and assistance regarding the use of new technologies for marking, record-keeping and tracing, where available, to strengthen the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument in the light of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, in particular polymer and modular weapons, and firearms produced using 3D printing.

74. To assess ways of addressing the recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, particularly through strengthening international cooperation by technology transfer, including equipment, technical assistance and financial support by States in a position to do so, taking into consideration the technological gap between developed and developing countries.

75. To recommend that the fourth Review Conference discuss the establishment of an open-ended technical expert group, focusing on including, inter alia, realizing international cooperation in a concrete manner, scope, objectives, participation and modalities of the group, to develop agreed recommendations by consensus to ensure the full implementation of the International Tracing Instrument and the Programme of Action in the light of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, in particular polymer and modular weapons, and firearms produced using 3D printing. To request that, within existing resources, the Secretariat prepare and circulate proposals for the above-mentioned focus issues and any other necessary administrative arrangements in a timely manner prior to the fourth Review Conference so as to facilitate its discussion; and to initiate discussions on the mandate of such a group during the preparatory process leading up to the fourth Review Conference.

### **III. Consideration of international cooperation and assistance, including capacity-building, and means of enhancing modalities and procedures for international cooperation and assistance**

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 of and trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, as well as their diversion and illicit international transfer to unauthorized recipients:

76. 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.

77. To encourage States in a position to do so to share expertise, provide financial support, transfer knowledge, resources, equipment and technology, explore South-South and triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that they are not a substitute for North-South cooperation, and build institutional capacities to strengthen border control, customs and law enforcement to prevent diversion, in particular by loss and

theft, through the safe, sustainable, secure and efficient management of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons and the responsible disposal, preferably through destruction, of any surplus.

78. 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.

79. To encourage the promotion of good practices and lessons learned concerning modalities and procedures for international cooperation and assistance aimed at ensuring the effective implementation of the Programme of Action by, among other things, further encouraging the mainstreaming of a gender perspective and youth-related considerations in the implementation of the Programme of Action, including gender- and youth-based action plans.

80. To consider the development of appropriate national frameworks, dedicated structures, procedures and capabilities, including doctrinal guidelines or policies and organizational development, as well as adequate training, equipment, personnel, financial, infrastructure and security management, with a view to building sustainable capacities to manage small arms and light weapons stockpiles throughout their life cycle.

81. To strengthen international cooperation among States in a position to do so for building the capacity of States to address the opportunities and challenges related to recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, in particular polymer and modular weapons, and firearms produced using 3D printing.

82. To support capacity-building at the regional and subregional level with regard to the provision of tailored policy and operational support and assistance to States in tackling the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

83. To decide the establishment, within the immediately upcoming budgetary cycle of the United Nations, of a standing 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, welcoming the Secretariat's presentation on options for funding and administrative arrangements for the programme.

84. To encourage the use of voluntary national reports for the communication of assistance requests as well as for the planning and delivery of international cooperation and assistance.

85. To promote international cooperation and assistance responding to the needs and implementation priorities identified in national action plans and regional road maps where applicable.

86. To encourage States in a position to do so to support the funding of assistance projects over several years to allow for sustained capacity-building and multi-stakeholder coordination that includes civil society.

87. To develop options for enhancing the effectiveness of the existing international assistance frameworks in support of the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including by establishing a structured procedure within the Secretariat to process requests for assistance submitted under the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, for consideration and appropriate follow-up by Member States at the fourth Review Conference.

88. To support existing mechanisms aimed at matching needs with expertise and resources.

89. To encourage the conduct of voluntary, nationally determined baseline assessments, where appropriate, as a joint undertaking of requesting and donor States as mutually agreed in the context of requests for international cooperation and assistance that include financial assistance and the transfer of technology under the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, with a view to addressing needs in a comprehensive and sustainable manner, preserving and strengthening national ownership of requesting States and fostering confidence between all stakeholders.

90. To encourage States in a position to do so to embed technology transfers in broader cooperation frameworks so as to build sustainable capacities for the life cycle management of small arms and light weapons through the establishment of appropriate national frameworks, dedicated structures, processes and capabilities, including doctrinal guidelines or policies and organizational development, as well as adequate training, equipment, personnel, financial, infrastructure and security management, and to explore South-South and triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that they are not a substitute for North-South cooperation.

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

92. To make use of and strengthen cooperation and information-sharing efforts and mechanisms at the international, regional and subregional levels, as appropriate, to share information, experiences, guidelines and good practices between law enforcement agencies, customs agencies, and export and import licensing authorities, in line with national laws and regulations, to prevent diversion to unauthorized recipients, including organized criminal groups and terrorists.

93. To consider including activities related to international cooperation and assistance in the biennial national reports submitted on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

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

95. To encourage the effective implementation of cooperation and assistance projects through regular updates on progress and timely reporting on both substantive and financial matters in accordance with established procedures, with the consent of the recipient State.

#### **IV. Other issues and topics concerning the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument**

##### **Exchange of views on the fourth Review Conference**

96. 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 the fourth Review Conference in 2024, to be preceded by a preparatory committee meeting in early 2024 of not more than five days.