

9 pages

SUMMARY OF THE OUTCOME OF THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE ON THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS

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Contents

Introduction	1
<i>The official title of the Conference</i>	
<i>The official Report of the Conference</i>	
<i>The official Outcome Document of the Conference</i>	
Renewing the Commitments of States	1
<i>Primary Responsibility of States</i>	
<i>Right of Self Defence and Respect for International Law</i>	
<i>United Nations Security Council arms embargoes</i>	
Adverse Consequences for Peace, Security and Development	2
<i>Aiding Crime, Terrorism and Disrespect of Human Rights</i>	
<i>Exacerbating Violence and Conflict and Impeding Humanitarian Aid</i>	
<i>Link to Sustainable Development</i>	
<i>Gender Mainstreaming. Gender-Based Violence and Women's Participation</i>	
Preventing Diversion and Proliferation	2
<i>Inclusion of Ammunition</i>	
<i>Stockpile Management and Security</i>	
<i>Illicit Manufacturing</i>	
<i>Reactivation, Conversion and Destruction</i>	
<i>Preventing Transfers to Unauthorized Recipients</i>	
<i>Combating Corruption, Illicit Brokering and Illicit On-Line Trade</i>	
<i>Strengthening Trade Controls, Certification and Information Sharing</i>	
<i>Transportation Security</i>	
<i>Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations</i>	
<i>Responding to Recent Developments in Manufacturing, Technology and Design</i>	
Mechanisms of Implementing the Programme of Action, 2018-2024	4
<i>At the national level</i>	
<i>At the regional and subregional levels</i>	
<i>At the global level</i>	
Means of Implementing the International Tracing Instrument, 2018–2024.....	5
<i>General issues</i>	
<i>Marking</i>	
<i>Record-keeping</i>	
<i>Tracing</i>	
<i>Encouraging transparency, information exchange and coordination</i>	
Promoting Effective and Sustainable International Cooperation and Assistance	6
<i>General issues</i>	
<i>Encouraging international cooperation</i>	
<i>Effective and sustainable international assistance</i>	
<i>Coordination of international assistance</i>	
Follow-up to the third United Nations Conference	7
<i>Programme of activities</i>	
<i>Schedule of meetings for 2018–2024</i>	
<i>Topics to be addressed</i>	
<i>National reporting</i>	
<i>Analysis of implementation trends</i>	
<i>Regional meetings</i>	
<i>Engagement of civil society and industry</i>	
<i>Support for participation</i>	

Introduction

This document highlights the main outcomes of the United Nations conference held in June 2018 to review action to prevent the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. The conference was convened under the auspices of the UN General Assembly. It was the third review conference of States to take place since the establishment in 2001 of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects.

The thematic summaries in this document should make it easier for officials and other stakeholders to quickly pinpoint the key commitments made at the conference by the participating States. The outcomes are summarized and organized by topic, and include references to the paragraphs in the official conference report.

The official title of the Conference was “The United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects”. It was convened by the UN General Assembly and held in New York from 18 to 29 June 2018 under the Presidency of French Ambassador Jean-Claude Brunet. Daniël Prins, Director of Conventional Arms in the Office for Disarmament Affairs, served as the Secretary-General of the Conference. The Conference held plenary meetings and informal meetings according to agreed rules of procedure.

The official Report of the Conference was adopted by consensus on 29 June 2018 and is available in six different languages (Arabic, Chinese, English, French, Russian and Spanish). The English version of the Report can be found here:

http://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/CONF.192/2018/RC/3&referer=/english/&Lang=E. The list of participants is contained in document [A/CONF.192/2018/RC/INF/3](#). The documents of the Conference are available from the Conference website: www.un.org/disarmament/revcon3. Included in the Conference Report as an annex is the Outcome Document that contains the substance agreed by the participating States.

The official Outcome Document of the Conference contained in the annex to the Report was adopted by a unanimous vote on 29 June 2018, but only after two paragraphs containing references to ammunition (paragraphs I.16 and I.18), and one dealing with the Sustainable Development Goals (paragraph I.13) were each adopted by overwhelming vote (see references to these paragraphs below). The Outcome Document is divided into five sections. Section I is the 2018 Declaration; Section II is on the implementation of the Programme of Action (PoA) in 2018–2024; Section III is on the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit

Small Arms and Light Weapons (ITI) in 2018–2024; Section IV is on promoting sustainable international cooperation and assistance; and Section V is on agreements made by States to follow up on the Conference.

Below is a summary of the main points from the Outcome Document, grouped thematically. References to sections and paragraphs in the Outcome Document are included in brackets.

Renewing the Commitments of States

Primary Responsibility of States: Participating States recognized that Governments “bear the primary responsibility for solving the problems associated with the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects”, and that “States need close international cooperation to prevent, combat and eradicate this illicit trade” (I.9). They “reaffirm[ed] ... [their] commitment to the full and effective implementation of all of the provisions of the Program of Action and the ... [ITI], with a view to ending the human suffering caused by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons” (I.1). While they noted “that important progress has been made in implementing” these two instruments (I.10), they also “stress[ed] ... that implementation remains uneven and that challenges and obstacles still stand in the way” (I.11).

Right of Self Defence and Respect for International Law: States “reaffirm[ed] their respect for and commitment to international law and the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including the inherent right to individual or collective self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter and the right of each State to manufacture, import and retain small arms and light weapons for its self-defence and security needs, as well as for its capacity to participate in peacekeeping operations in accordance with the Charter” (I.2). States agreed to “establish or strengthen, as appropriate, national laws, regulations and administrative procedures for the coordinated national implementation of the Programme of Action and other relevant instruments, including legally binding instruments, to which a State is a party” (II.16).

United Nations Security Council arms embargoes: States “reaffirm[ed] the[ir] undertakings made in the Programme of Action at the national level, including those contained in section II, paragraph 15” [i.e. ‘To take appropriate measures, including all legal or administrative means, against any activity that violates a United Nations Security Council arms embargo in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations’] and to cooperate with and assist the United Nations system in implementing our commitment under its section II, paragraph 32’ [of the Programme of Action regarding United Nations Security Council arms embargoes] (II.42).

Adverse Consequences for Peace, Security and Development

Aiding Crime, Terrorism and Disrespect of Human Rights:

Participating States “recognize[d] that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects ... undermines respect for international human rights law and aids crime, terrorism and illegal armed groups, as well as trafficking in humans, drugs, certain natural resources and protected wildlife” (I.5). They “underline[d] the essential contribution that the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument makes to the global fight against all forms of violence and crime, including terrorism, and in this regard resolve to strengthen ... [States’] implementation and coordination efforts” (I.7).

Exacerbating Violence and Conflict and Impeding Humanitarian Aid:

States “emphasize[d] that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects continues to sustain conflicts, exacerbates armed violence, including crime, contributes to the displacement of civilians, undermines respect for international humanitarian law and impedes the provision of humanitarian assistance to victims of armed conflicts” (I.4). States “acknowledge[d] that by threatening security, safety and stability, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons continues to have devastating humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences, including by impeding the provision of humanitarian assistance to victims of armed conflict, contributing to the displacement of civilians and undermining sustainable development and poverty eradication efforts” (I.6).

Link to Sustainable Development: States “stress[ed] the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 16 and target 16.4, which calls for a significant reduction of illicit arms flows by 2030; and ... acknowledge[d] that sustainable development cannot be realized without peace and security and that peace and security will be at risk without sustainable development, and note[d] that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons has implications for the realization of several Sustainable Development Goals, including those relating to peace, justice and strong institutions, poverty reduction, economic growth, health, gender equality, and safe cities and communities” (I.13). This provision was not agreed by consensus amongst all participating States but was agreed by the Conference after a large majority vote (V.14-20). States 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” (II.70).

Gender Mainstreaming. Gender-Based Violence and Women’s Participation:

Participating States “remain[e]d gravely concerned about the negative impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on the lives of women, men, girls and boys and recognize[d] that eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is a key part of combating gender-based violence” (I.14). They “recognize[d] the need for strengthened participation of women in decision-making and implementation processes relating to the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and reaffirm[ed] the need for States to mainstream gender dimensions in their implementation efforts” (I.15). States agreed to “encourage the full participation and representation of women, including in leadership roles and as agents of change, in policymaking, planning and implementation processes related to the Programme of Action, such as national small arms commissions and programmes relating to community safety, violence reduction, collection and destruction of small arms and light weapons and conflict prevention and resolution” (II.74). They pledged to “ensure coordination between national authorities responsible for the implementation of the Programme of Action and relevant ministries or other national authorities responsible for women’s affairs or gender equality, as well as women’s civil society groups” (II.75). Furthermore, they agreed to “encourage the collection of data disaggregated by gender on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including through national reports, and to increase understanding of the gender-specific impacts of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, in particular for the purpose of improving corresponding national policies and programmes” (II.79).

Preventing Diversion and Proliferation

Inclusion of Ammunition: The Conference “[w]elcome[d] the process established by General Assembly resolution 72/55, which was adopted by consensus, with a view to identifying urgent issues pertaining to the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus on which progress can be made” (I.16). It was “acknowledge[d] that States that apply provisions of the Programme of Action to small arms and light weapons ammunition can exchange and, as appropriate, apply relevant experiences, lessons learned and best practices acquired within the framework of other relevant instruments to which a State is a party, as well as relevant international standards, in strengthening their implementation of the Programme of Action” (II.18). These two provisions were not agreed by consensus amongst all participating States but were each agreed by the Conference after large majority vote (V.14-20).

Stockpile Management and Security: Participating States agreed “to redouble national efforts to provide for the safe, secure and effective management of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons held by government armed and security forces, in particular in conflict and post-conflict situations” (II.21). They committed to “take all appropriate

measures, in full cooperation with relevant bodies ... to secure stockpiles of small arms and light weapons in conflict, post-conflict and non-conflict situations in order to prevent diversion to illicit markets and proliferation of these weapons” (II.22) and to “take advantage of ... new technologies ... [to enhance] small arms and light weapons stockpile management and security, including through improved marking and record-keeping, and for the destruction of surplus small arms and light weapons that have been designated for destruction” (II.23).

Illicit Manufacturing: States committed to “establish, in accordance with national legal frameworks, as a criminal offence the illicit manufacture of small arms and light weapons” (II.44) and, “[s]ubject to any legal constraints associated with the preparation of criminal prosecutions, to destroy confiscated, seized or collected small arms and light weapons that have been illegally manufactured, unless another form of disposition or use has been officially authorized, in which case such weapons have been duly identified, marked and recorded” (II.45).

Reactivation, Conversion and Destruction: The participating States pledged to “prevent the diversion of small arms and light weapons to illicit markets, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients, including in conflict and post-conflict situations, through effective measures of, inter alia, destruction or permanent deactivation, and to share best practices, tools and existing standards in this regard” (II.46), and “consider, as appropriate, adopting national measures on the deactivation or destruction of small arms and light weapons” (II.47). Furthermore, States agreed to “take necessary measures, when a final decision is made to dispose of a small arm or light weapon, to ensure that its destruction or deactivation has rendered the weapon, including all of its essential components, permanently inoperable in line with relevant standards” (II.48). They agreed to “consider, as appropriate, the production of a certificate of deactivation to supplement existing records of the deactivated small arm or light weapon” (II.49) and “[t]o share national experiences in addressing the problem of illicitly converted small arms and light weapons with a view to developing common understandings of the kinds of items that may be easily and illicitly converted, including replica and blank-firing small arms and light weapons, and consider specific and appropriate responses to the challenges that they pose” (II.51).

Preventing Transfers to Unauthorized Recipients: Participating States agreed to “maintain, develop or establish, and effectively implement, national laws, regulations and administrative procedures to ensure effective control over the production, export, import and transit of small arms and light weapons, taking into account Security Council resolution 2370 (2017), relevant provisions of the Programme of Action, as well as relevant conventions or protocols to which a State is a party” (II.26). “When authorizing the international transfer of small arms and light weapons, [States agreed] to take all appropriate

measures to prevent their diversion, including by assessing applications according to strict national regulations and procedures consistent with the existing responsibilities of States under relevant international law” (II.27). They pledged “[t]o make every effort ... to notify the original exporting State in accordance with their bilateral agreements before the retransfer of those [imported] weapons” (II.28).

Combating Corruption, Illicit Brokering and Illicit On-Line Trade: The Conference recognized that “small arms and light weapons can be diverted to the illicit market through corruption, to make appropriate use of relevant instruments that combat corruption, to which a State is a party, in order to prevent and combat such diversions” (II.30). States agreed to “take effective measures to prevent and combat the illicit brokering of small arms and light weapons, taking advantage of the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/81 to consider further steps to enhance international cooperation in preventing, combating and eradicating illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons” (A.31). States also agreed to “take all effective measures to prevent and combat the illicit online trade in small arms and light weapons taking place within the areas of jurisdiction of concerned States, including measures to ensure effective control over their export, import and transit” (II.32).

Strengthening Trade Controls, Certification and Information Sharing: The participating States agreed to “exchange and, in accordance with States’ national legal frameworks and security requirements, apply experiences, lessons learned and best practices relating to small arms and light weapons export, import and transit control, including certification processes/end-user certificates” (II.33). They also pledged to “put in place and, as needed, strengthen certification processes/end-user certificates, as well as effective legal and enforcement measures” (II.29). Furthermore, they agreed to “strengthen the exchange and use of information, in accordance with States’ national legal frameworks and security requirements, inter alia, through the use of dedicated and secure online platforms and web-based databases relating to small arms and light weapons diversion risks, including information on actors involved in activities related to the illegal trade, transfer and financing for acquisition of illicit small and light weapons” (II.34).

Transportation Security: Participating States agreed to “take all appropriate steps, in accordance with national legal frameworks, during export, import and transit of small arms and light weapons to secure their transport, including by air and sea, with a view to preventing their diversion” (II.24). They also committed to “provide national law enforcement authorities with mandates and resources to assist them in preventing and combating illicit small arms and light weapons that are imported into, exported from or transiting through their territories” (II.25).

Conflict and Post-Conflict Situations: States pledged to “fully apply the provisions of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument in programmes designed to build peace and security in conflict and post-conflict situations, including disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes and community violence reduction programmes” (II.35) and to “encourage the consideration, as relevant, with the consent of host States, of provisions related to preventing and combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in the mandates of United Nations peacekeeping missions” (II.36). They agreed to “put in place adequate management and security measures for small arms stockpiles located in conflict and post-conflict situations in line with the provisions of the Programme of Action and other relevant international instruments, including regular inventories, surplus disposal, including through destruction, and the implementation of appropriate measures when losses are detected” (II.37) as well as “marking, record-keeping and, as appropriate, tracing by law enforcement authorities, for illicit small arms and light weapons that are found, seized or recovered in conflict and post-conflict situations” (II.38). Furthermore, it was agreed to “encourage States emerging from conflict, in cooperation with other States, multilateral organizations and civil society, to build sustainable capacity for the control of small arms and light weapons through the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument” (II.41).

Responding to Recent Developments in Manufacturing, Technology and Design: Participating States agreed to “consider strengthening cooperation with the private sector and industry for the development of technologies that improve the marking, record-keeping, tracing and safe and secure storage of small arms and light weapons” (II.53). They agreed to “take account of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design in the implementation of the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument, including additive manufacturing, and to strengthen cooperation between law enforcement agencies so as to prevent unauthorized recipients, including criminals and terrorists, from acquiring small arms and light weapons” (II.54). “[I]nitiatives that raise the awareness of possible risks associated with certain recent technological developments in the manufacture and sale of small arms and light weapons [are to be encouraged], while also acknowledging the opportunities offered by such technologies” (II.55). “[S]pecifically ... the challenges related to modular design and the use of polymers [should be taken into account], notably the difficulties encountered in marking and tracing” (II.56).

Mechanisms of Implementing the Programme of Action, 2018-2024

At the national level: Participating States agreed to “establish or strengthen national laws, regulations and administrative procedures in support of the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action” (II.1) and “strengthen coordinated national approaches ... , including, as appropriate, the establishment or designation of national coordination agencies or bodies involving relevant government agencies, including those responsible for law enforcement, border control and export and import licensing” (II.2). States also agreed to “establish or designate a national point of contact to act as a liaison between States on matters relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action; to share and update this information regularly; and to provide the point of contact with the necessary means to carry out its role” (II.4). Furthermore, they agreed to “encourage the development and implementation of national action plans or other national policies in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action by making better use of existing information to improve the measurement of progress and to coordinate the development and implementation of such plans or policies, as appropriate, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including those from civil society and industry, with those relevant to target 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the relevant United Nations resolutions on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control” (II.5). Moreover, States agreed to “significantly reduce the illicit flows of small and light weapons through, as appropriate, illicit weapons recovery and voluntary surrender programmes” (II.6).

At the regional and subregional levels: The participating States agreed to “reinforce coordination between relevant regional and subregional organizations and mechanisms, on the one hand, and States and international organizations, on the other” (II.8) and to “encourage the adoption and full implementation of measures and best practices, including the establishment of measurable targets and timelines, at the regional and subregional levels” (II.7). Participating States also agreed to “encourage relevant regional and subregional organizations and mechanisms to identify areas of comparative advantage in assisting States” (II.9). States committed “to designate, and share information on, points of contact for work relating to the illicit trade” (II.10). In addition, it was agreed “[t]o strengthen the role of the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament in supporting the implementation of the Programme of Action” (II.11) and to “strengthen border cooperation and regional and subregional coordination, as appropriate, through effective measures and enhanced exchange of information, between law enforcement agencies, customs, and export and import licensing authorities” (II.12).

At the global level: “States, relevant United Nations offices, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization [are encouraged] to enhance coordination, and share best practices and lessons learned, for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action” (II.13) and,

“as appropriate, [to undertake] joint operations and other forms of operational cooperation ... in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons” (II.14). “States, relevant United Nations offices and international, regional and subregional organizations [are also encouraged], as appropriate, to enhance their cooperation with relevant international governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to prevent and combat the illicit trade” (II.15) and “[t]o exchange and, as appropriate, apply experiences, lessons learned and best practices, including reporting practices, relating to the implementation of all other relevant instruments to which a State is a party, in strengthening the implementation of the Programme of Action” (II.17). States also pledged to “eliminate the supply of small arms and light weapons to terrorists, including through the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action by, inter alia, establishing, at the national level, as a criminal offence the intentional supply of a weapon or weapons to terrorists and by strengthening, where appropriate, judicial and law enforcement cooperation with other States” (II.19). They agreed to “share information with other States, in accordance with national legal frameworks, as appropriate, on successful prosecutions, incidents of diversion, illicit international transfers and brokering, trafficking routes and techniques, and good law enforcement practices, including risk management methods and processes, related to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons” (II.20).

Means of Implementing the International Tracing Instrument, 2018–2024

General issues: Participating States agreed to “mark, record and trace small arms and light weapons in accordance with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument, to maintain, develop or establish effective national legal frameworks for this purpose” (III.1) and “[t]o 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” (III.2). States also agreed to “redouble efforts to report on a biennial basis on measures taken to implement the International Tracing Instrument” (III.3).

Marking: States agreed to “consider adopting legislative and other measures, including criminal measures to prohibit the illegal manufacture of unmarked or inadequately marked small arms and light weapons, as well as the illicit falsification, obliteration, removal or alteration of the unique markings prescribed in subparagraph 8 (a) of the International Tracing Instrument” (III.4). To achieve this they agreed, inter alia, “to identify, as appropriate, in national laws and/or regulations, including those concerning modular weapons, the essential or structural component of a small arm or light weapon, namely the frame or receiver, for the purpose of unique marking consistent with paragraph 10 of the International Tracing

Instrument, and to share this information with other States on a voluntary basis” (III.5). Furthermore, States agreed to “encourage manufacturers of small arms and light weapons to develop measures against the unlawful removal or alteration of markings, including markings made to the frames or receivers of small arms and light weapons, including those made of polymer” (III.6).

Record-keeping: Participating States committed to “apply, as a minimum, the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument prescribing the time that States should ensure the maintenance of records pertaining to marked small arms and light weapons” (III.9).

Tracing: Participating States agreed to “facilitate, in accordance with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument, the availability to competent national authorities of the records needed to trace illicit small arms and light weapons in a timely and reliable manner” (III.10). They committed to “encourage States when tracing illicit small arms and light weapons, including those found in conflict and post-conflict situations, to consult records within the State where the small arm or light weapon was found and/or consult with the State of manufacture of that weapon” (III.11). They also committed to “strengthen efforts to ensure the accurate identification of illicit small arms and light weapons for tracing purposes, including through training and the use of technical aids such as the INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table” (III.12) and “[t]o encourage States seeking the assistance of another State in tracing an illicit small arm or light weapon to access, for this purpose, the INTERPOL national central bureau system and/or the online directory of competent national authorities maintained by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime” (III.13). Moreover, it was agreed “as necessary, upon request, to assist States and relevant bodies, organs and missions of the United Nations, as well as relevant subregional and regional organizations to build the capacity of competent national authorities for the tracing of illicit small arms and light weapons in conflict and post-conflict situations, as well as for the collection and exchange of information, including, as appropriate, tracing information, on those weapons” (III.14). In this regard, participating States agreed to “highlight progress made under indicator 16.4.2. in national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, in order to minimize administrative reporting burdens” (II.71).

Encouraging transparency, information exchange and coordination

: “States, in accordance with their national legal frameworks, as well as relevant United Nations entities and missions, and international, regional and subregional organizations, [are encouraged] to cooperate and share, as appropriate, information relevant to the illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons” (III.15) and “best practices at the regional and subregional levels” (III.21). States agreed to “take advantage of national reports under the

International Tracing Instrument so as to support data collection for relevant indicators relating to target 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (III.16). They committed to “enhance the exchange, in accordance with national legal frameworks, of tracing results between appropriate authorities, including those responsible for law enforcement, border control and export and import licensing, in conformity with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument, in order to prevent the diversion of small arms and light weapons to illicit markets” (III.17). “In accordance with national legal frameworks and the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument, [States agreed] to share and analyse information relating to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in order to identify trends and patterns with a view to closing illicit trafficking routes and networks” (III.18). States also agreed 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)” (III.19), and “[t]o submit information on national marking practices related to markings used to indicate country of manufacture and/or country of import, as applicable, on a voluntary basis, to INTERPOL for inclusion in the INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table” (III.20).

Promoting Effective and Sustainable International Cooperation and Assistance

General issues: The Conference “reaffirm[ed] the importance of taking effective measures for international cooperation and assistance, including, as appropriate, improved funding options, technology transfer and adequate training and support programmes, in order to accelerate the attainment of the objectives of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument” (I.22). The Conference “call[ed] 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” (I.23).

Encouraging international cooperation: Participating States agreed to “strengthen, as appropriate, partnerships and cooperation at all levels in preventing and combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in particular on border control; stockpile management and security;

destruction and disposal; marking, record-keeping and tracing; and illicit brokering” (IV.1). States also agreed to “strengthen cooperation with relevant United Nations bodies and subregional and regional organizations in strengthening the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument” (IV.2), as well as “[t]o encourage and, as appropriate, strengthen cooperation with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, research organizations and industry, ... and to draw on their experiences, expertise and best practices for this purpose” (IV.3). Moreover, States committed themselves to “strengthen cooperation between national law enforcement agencies, national policy-making bodies, INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, including the exchange of best practices, lessons learned and other relevant information” (IV.5), as well as “[t]o strengthen international cooperation, including, as appropriate, operational cooperation, in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons linked to drug trafficking, transnational organized crime and terrorism, including through the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime and the counter-terrorism mechanisms of the United Nations, in accordance with their mandates” (IV.6), and “[t]o enhance dialogue and partnerships with industry regarding ... marking[,] ... record-keeping ... [and] tracing” (IV.8).

Effective and sustainable international assistance: States agreed to “work towards sustainable outcomes and impacts when designing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating cooperation and assistance programmes and, for this purpose, to ensure that such programmes have national ownership and reflect national priorities” (IV.9). The Conference “urge[d] States, international, regional, and subregional organizations, as well as the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, in a position to do so, to provide technical assistance, including training and, as appropriate, other forms of capacity-building support, including relevant technology and equipment, to States requesting such assistance” (IV.10). States agreed to “take advantage of synergies between, on the one hand, assistance aimed at supporting the marking and record-keeping of small arms and light weapons, as well as the tracing of illicit small arms and light weapons, and on the other hand assistance aimed at strengthening the management and security of small arms and light weapons stockpiles” (IV.12).

Coordination of international assistance: Participating States “reaffirm[ed] that national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument may provide a baseline for measuring progress in their implementation, to build confidence and promote transparency, provide a basis for information exchange and for action and serve to identify needs and opportunities for international assistance and cooperation, including the matching of needs with available resources and expertise” (I.20). They pledged to “continue to improve coordination among donors, between donors

and recipients, and among relevant stakeholders and national authorities” (IV.20) and “[t]o ensure national ownership of international assistance projects by, inter alia, involving national authorities in the project planning and implementation cycle and tailoring assistance to support national structures, procedures, and legal frameworks, as appropriate, upon request by the recipient State and with the consent of the donor(s)” (IV.21). States also committed to “ensure the complementarity of assistance provided in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and that provided in support of other relevant instruments to which a State is a Party” (IV.22) including “projects related to target 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (IV.28).

Follow-up to the third UN Conference

Programme of activities: The Conference “[a]cknowledge[d] the proposal on the establishment of a dedicated fellowship training programme on small arms and light weapons in order to strengthen technical knowledge and expertise in areas related to the implementation of the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument, particularly in developing countries” (V.1), and “[w]elcome[d] the Secretary-General’s initiative to establish a multi-partner trust facility, within the peacebuilding fund, dedicated to providing sustainable, cross-sectional, multi-year programming focused on eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in settings of conflict and pervasive crime” (V.2). The Conference “[r]equest[ed] the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States with regard to the recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design” (V.3).

Schedule of meetings for 2018–2024: The following meetings were agreed: “a one-week biennial meeting of States in 2020 ... [on] the implementation of the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument” (V.4), and “a one-week follow up biennial meeting of States in 2022” (V.5); “a fourth United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action ... in 2024 ... [to] be preceded by a preparatory committee meeting, to be held in early 2024, of not more than five days” (V.6).

Topics to be addressed: “[T]he topics to be addressed [will be identified] ... well in advance” (V.8), and cover “international cooperation and assistance including capacity building” (V.7). The Conference agreed that the biennial meeting of States in 2020 will “consider, and to the extent possible address, key challenges and opportunities relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action

and the International Tracing Instrument at the national, regional and global levels for the purpose of preventing and combating the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients. The discussion will be informed by a report of the Secretary-General, containing views of Member States on best practices, lessons learned and new recommendations in these areas, and based on views from the United Nations system, in particular those agencies participating in the small arms coordination mechanism, and inputs from INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization.” (V.4)

National reporting: States agreed to “synchroniz[e] national reporting on the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument with biennial meetings of States and review conferences as a means to increase the submission rate and improve the utility of reports” (V.14).

Analysis of implementation trends: The Conference “[r]equest[ed] the Secretariat, within existing resources, to present an analysis of implementation trends, challenges and opportunities relating to the Programme of Action and the ITI, including needs for cooperation and assistance” (V.15), and “to report on support provided by the United Nations system” (V.16).

Regional meetings: “[I]nterested States and subregional, regional and international organizations in a position to do so [are encouraged] to convene subregional or regional meetings ... [to support] the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument” (V.10) and to “align... the timing of ... [those] meetings ... with the global cycle of meetings” (V.11).

Engagement of civil society and industry: The Conference “[f]urther encourage[d] civil society, including non-governmental organizations and industry, to engage, as appropriate, in all aspects of international, regional, subregional and national efforts to implement the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument” (V.13).

Support for participation: “States in a position to do so [are encouraged] ... to provide financial assistance through a voluntary sponsorship fund to enable States that are otherwise unable to do so to participate in meetings on the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument” (V.17).



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