

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

4 Paragraphs including youth language in the RevCon3 Outcome Document

14 Paragraphs including youth language in the RevCon4 Outcome Document

Every six years, a Review Conference (RevCon) is held at United Nations Headquarters in New York City 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 youth, adolescents and children in the RevCon4 outcome documents in contrast to RevCon3.

Importance and prevalence of youth-inclusive language

Youth Mainstreaming refers to the deliberate inclusion of young people's perspectives, needs, and participation in the processes of reducing small arms and light weapons proliferation and misuse. Youth are disproportionately affected by armed violence yet are not integrated in policy-making and peace-building.

The 2018 RevCon3 outcome report recognized the negative impact of SALW trade on vulnerable populations including women, men, girls, and boys. Moreover, it encouraged states to provide funding for advocacy, education, training, and research programs that examine the impacts of the illicit SALW trade on these groups. However, the report was severely limited in its scope of addressing youth considerations, failing to examine the intersectional issues experienced by youth populations due to SALW proliferation as well as mechanisms to involve youth in decision-making. 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.

States' commitments to implement youth mainstreaming in SALW control work

The Fourth Review Conference outcome recognized the importance of directly including young people and their perspectives in policymaking. In particular, it advocated for the continued analysis of youth-specific issues associated with small arms and light weapons proliferation. For example, the outcome report recognized the intersectional issues caused by SALW proliferation, including the public and mental health concerns that primarily affect youth populations.

Within the RevCon4 inclusion mechanisms, the outcome document calls upon states to include youth contributions in national action plans and the Programme of Action. It moreover recognizes the continued efforts of the United Nations Resolution on Youth, Peace and Security and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development as important frameworks to define youth priorities in SALW disarmament. The further inclusion of youth-focused research, perspectives, and considerations is prioritized, recognizing the differential and disproportionate impact of the illicit trade in SALW on vulnerable groups including youth.

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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Regulate weaponry
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Youth-inclusive paragraphs in the RevCon3 Outcome Document

- 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.
- 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.

- 27.** We encourage the **inclusion of the perspectives and participation of young people** in the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, as appropriate and where relevant, and recognize the positive contribution of young people.
- 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**.
- 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.
- 59.** To promote the **integration of youth considerations by analysing the youth-specific impacts of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons**, and ensure that the needs, perspectives and contribution of youth are incorporated into policies and plans, where they exist, in support of 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.
- 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.
- 130.** To enhance, as appropriate, the mainstreaming of youth considerations by analysing the **youth-specific impacts of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons**, and creating mechanisms to ensure that the needs, perspectives and potential contribution of youth are incorporated into policies and plans.
- 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.
- 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.
- 225.** Encourage, as appropriate, **the meaningful participation of youth** in meetings on the Programme of Action.