

GENDER INCLUSION IN THE THIRD AND FOURTH REVIEW CONFERENCES OF THE UN PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

11 Paragraphs including gender language in the RevCon3 Outcome Document

23 Paragraphs including gender language in the RevCon4 Outcome Document

Every six years, a Review Conference (RevCon) is held at UN Headquarters 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 (PoA) and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI). From June 18 to 28, 2024, the Fourth Review Conference (RevCon4) on the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms took place at the United Nations Headquarters in New York City. The previous Third Review Conference took place in 2018. This factsheet focuses on the significant advancements and inclusive language on gender, women, girls, LGBTQIA+, survivors in the RevCon4 outcome documents in contrast to RevCon3.

Importance and prevalence of gender-inclusive language

Gender Mainstreaming refers to the deliberate inclusion of the perspectives, needs, and participation of women and men in the processes of reducing small arms and light weapons proliferation and misuse. Understanding the effects of SALW trade and proliferation on intersectional issues such as gender-based and sexual violence is an important component of addressing its broader impact. Data reveals a strong link between gun violence, poverty, and ethnic discrimination. It's vital to highlight how these issues intersect with gender and youth inequality, emphasizing the need to address systemic disparities to create safer, more inclusive communities.

The 2018 RevCon3 outcome report encourages the aggregation of data on gender and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and advocates for a better understanding of the gender-specific impacts of SALW proliferation. Moreover, it acknowledges that eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is a key part of combating gender-based violence. The 2024 RevCon4 outcome report continues to improve and add nuance to mechanisms that enact broader gender-inclusive perspectives.

States' commitments to implement youth mainstreaming in SALW control work

A critical improvement of the Fourth Review Conference was its approach to recognizing the way gender norms, roles, and expectations shape the acquisition of small arms and light weapons, as well as how the illicit SALW trade amplifies gender-based and sexual violence. The RevCon4 outcome report promoted the collection of data to study the differential impact of the illicit SALW trade on vulnerable populations, including its gender-specific impacts. The report also importantly uses survivor-centered language in advocating for social safety nets for victims of SALW violence.

Furthermore, the report addresses the persistent barriers to the meaningful representation and participation of women in leadership roles including in community safety groups, violence reduction, and peacebuilding. This includes encouragement to nominate women for leadership of the Review Conference and other UN bodies. This includes a call for the Secretariat to report on the progress of the participation of women at the Biennial Meetings of States and Review Conferences. Adding nuance to a gender-inclusive language that primarily focuses on women's issues, the report includes the voices of men and boys as its definition of gender mainstreaming.

Civil society organizations are urged to amplify their governments' new commitments by actively sharing and promoting the key policy recommendations from the two papers with political leaders, national authorities, media, and opinion makers, fostering greater awareness and meaningful action.

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Gender-inclusive paragraphs in the RevCon3 Outcome Document

- 3.** To **promote the full participation of women** in mechanisms relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action and to encourage strong cooperation with civil society, parliamentarians, industry and the private sector.
- 14.** We remain gravely concerned about the negative impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on the lives of **women, men, girls and boys** and recognize that eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is a key part of combating **gender-based violence**.
- 15.** We recognize the need for strengthened participation of women in decision-making and implementation processes relating to the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument and reaffirm the need for States to **mainstream gender dimensions** in their implementation efforts.
- 16.** To take account of the differing impacts of small arms and light weapons on **women, men, girls and boys** in small arms and light weapons assistance projects and programmes.
- 25.** To encourage States in a position to do so to increase funding for relevant policies and programmes, advocacy, education, training and research that take account of the differing impacts of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on **women, men, girls and boys**.
- 73.** To take account of the differing impacts of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on **women, men, girls and boys** in policies and programmes designed to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.
- 74.** To encourage the **full participation and representation of women**, including in leadership roles, and acting as agents of change, in policymaking, planning and implementation processes related to the Programme of Action, such as national small arms commissions and programmes relating to community safety, violence reduction, collection and destruction of small arms and light weapons and conflict prevention and resolution.
- 75.** To ensure the 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, as well as women's civil society groups**.
- 76.** To encourage **mainstreaming gender considerations** into small arms and light weapons policies and programmes, including in the areas of programme design, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, taking into account, as appropriate, relevant guidelines and standards.
- 77.** To enhance, as appropriate, coordination processes relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action with processes relating to **women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control**.
- 79.** To encourage the **collection of disaggregated data on gender** and 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.

Gender-inclusive paragraphs in the RevCon4 Outcome Document

24. We express concern that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons impedes the achievement of **gender equality**, and we encourage States to mainstream a **gender perspective in the design and implementation of gender-responsive policies** and programming on small arms and light weapons control.

25. We reaffirm that eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons contributes to preventing and combating human rights violations, **gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence**.

29. We are determined to prevent and reduce the human suffering caused by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and to address the differential impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on **women, men, girls and boys**.

38. We recognize the need to promote the full, equal, meaningful and effective **participation of women in decision-making and implementation processes** relating to the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument at all levels, including in leadership roles.

55. To ensure that national systems, strategies and voluntary action plans to address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons consider the links between national points of contact for the review of the Programme of Action and respective **national focal points and action plans on women** and peace and security and youth, peace and security where they exist.

56. To encourage the development and implementation of voluntary 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 review 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, the private sector 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**.

57. To promote the **full, equal, meaningful and effective participation of women** in mechanisms relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action.

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

82. To take into account the differential impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on **women, men, girls and boys**, including, where feasible and safe to do so, by collecting data **disaggregated by sex**, age and disability, and utilizing analysis mechanisms to inform **evidence-based gender-responsive policymaking and programming** with a view to strengthening the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels.

124. 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.

125. To recognize that eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including by **addressing gender roles, norms and expectations** for women and men to acquire illicit arms, contributes to preventing and **combating gender-based and sexual violence and conflict-related sexual violence**.

126. To address the persistent barriers to the **full, equal, meaningful and effective participation and representation of women**, including in leadership roles, in all decision-making, planning and implementation processes related to the Programme of Action, such as national small arms commissions, programmes relating to community safety, violence reduction, collection and destruction of small arms and light weapons, stockpile management, conflict prevention and resolution and peacebuilding.

127. To ensure the 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, gender equality** or youth, as well as civil society groups.

128. To enhance, as appropriate, coordination processes, including voluntary national action plans, relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action with processes relating to **women and peace and security, women, disarmament, nonproliferation and arms control**.

129. To incorporate good practices in **mainstreaming a gender perspective** into policies and programmes on small arms and light weapons, including in the areas of programme design, planning, implementation, reporting, monitoring and evaluation, taking into account, as appropriate, relevant guidances.

131. To encourage the coordinated implementation of voluntary national action plans on small arms and light weapons with national action plans established under United Nations resolutions on **women and peace and security, and youth, peace and security, and relevant goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development**.

132. To encourage, where feasible and safe to do so, the collection of data related to the differential impacts of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons **disaggregated by sex**, age, disability and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, 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.

133. To encourage the engagement and participation of men and boys in **mainstreaming a gender perspective** into policies and programmes on small arms and light weapons.

134. To fully assess the intricate linkages between armed violence associated with illicit small arms and light weapons and **the health of women**, men, girls and boys, which constitutes both a public health and a mental health concern. Addressing the mental health impacts of such violence requires strategies and programmes aimed at prevention while also **providing comprehensive social safety nets for victims and survivors**.

200. To urge 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, promoting the **full, equal, meaningful and effective participation of women**, engaging youth and further encouraging the **mainstreaming of a gender perspective** and youth-related considerations in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

222. Encourage the **equal, full, meaningful and effective participation of women** in the meetings on the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and take steps to address their underrepresentation in this regard.

223. Recommend to the Secretariat that it report at Biennial Meetings of States and Review Conferences on overall progress on the **participation of women**.

224. Encourage Member States to nominate women as candidates for the positions of President of the Review Conference and Chair of the Biennial Meetings of States and **encourage Presidents and Chairs to continue to strive for both gender and geographical balance** within the bureaux of future meetings.