



12th Session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

The following report summarises the work done in the context of the twelfth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime was held from 14 to 18 October 2024 in Vienna, Austria.

The Conference was attended by Brian Wood, member of the leadership team of IANSA and Yasmin Espinoza Goecke, Representative of IANSA at the UN in Vienna.

The main objectives of IANSA in the context of the Conference were the following:

- Strengthening IANSA's presence at the UN in Vienna among Diplomatic Missions and UN staff.
- To hold an IANSA side event on the regulation of SALW brokering

1- Strengthening IANSA's presence at the UN in Vienna among Diplomatic Missions as well as UN staff.

During the Conference and between the sessions Brian Wood and Yasmin Espinoza Goecke held several meetings with Diplomatic missions and relevant organisations.

In addition Yasmin and Brian drafted two statements for IANSA to address the Conference Plenary sessions on the Firearms Protocol and on Technical Assistance. Both IANSA statements were delivered by Yasmin. (Please find attached both statements in the Appendix below)

Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice: An umbrella organization present at the UN in Vienna, after careful consideration it was agreed that IANSA would support a declaration by entitled "A Civil Society Declaration for more effective implementation of the UNTOC" This declaration was read by the Alliance in the context of UNTOC and was supported by more than a 200 organisations and individuals.

Points highlighted by States during Conference concerning Firearms

Albania:

At national level, through the establishment of special prosecution offices and court to investigate and adjudicate cases of organized crime and corruption, Albania said it has embarked on a transformational reform in the justice sector. Albania claimed that a combination of increased police activity, enhanced cross-sectoral coordination and sharing of information, expanded territory controls and crackdowns on organized crime groups and their

illicit proceeds has brought tangible results in the fight against cultivation and trafficking of illicit drugs.

Albania also drew attention to the Western Balkans Roadmap on Small Arms and Light Weapons which is a regional initiative aimed at controlling the proliferation and abuse of firearms, ammunitions and explosives. Albania claimed that this Roadmap is worth of wider attention and consideration for its tangible results in increased police, forensic and custom capacities, as well as the Roadmap's holistic prevention strategies. These strategies include alternative development programmes, and preventive measures towards trafficking in persons, drug abuse and migrant smuggling, targeting primarily the youth and the most vulnerable, which are of paramount importance for the region.

Costa Rica:

Costa Rica highlighted the valuable legal and policy advice that the Arms Trafficking Section of UNODC has provided to strengthen current national legislation related to firearms. Costa Rica said it recognizes the importance of arms control and the prevention of illicit trafficking of firearms, which in the hands of organized crime instigates serious crime and violence. Costa Rica is also taking steps to combat and punish the trafficking in persons and the smuggling of migrants. It takes a human rights-based approach devising measures in close collaboration with the UNODC section on trafficking and smuggling of migrants.

Cuba:

Cuba emphasized that the illicit trafficking of arms, their parts, components and ammunition is also a sensitive issue at the global level. It is increasingly clear that the prevention, confrontation and eradication of this global phenomenon cannot be the task of a single State, but depends upon the joint efforts of the international community under the auspices of the United Nations. International cooperation in criminal matters is therefore an essential element in confronting the scourge of such trafficking. Combating transnational crime in all its forms and manifestations effectively and efficiently must be an essential objective of Member States, and international cooperation is indispensable for that purpose.

The Dominican Republic:

The Dominican Republic stated that the country is carrying out actions aimed at implementing the Firearms Protocol, especially focused on the prevention of illicit trafficking in arms, their components and ammunition, for which it receives the support and collaboration of UNODC through its Global Firearms Programme.

The Dominican Republic has issued Decree No. 370-24 establishing a special commission with the purpose of reviewing Law No. 590-16 on the Organic Law of the National Police and proposing its adaptation by means of a draft law. The government has also issued Decree 371-24 dated July 10, 2024, which aims to establish the guiding principles, general guidelines and governance for the process of reform, modernization and police transformation of the country. That process began in 2020 and is a priority of the current Dominican Government.

Police reform is aligned with the Dominican Republic's commitment to public security which it claims is based on professionalism, ethics and efficiency, fundamental pillars for social development and the strengthening of the rule of law in our country.

The Dominican Republic said it has been implementing measures to prevent trafficking in arms and ammunition and other illicit activities, through arms seizures and prevention and citizen control programmes. The national authorities are also involved in regional initiatives to combat illicit trafficking in firearms and their ammunition, in particular through membership of the established Caribbean Road Map Initiative and the Central American Road Map being adopted.

The Dominican Republic stated that it does not produce weapons but has strict legislation for the illegal use or possession of weapons and claims that legislation is severely enforced. In addition, the country's ports and airports that have been modernized to strengthen security and combat any type of smuggling.

The Philippines:

The Philippines is not a party to the Firearms Protocol, nevertheless claimed it has taken significant measures to prevent illicit firearms trafficking. The Philippines proudly highlighted its adoption of several key initiatives it championed during the Fourth Review Conference of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons which took place in June. These initiatives underscore the Philippines' strong commitment to addressing the complex challenges posed by illicit firearms trafficking and its intertwining role in other trafficking.

The African Group:

The Africa Group stated that its members remain concerned about the proliferation of small arms and light weapons that continue to be a threat to the peace and security on their continent. To this end, the Group emphasized the importance of ensuring the full and effective implementation of the UNTOC Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition in order to reduce their harmful impact on peace, security, individuals and communities.

The African Group expressed its concern regarding the challenges posed by the increasing links between terrorism and other forms of transnational organized crime including drug trafficking, corruption, cybercrime, trafficking in persons, firearms, banditry, and cultural property, as well as illicit financial flows and money-laundering in connection with the financing of terrorism.

Spain:

Spain expressed its concern about the diversion of weapons from armed conflicts and from emerging threats from new technologies such as 3D manufacturing. An effective institutional response is needed to improve the capacity to detect and dismantle consignments of illicit weapons. In this regard, the establishment of a National Weapons Focal Point by the Spanish government has shown the crucial role played by anti-trafficking units. The units have offered their experience and best practices available to other Member States and the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

Switzerland:

Switzerland views the "Firearms Protocol" as an important achievement in curbing the illicit manufacture of and trafficking in firearms and in combating organized crime. It noted that while progress has been made in implementing the Protocol, States still have a long way to go, and this requires, first and foremost, a strengthened commitment from governments. In this regard, Switzerland welcomed the adoption by the General Assembly last year of the Global Framework on Ammunition Management and is convinced that this new Framework is complementary to the "Firearms Protocol".

Türkiye:

Illicit trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition is according to Turkey a significant transnational threat. Illicitly obtained firearms are used by terrorist groups to carry out their heinous attacks. In Türkiye, a regulation was adopted in 2019 that prohibits the production of blank-firing guns which risk being illegally converted to lethal weapons.

Tanzania:

Tanzania mentioned its establishment of the Firearms and Ammunition Control Act, 2015 and the Armaments Control Act, Cap 246. These laws criminalize activities in weapons and ammunition related to transnational organized crime, and provide for the investigation and prosecution procedures including asset recovery and forfeiture.

Venezuela:

On arms trafficking, Venezuela claims to have stepped up its efforts to combat such crimes, confiscating more than 5,000 illegal weapons, including a cache of 400 just a month and a half ago.

Zimbabwe:

Zimbabwe stated that it is fully dedicated to eradicating the illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms. The government has commenced the process of amending the Firearms Act [Chapter 10:09] to bring it in line with international conventions, including the Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, as well as the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition, and Other Materials which it intends to ratify.

European Union:

The EU said that its members greatly appreciate UNODC's legislative and technical assistance to States, training for investigation and prosecution, and other capacity building activities to facilitate the implementation of the Firearms Protocol. EU members states and the EU commission are supporting multiple projects to counter illicit trafficking through the EU Global Illicit Flows Programme [GIFP], such as the UNODC's Countering Firearms Trafficking Project and its Project DISRUPT.¹

¹ Project developed by the INTERPOL Firearms Programme and the UNODC Global Firearms Programme targeting firearms trafficking. The action is part of the EU Global Illicit Flows Programme (GIFP) and is funded by the European Union.

Most EU activities are implemented with the help of regional organisations, such as the League of Arab States in the MENA region or the Organisation of American States in Latin America. The EU has been actively supporting the comprehensive Western Balkans Roadmap on Small Arms and Light Weapons with the aim of significantly reducing the illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives in the region. The regional Roadmap has recently been extended beyond 2024 and the goals of the Roadmap are aligned with the goals of the current EU Action Plan on firearms trafficking.

Furthermore, the EU stated that it is a longstanding supporter of the Arms Trade Treaty and the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons. The EU also welcomed the recent adoption of the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management. The EU encouraged further synergies between relevant international instruments to ensure their effective implementation, further involvement of civil society, and the integration of a gender perspective in all activities.

Over the last two years, the EU institutions have been reviewing the EU Regulation [258/2012] that implements Article 10 of the Firearms Protocol, setting out the general requirements for export, import and transit licencing or authorisation systems. Last spring, a political agreement was reached in Brussels to update the Regulation. This revision will bring about new rules harmonising all EU procedures on import, export and transit of firearms for civilian use. These procedures will be fully digital and will reinforce the secure movements of firearms and their traceability. The new rules also establish a simplified procedure for the temporary import and export of firearms for hunters, sport shooters, historical reenactors and exhibitors. There will be a stricter application of the technical standards for alarm and signal weapons, stricter rules on semi-finished firearms components, and measures to better control the final destination of firearms exported by European manufactures. The convertibility of alarm and signal weapons poses a well-documented threat. Moreover, in 2019, the EU established technical standards for these weapons, which could serve as a useful reference for future discussions at the UN level. Lastly, the EU stated that it has focused on evaluating the implementation of Article 5 of the UN Firearms Protocol regarding the criminalisation of offenses related to firearms in the EU Member States and has started the preparation of a legislative initiative. The aim is to establish minimum common criminal law standards, and also to specifically criminalise the use of blueprints to illegally manufacture firearms with 3D technology. Next to the three offences mentioned in Article 5 of the Firearms Protocol, the EU will explore the need for minimum EU common criminal law standards for all offences mentioned in the UN legislative guide for the implementation of the Protocol.

Meetings of IANSA with Diplomatic Missions:

This section summarises the most relevant points addressed to diplomatic missions as well as to representatives of civil society organisations.

Argentina Mission

Name Representative: Maria Paula Zannini. Counsellor, Embassy of the Argentine Republic in Austria Permanent Mission to the International Organisations in Vienna.

Yasmin introduced IANSA, a network of over 700 civil society organisations working against gun violence. We are ECOSOC accredited and are headquartered in Accra, Ghana with branches in London, New York, Antwerp, and Vienna. IANSA conducts research, advocacy, and public campaigns, including leading an amnesty campaign in Argentina for the safe disposal of civilian firearms. In collaboration with the Georgetown International Research Group, IANSA advocates for youth mainstreaming in international processes and policy design; campaigns against gender based violence and femicide; and promotes the need for synergies and complementarities in international and regional treaties on small arms control. Yasmin highlighted her experience in the Arms Trade Treaty negotiations.

During the meeting, Yasmin shared information on some of the recent IANSA activities, particularly the round table organised with the collaboration of Colombia, focusing on youth and gun violence in the context of GRULAC countries. During the meeting, Yasmin shared the work done by IANSA to promote the recognition and implementation of synergies and complementarities of measures contained in international and regional treaties. She described IANSA's most recent training workshop organised in Ghana for civil society organisations (CSOs) in Africa and plans for another workshop which IANSA is in the process of organising for CSOs Latin-American countries.

Brazil Mission:

Name Representative: *Rodrigo Bertoglio. Deputy Permanent Representative at the United Nations*

Yasmin introduced IANSA in the same way she had introduced IANSA to the Argentina Mission (see above). During the meeting, Yasmin shared some of the past activities, particularly the round table organised with the collaboration of Colombia, focusing on youth and gun violence in the context of GRULAC countries. During the meeting, Yasmin shared the work done in line to promoting synergies and complementarities of international and regional treaties. In that sense, she described the most recent workshop organised in Ghana and the one that it has been organised for Latin-American countries.

Paraguay Mission:

Name Representative: *Karolina Vera, Chief - General Special Affairs Unit Chief - General Special Affairs Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs*

Yasmin introduced IANSA in the same way she had introduced IANSA to the Argentina Mission (see above). During the meeting, Yasmin shared some of the past activities, particularly the round table organised with the collaboration of Colombia, focusing on youth and gun violence

in the context of GRULAC countries. During the meeting, Yasmin shared the work done in line to promoting synergies and complementarities of international and regional treaties. In that sense, she described the most recent workshop organised in Ghana and the one that its been organised for Latin-American countries.

European Union Mission:

Representative: Oliver Landwehr (Dr./Mr.) Counsellor. UNODC Matters

During the first part of the meeting, Brian described the support received by the EU to current projects from IANSA. Secondly, he expanded on the need to increase staff as well as funding to better support civil society organisations work, particularly in the global south.

During the meeting, Yasmin, described some projects that are currently underway involving EU countries focusing on youth and gun violence, as well as the interest expressed by Spanish officials on the challenges faced by 3D printing.

Last part of the meeting, focused on the possibility of enhancing financial support on behalf of the EU to further the work of IANSA. In that sense, the EU representative stated that he could connect us with representatives in Brussels and that he will connect with Yasmin to seek new opportunities of funding.

Italy Mission:

Representatives: Pietro Tombaccini, Counsellor and Silvio Vitagliano, Advisor for the National Authority for the Armament Licencing and Controls, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Italy

Time was very limited in the pre-meeting with the Italian officials prior to the IANSA sidemeeting (see below), Brian followed this up in a meeting with Mr. Silvio Vitagliano, who had presented on the subject alongside Brian at IANSA side event on the regulation of SALW brokering (see below). Brian outlined briefly what IANSA is and does along the lines that Yasmin had done in other meetings, but most of the time Brian discussed issues in detail related to the regulation of brokering and what could be done by States. During the meeting, Mr. Vitagliano congratulated Brian for his presentation at the side meeting and asked if he could have a copy – which Brian agreed on the basis that he can share it with official colleagues but not publish it. **UNODC**

Firearms Programme:

Representatives: Simonetta Grassi, Senior Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer and. Chief of UNODC's Global Firearms Programme, Max Menn, Associate Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer - Firearms Trafficking Section, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

Both Simonetta and Max expressed to Brian their satisfaction for IANSA's organisation of the side event and Brian's presentation. They expressed interest in further collaboration in the future.

The Netherlands Mission:

Representatives: Members of the Police

During the first part of the meeting, Brian expanded on the work done by IANSA in a similar way to what we did above and, in answer to questions, briefly summarized how the organisation is financed in the hope of exploring the possibility of a funding grant for IANSA. During the discussion, however, the officials present said that the new Netherlands government have cut the budget for development aid by 50% and that even MFA funding would now be more difficult under the new government. Yasmin reiterated the project involving youth and gun violence that is being planned to focus on EU countries.

Switzerland Mission

Representative: *Patricia Palmiero, Counsellor, Deputy Head of Mission UN/IO*

Yasmin introduced IANSA in a similar way she had introduced IANSA to the Argentina Mission (see above). During the meeting, Yasmin highlighted some of the most relevant areas of work as follows:

- ***Complementarities and synergies of international and regional instruments:*** We are in the process of organising webinars in three regions on the complementarities of international and regional instruments on gun control (UNPoA, ATT, FP, CIFTA and other regional treaties covering these issues) Additionally, we are in the process of working on a publication covering synergies in such instruments. Yasmin said IANSA greatly appreciate receiving Switzerland support to organise a webinar on this for European countries.
- **Youth Mainstreaming:** IANSA has undertaken significant efforts to promote the concept of "youth mainstreaming", meaning the deliberate inclusion of young people's perspectives, needs, and participation in the processes of reducing the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons. IANSA is developing round tables focusing on this matter, including a round table for EU countries focusing on youth and gun violence. Yasmin said IANSA would greatly appreciate receiving support from Switzerland for such a round table.
- **Gender Violence:** Another set of activities and outputs that IANSA has been organising and producing for its CSO members internationally relates to the prevention of gender-based violence involving guns. These IANSA activities and outputs have been supported by an EU grant.

During the meeting, Yasmin shared some of the recent IANSA activities she has been involved in organising, particularly the round table organised with the collaboration of Colombia, focusing on youth and gun violence in the context of GRULAC countries. Yasmin also mentioned the work done by IANSA in Vienna to promote synergies and complementarities of measures contained in relevant international and regional treaties. She described the most recent training workshop organised in Ghana for IANSA's members in Africa and the one that is being organised by her with colleagues for Latin-American countries. She also mentioned the round table on Youth and gun violence being planned for the EU countries.

The Global Alliance on Transnational Organised Crime:

Representative: *Anna Alvazzi, Founding Director, Kennis: Knowledge for Safety and Good Governance*

Brian enquired about the work done by the Global Alliance. Anna confirmed it was an umbrella network of civil society organisations that work to help prevent TOC. She said that Ian Tenant is the director of the Global Alliance and that she coordinates the firearms aspect of their work. She said that she would like to do more in partnership with IANSA - but she didn't specify anything except say that the Constructive Dialogues in April 2025 may be an opportunity for IANSA and the Global Alliance to collaborate, and that we should discuss this further.

Egypt Mission:

Representative: *Khaled Elmenshawy, Counsellor*

Yasmin introduced IANSA in a similar way she had introduced IANSA to the Argentina Mission and other Missions mentioned above. During the meeting, Yasmin highlighted some of the most relevant areas of IANSA's work which included those she had raised with Switzerland. These included complementarities and synergies of measures in the international and regional instruments on SALW, youth mainstreaming regarding small arms, and gender violence with SALW.

University of Peace, Costa Rica:

Representative: *Mauricio Viera, Assistant Professor and Head of the Chair on Countering Illicit Trade and Preventing Transnational Organized Crime*

Yasmin and Brian discussed the LA workshop on the complementarities and synergies of international and regional treaties on SALW and their interest in collaborating. Yasmin has already been having discussions with Mauricio Viera about arrangements for the workshop and it was clear that he is very committed to collaborating with IANSA on this.

Centre for Governance Research, Pakistan

Representative: *Tariq Khosa, Director*

Brian introduced IANSA to Tariq Khosa who had made a presentation in a side meeting on field research he and others had carried out on firearms trafficking in northern Pakistan. Brian discussed with him the possibility that he could present his findings to IANSA's Asia Workshop for CSO members in that region,

Global Initiative on Transnational Organised Crime - GI-ToC

Representative: *Darren Brookbanks, Multilateral; Engagement Officer*

Brian briefly met Darren who described the work of GI-TOC. It has large funding from Western governments and employs approximately 130 staff around the world to support the work of States in the detection and prevention of transnational organised crime. GI-TOC is a member of the umbrella Global Alliance. Brian asked to meet the director of GI-TOC but he was unavailable during the remainder of the UNTIC conference.

OAS:

Representative: Gaston Schulmeister

Yasmin spoke with Gaston who expressed interest in collaborating in LA workshop on the synergies and complementarities of international and regional treaties.

IANSA Side Event: 'Regulating the Brokering of Small Arms and Light Weapons to Prevent Diversion into Illicit Markets, particularly Transnational Organised Crime'

A side event focusing on brokering was organised on October 18th at 1 pm during a lunch break on the final day of the Conference. The objective of this Side Event was to promote dialogue between States to discuss experiences, challenges, and more effective measures of regulating brokering to prevent the diversion and illicit trade of small arms and light weapons, and their ammunition, parts and components, especially into contexts of transnational organised crime. This event included presentations from the Permanent Missions of Italy and Spain, a representative of the UNODC Firearms Programme and Brian Wood, leadership team member of IANSA.



(From left to right) **Mr. Silvio Vitagliano** –Advisor for the National Authority for the Armament Licencing and Controls, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Italy , **Inspector Alberto Sánchez Aguado** - Spain - Police Liaison Officer Permanent Representation to the OSCE/UN/Bilateral, in representation of Jose Alberto Casero Perez, member of the Spanish National Police, **Yasmin Espinoza Goecke**, IANSA Representative at the United Nations in Vienna, **Dr. Brian Wood** - A founder and leadership team member of IANSA. Consultant on arms transfer controls for various agencies including the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and **Mr. Max Menn** - Associate Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer - Firearms Trafficking Section, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The side event was attended by

33 people, mostly officials from diplomatic missions and the UN. and it lasted 50 minutes. It was moderated by Yasmin.

Brian introduced the key issues regarding definitions of arms brokering in the international/regional instruments and legislation. Using a power point on two big screens, he recounted his experience as the former UN consultant to the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on Illicit Brokering of SALW. He focussed on gaps in national control systems, some options for control measures including on extra-territorial regulation and closely related activities, and lesson learned, as summarized in his IANSA briefing paper.

Max Menn, a researcher at UNODC, then presented a case study involving six countries to highlight the international nature of brokering in firearms. He agreed that more work needs to be done to regulate brokering taking into account the options suggested by Brian and the UN GGE, and studies of SALW criminal diversion.

The presentation developed by Mr. Jose Alberto Casero Perez, member of the National Police of Spain and generously presented by Inspector Alberto Sánchez Aguado of Spain. It focussed on police investigations of illicit firearms trafficking in Spain, particularly regarding the trafficking of Glock pistols and parts from central Europe.

Silvio Vitagliano from the Italian national authority outlined the frameworks for legitimate brokering set out in international instruments and referred to Brian's briefing paper for IANSA and to the useful wording for a definition of brokering in the UN GGE report worked on by Brian. He presented a case of illicit trafficking of ammunition from Italy to the Dominican Republic discovered by the Senegal customs service. The Italian ship company was prosecuted. It shows the need for security of such cargoes as well as third country export compliance.

As a result of the event, several officials approached Brian about his presentation and there was interest including from UNODC in furthering the work on brokering at the UN in collaboration with States and experts.

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Distinguished Chair:

First allow me to congratulate you and the Secretariat for the excellent work done thus far. I have the honour to speak on behalf of the International Action Network on Small Arms, IANSA, a global network of over 700 non-governmental organisations working to prevent and reduce human suffering from the illicit trade and misuse of small arms and light weapons.

Transnational organised crime constitutes one of the biggest threats in today's societies, overlapping with terrorism and compounding the escalation into armed conflicts. The human, social and economic costs vary by region and country, but the effects are global and increasing. The link between strengthening the regulation of small arms, light weapons and their parts, components, and ammunition on the one hand, and enhancing socio-economic development, sustainable peace, and the enjoyment of economic, social, cultural, civil and political rights on the other hand, has never been clearer.

Looking ahead, a recent IANSA briefing paper illustrates how children and youth are specially affected by gun violence. Targeted by organised criminal groups, they often suffer a complex duality becoming both perpetrators and victims of gun violence with devastating long-term consequences. The UN Secretary-General has warned of a steady increase in the killing and maiming of children often committed with small arms and light weapons.

The UN Review Conference in June on the PoA-ITI decided to review measures to address technological developments in SALW manufacturing, such as with 3-D printing and polymer weapons design, which may facilitate their proliferation, illicit trade, and misuse. As shown in a recent IANSA briefing paper, other new technologies can also help to improve control of the full life cycle of such weapons.

IANSA, like UNODC believe that the effectiveness of the UN Firearms Protocol can be enhanced by implementing mutually complementary measures contained in other international instruments, such as the UN PoA-ITI and the ATT, as well as with other relevant regional instruments that address the illicit trade in SALW.

For example, the effective regulation of brokering transactions is addressed by the Firearms Protocol, as well as the PoA, the ATT and regional instruments. These commit States to establish mechanisms for the registration of brokers and the licensing or authorization of brokering transactions as well as appropriate penalties for illicit brokering activities performed within the State's jurisdiction and control. The recent ATT Conference of States Parties decided to review

options for brokering controls. States that have already established such measures are encouraged to review their effectiveness to prevent illicit brokering.

Distinguished Chair,

With your permission I would like to invite participants to a side event on the regulation of brokering, organised by IANSA which will be held on Friday 18th at 1 pm in Room M2. The meeting is co-sponsored by Italy and the EU with the participation of Spain and the Firearms Programme of UNODC.

Thank you for this opportunity to address the Conference.



Distinguished Chair: I have the honour to speak on behalf of the International Action Network on Small Arms, IANSA, a global network of over 700 non-governmental organisations working to prevent and reduce human suffering from the illicit trade and misuse of small arms and light weapons.

As part of our work, IANSA supports efforts to increase global peace, stability, and sustainability, by promoting civil society efforts to prevent arms proliferation, illicit trade and circulation, and gun violence. IANSA welcomes the statements made by States which acknowledge and recognize the importance of civil society organizations in combating the threat of organised crime. As Secretary General, António Guterres stated in his 2023 “New Agenda for Peace” civil society actors plays a relevant role in “rebuilding trust in societies and in the international system”, who, in his words, represent “the most vulnerable, marginalised, and voiceless.”

In this regard, IANSA would like to draw your attention to the outcome of the Fourth Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons held in New York from 18 to 28 June 2024. The UN Conference recognized “the importance of preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons as part of efforts to prevent and address all forms of violence, including, inter alia, terrorism, domestic crime, transnational organized crime and violent extremism, trafficking in persons and drugs, money-laundering and crimes that affect the environment, including trafficking in wildlife.” It should be noted that Participating States agreed to actively engage with civil society including with youth, victims, and survivors, and to promote women’s equal, full, meaningful, and effective participation, especially regarding national and regional target-setting, community safety, violence reduction, collection, and destruction of SALW, stockpile management, conflict prevention, and peacebuilding.

The Conference outcome document addressed challenges related to limited technical and financial resources, a lack of infrastructure in some States, and complementarities with the Firearms Protocol and the Arms Trade Treaty.

States recommended utilising, amongst other funds, Official Development Assistance-eligible funds, and requested that the UN Secretariat prepare options for the General Assembly to establish a dedicated UN funding mechanism to advance implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument by all relevant stakeholders. States also urged each other to provide higher levels of information exchange, reporting, and transparency. IANSA welcomes the possibility of participating in the Constructive Dialogues organised by the UNODC Civil Society Unit because these provide an opportunity to promote dialogue between civil society organizations and States. We believe that effective facilitation of the engagement from civil society organisations should be enhanced, particularly regarding the UNTOC Review Mechanism.

We recognize that the Mechanism is primarily an intergovernmental process, but that itself could be strengthened by greater transparency and engagement with a wide variety of civil society specialists. One of the main benefits would be to generate greater public awareness worldwide and strength political commitments to improve implementation of the UNTOC and its Protocols. Another benefit would be to improve collaboration between specialists in civil society and national authorities in support of technical assistance, research capacity, and fostering international cooperation. This would draw on knowledge, skills, and experience of the wide variety of organisations and stakeholders in the field.

IANSA thanks you for the opportunity to address the Conference