

**Seventh Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the
Programme of Action (PoA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade
in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (BMS7)**

26-30 July, 2021

Daily Briefing Day 3

Today marked the third day of BMS7. UN Web TV was working properly again, making it easier for those participating remotely to follow the proceedings.

The day began with closed virtual consultations on the outcome document. The first session in the open plenary segment was dedicated to hearing statements by international and regional organisations, followed by non-governmental organisations and civil society. As has been previously noted, because of BMS7's hybrid format, these organisations cannot attend in person. A total of 15 statements were delivered remotely and broadcast on UN Web TV. These statements will soon be available on the Reaching Critical Will website:

(<https://reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/salw/2020/statements>).

H.E Mr. Martin Kimani concluded this segment by reiterating how indispensable civil society participation is to meetings on small arms like BMS7. The Chair encouraged member states to recognise this fact and keep involving, and supporting financially, civil society and to rely on their expertise.

The morning session was closed early by the Chair to leave time for further closed, informal negotiations on the draft outcome document.

The afternoon session, in open plenary, was opened by the Vice-Chair to discuss considerations under Agenda item 7 [1] and Agenda item 8 [2]. Initial remarks were made by Mr. Ivor Fung, Deputy Chief of UNODA's Conventional Arms Branch. Mr. Fung reviewed the status of states' reporting for the 2020 national reports on the implementation of the

PoA and shared the challenges and opportunities that these results present for states. Mr. Fung broadly discussed the importance of national reporting. He, then, reviewed results for the following categories: national coordination agencies, national action plan on SALW, diversion, stockpile management, SALW collection, marking and record-keeping, international tracing, international cooperation and assistance, and gender considerations to isolate trends and expand on the challenges and potential opportunities for states. Additionally, Mr. Fung underlined that national reporting can crucially help match the needs of states for possible resources.

Costa Rica read a joint statement on gender and small arms that emphasised the need to retain and strengthen several paragraphs in the draft outcome document. The statement had the support of 59 states. Costa Rica reminded the plenary of the commitments that were made during RevCon3 and emphasised the importance of both retaining these advances and building on them. Costa Rica underlined the need for “sustained and concerted action on gender and small arms control.” This need, they said, was exemplified further by the COVID-19 pandemic, “which is having a deeply regressive effect on gender equality”. Canada and Guatemala both subsequently reiterated their support for that position by underlining the unique importance of gender considerations in the successful implementation of the PoA in their statements.

On Agenda item 7, Senegal supported the position of other states (Switzerland, Belgium, and Brazil) by noting the relevance of the proposal to establish an open-ended technical expert group to exchange views on the possible enhancement of the ITI and to prepare a document on good practices in the marking of modular weapons, polymer weapons and 3D guns.

On Agenda item 8, Mali spoke about the need for transnational, regional, and sub-regional cooperation and emphasised that “special attention should be given to regional and international cooperation, in particular through the exchange of information and joint initiatives to combat the illicit proliferation of SALW.” Several states (Algeria, Pakistan and Guatemala) acknowledged the value they place on the exchange of information to ensure the successful implementation of the PoA. Senegal mentioned the specific need to strengthen communication between states on marking and tracing. France and Belgium highlighted that this cooperation is best done on a national level and that states should work directly with one another to produce the most productive form of cooperation. This level of cooperation was also supported by Austria, who mentioned that the involvement of

all stakeholders in cooperation is essential. Additionally, the Philippines underlined that international cooperation must take into consideration the need for national sovereignty.

The chair closed the afternoon session an hour early to continue discussions between states in a closed and informal setting. This decision was based on the preference of members states in the room who chose to proceed with informal consultations in order to work producing an updated draft version of the outcome document (draft #4). The Chair mentioned that draft #4 would be shared later in the evening of Day 3. This version will set the course for achieving a final draft of the outcome document and likely will frame a significant part of the discussions on Day 4.

[1] 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.

[2] 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.

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