

IANSA Conference Summary: Ninth Biennial Meeting of States on the UNPoA (BMS9) and the First Meeting of the Open-Ended Technical Expert Group (OETEG)

1-5 June 2026

The Ninth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS9) to consider implementation 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 and its International Tracing Instrument took place from 1-5 June 2026 in New York.

Opening Statements

The week began with traditional General Assembly conference proceedings for considering the UN Program of Action (UNPoA) on small arms and light weapons (SALW), including the adoption of the provisional agenda and organization of work. H.E. Mr. James Larsen of Australia served as Chair of BMS9. In his opening remarks, he emphasized the need for states to find new ways to address contentious issues, describing the UNPoA as a cornerstone of global disarmament and peace efforts.

UN Under-Secretary-General and High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Izumi Nakamitsu addressed the meeting, stressing that the illicit trade in SALW continues to threaten peace, security, and sustainable development. She noted that small arms remain involved in a significant share of global homicides and continue to enable conflict, organized crime, gender-based violence, and the recruitment of young people by armed groups. To make the UNPoA more effective, Ms. Nakamitsu stressed the need for cutting off diversion at the source through pre-transfer risk assessments that can prevent exports where a substantial risk is identified. Her statement also highlighted the importance of regular national reporting, targeted assistance, and ensuring end-to-end digital traceability so that the UNPoA and International Tracing Instrument (ITI) remain fit for purpose in the light of emerging technologies such as 3D-printed firearms. Significantly, she advocated “funding prevention by directing a percentage of SALW assistance to community-based initiatives, with direct support for women’s and youth-led efforts.”¹

The Chair’s provisional agenda and rules of procedure² was adopted without objection. The organization of work was also noted, including the suspension of formal meetings on 2 June due to financial constraints. The meeting then moved into thematic discussions under Agenda Item 7 on implementation of the UNPoA and ITI, followed by Agenda Item 8 on international cooperation and assistance. The UNPoA meeting was suspended from 4 June through the morning of 5 June to allow the Open-Ended Technical Expert Group (OETEG) to convene and discuss developments in SALW technology, manufacturing, and design. The UNPoA meeting reconvened in the afternoon of 5 June, adopting the outcome document.

June 1, 2026 – Day 1

Agenda Item 7: Thematic Debate on UNPoA/ITI Implementation

Many states delivered statements under Agenda Item 7, providing updates on national implementation efforts and sharing challenges. Recurring themes included:

¹ https://unodaweb.unoda.org/public/2026-06/6.1%20HR%20Statement_0.pdf

² BMS9 applied mutatis mutandis the rules of procedure of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects held in 2001, as contained in document [A/CONF.192/16](#). Rule 33 on decision-making matters states that “every effort should be made to reach agreement on substantive matters by means of consensus. There should be no voting on such matters until all efforts to achieve consensus have been exhausted.”

Emerging Technologies and the Challenges of 3D-Printed and Polymer Weapons

The threat posed by emerging technologies and their impact on manufacturing, trade, and the design of weapons remained the most discussed theme of the day. Nigeria, Uruguay, Morocco, Greece, Finland (on behalf of the Nordic countries), El Salvador, Italy, Indonesia, Brazil, Australia, France, Thailand, Poland, Canada, Ghana, Guatemala, and many other states raised concerns about 3D-printed firearms and polymer weapons. Australia shared the successful application of forensic and smart-water technologies to address obliterated weapon markings. Thailand announced the publication of a national handbook on 3D printing and community engagement. Poland encouraged the OETEG to draw on industry expertise regarding plastic labeling solutions. Brazil, Australia, Turkey, and India welcomed the OETEG's first meeting as a step toward tangible recommendations. India additionally called for the outcome document to address dark web trafficking and digital arms transfers.

Traceability and Diversion Prevention

Preventing the diversion of SALW to non-state actors was identified as another central implementation priority by a broad range of states, including Morocco, Argentina, Mexico, El Salvador, Mali, Nigeria, CARICOM (via Guyana), the EU, Colombia, and Russia. These delegations expressed support for strengthening marking, recordkeeping, and end-user controls across the full lifecycle of weapons. Russia raised its concern that interstate transfers are a primary route by which weapons reach non-state entities, often through profit-seeking or disregard for tracing obligations. Suriname and Cameroon each highlighted local observations that maritime and riverine routes pose underacknowledged diversion risks. The Philippines underscored the importance of maritime coordination and operational cooperation amongst states. Cameroon called on UNODA to develop a toolkit specifically for maritime border control and make it linguistically accessible.

Synergies with Related Instruments

Argentina, Finland (on behalf of the Nordic countries), Austria, and Congo supported coherent implementation across the UNPoA, Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), Firearms Protocol, and the Global Framework for Ammunition Management (GFA). Iran, Cuba, and the Arab Group continued to caution against cross-referencing instruments that lack universal adoption, with Iran explicitly opposing the introduction of new elements or terminology into the UNPoA and ITI.

Inclusivity Considerations in the PoA

Gendered dimensions of SALW violence and the importance of inclusive decision-making were raised by numerous delegations during the last several Biennial Meetings of States and the last two Review Conferences. On Day 1 at the BMS9, Mexico, South Africa, Finland (Nordic countries), France, Belgium, Pakistan, and Canada stressed the disproportionate impact of SALW on women and girls, and the need for gender-disaggregated data. Mexico called for victims' voices to be centered in policy processes to make them better reflect the realities in which many states operate. Italy identified root causes, including institutional instability, limited educational access, and lack of youth involvement, as understudied drivers that must be addressed.

The draft outcome document's language on gender-related SALW issues (particularly paragraphs 11 and 15) generated active debate. Ghana, Mexico, Brazil, South Africa, El Salvador, Germany, Switzerland, Luxembourg, Belgium, Canada, and France all confirmed support for retaining Paragraph 11 on gender considerations. The United States expressed willingness to work toward the language in paragraph 4 and urged the deletion of contentious language on the mainstreaming of gender perspective and gender-

responsive policymaking and programming. Egypt proposed removing gender references in paragraphs 11 and 15, arguing the topic is already adequately covered in earlier provisions.

Notably, Belgium delivered a joint statement on behalf of a broad coalition of 57 states³ supporting the retention of gender-related language in the BMS9 outcome document. States argued that maintaining existing gender commitments made in the UNPoA process would strengthen evidence-based policymaking and improve the effectiveness of efforts to control SALW in addressing the differentiated impacts of armed violence.

National Reporting Trends (Afternoon Session)

A presentation on national reporting trends by UNODA revealed a significant decline: from approximately 120 reports⁴ in 2018 to 83 now, with sharp drops in reporting by states in the Asia-Pacific and the Latin America and Caribbean regions. Key findings from the reporting trends presentation by UNODA⁵ included:

- Diversion, destruction, collection, and marking of weapons remain central concerns in national reports, with approximately half of reporting states collecting diversion-related information either on transfers or national stockpiles;
- International tracing is also showing encouraging progress, with 69 states now having tracing procedures in place, and 54 cooperate with Interpol;
- Gender consideration continued to show remarkable progress. In 2026, 70% of reporting states indicated they integrate a gender perspective in their small arms control efforts. Sex-disaggregated data collection also increased, reflecting sustained momentum since 2018; and
- Challenges persist around limited diversion data, as 54% of states either do not collect diversion data or keep it confidential. This significantly constrains our ability to understand and collectively address illicit flows. Second, tracing data remains sparse.

Recommendations from the presentation included: expanded national target identification, updated marking standards for new weapon types, increased international and regional cooperation, and greater integration of gender reporting.

Agenda Item 8: International Cooperation and Assistance

Afternoon of Day 1 (01 June) statements under Agenda Item 8 focused on the mechanisms and conditions for international cooperation in support of UNPoA and ITI implementation. States demonstrated a strong consensus on the need for sustained, predictable, and needs-driven assistance.

The EU outlined its expanded regional framework for SALW, including amendments to export licensing and stockpile protection developed in consultation with civil society and industry. The EU's i-Trace instrument has been extended until 2029 and continues to support capacity building in demolition and stockpile

³ States that signed Belgium's joint statement as of 03 June 2026 are as follows: Albania, Australia, Austria, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Brazil, Bulgaria, Cabo Verde, Canada, Colombia, Costa Rica, Croatia, Cyprus, Czechia, Denmark, El Salvador, Estonia, Finland, France, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Hungary, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Latvia, Lithuania, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Federated States of Micronesia, Monaco, Montenegro, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Panama, Philippines, Poland, Portugal, Republic of Korea, Republic of Moldova, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, Türkiye, Ukraine, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, and the European Union.

⁴ [Programme of Action on SALW International Tracing Instrument: Trends, Challenges and Opportunities.](#)

⁵ UNODA presentation transcription is accessible here: <https://transcripts.un.org/en/asset/k1p/k1p3ah9yzz>.

management. Germany noted a dedicated annual budget of approximately 50 million euros funding dedicated projects implemented by UN institutions, the OSCE, and non-governmental organizations. China announced a forthcoming China-UN-Africa training course for countries in the Great Lakes region covering legislation, IT development, firearms classification, destruction of SALW, and border management.

Several developing country delegations, including El Salvador, Malaysia, Mali, and Morocco, stressed that financial and institutional constraints remain the primary barriers to implementation, and that international assistance must be measurable and tailored to individual country needs. Switzerland called for a meaningful intersessional period leading to BMS10 to allow for substantive follow-up on the recommendations emerging from BMS9. France highlighted its support for a regional stockpile management academy in Benin and a SALW trafficking roadmap for the Western Balkans.

In the discussion on assistance, several specific drafting issues were raised regarding the outcome document. Egypt proposed amendments to paragraphs 7, 9, and 51, including adding a conditional caveat to socioeconomic and environmental drivers and tightening language on international cooperation commitments. Japan sought clarification on whether paragraph 59's reference to "administrative and financial language" would require additional budget allocations. Brazil supported Egypt's proposed changes on environmental drivers and paragraph 51. India requested the deletion of the "industry code" from paragraph 48, arguing that it is already covered by national laws.

June 3, 2026 – Day 2

Agenda Item 8 (Continued) – International Cooperation and Assistance

On June 3rd, CARICOM underscored that firearms-related violence must be addressed as a transnational, public health, and governance issue requiring an integrated response. Key priorities identified included: real-time information exchange, coordinated cargo management, physical security and stockpile management, and keeping prevention at the core of all efforts. CARICOM also reaffirmed support for women's active participation.

Nepal called for strengthened national capacity in border and stockpile management, the collection of disaggregated data, and complementarity with regional training efforts, and also welcomed the establishment of a SALW fellowship program. Timor-Leste called for faster international assistance for small island developing states. DRC highlighted its 2024-2028 National Action Plan, engagement with Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR) programs, and the need to address diversion at every stage of the supply chain.

Chile stressed that no state faces these challenges alone and called for equitable access to technology and strengthened information exchange mechanisms. Brazil emphasized consistent ITI marking procedures and maintenance of channels for information exchange on trafficking patterns. Djibouti called for heightened political resolve and a strengthened legal and regulatory framework. Australia encouraged states to contribute to the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation. (UNSCAR), a multi-donor fund managed by UNODA, and highlighted practical training and infrastructure support delivered across the Pacific and Southeast Asia.

Statements by International and Regional Organizations

The World Customs Organization (WCO) highlighted the development of international standards and the WCO's risk assessment frameworks and training for customs harmonization. Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) reaffirmed its commitment to coordination to prevent illicit SALW flows. Interpol presented

its “I-Arms” tool and flagship “Trigger” operations as key instruments for cross-border law enforcement cooperation, stressing the importance of aligning policy with operational realities. The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) outlined its assistance mechanism for stockpile destruction and noted the ongoing SEESAC regional project in Southeastern Europe, with continued engagement in Ukraine.

The Organization of American States (OAS) announced the piloting of a new Consultative Committee of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) questionnaire to assess the effectiveness of UNPoA implementation, featuring a private interface and a real-time analytical dashboard. The Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) called for complementarity between the ITI and the Kinshasa Convention and highlighted work to establish national commissions and focal points. NATO outlined two tracks of engagement: firstly, improving stockpile security through training and oversight, and secondly, extending NATO cooperation to 40+ states and organizations. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) noted its member states operate in the epicenter of one of Africa’s regions of instability and that it tries to enforce one of that region’s most robust control frameworks, including minimum standards on licensing, production, and trading of small arms as set out in the ECOWAS Convention.

Statements from Non-governmental Organizations and Civil Society

A total of 20 NGOs delivered statements to BMS9.⁶ NGOs from around the world delivered statements on key issues including human rights, gender-responsive small arms control, diversion prevention, survivor assistance, youth participation, ammunition management, and emerging technologies. A common theme was that strong civil society engagement remains essential to advancing the implementation of the UNPoA and building safer, more peaceful communities worldwide. All NGO statements are available on the UNODA webpage [here](#).

Civil society statements reiterated the UNPoA’s commitment for continued cooperation by states with civil society organisations, the retention of the language on gender mainstreaming in UNPoA documents, continued inclusion of women and youth, and the human impact of armed violence. IANSA’s statement called for the urgent need by states to take action-oriented measures to ensure strict regulations of the whole life cycle of small arms and light weapons from production to uses and disposal, and for such measures to be done efficiently as part of national target-setting programs to strengthen national laws, regulations, and administrative procedures in line with the UNPoA and other relevant instruments to which states are party. Furthermore, IANSA called on each state to work with civil society to ensure implementation of the UNPoA and states’ other commitments and obligations through the full, meaningful and effective participation of not only men but equally of women, people of diverse genders, youth, victims, and survivors affected by SALW-related violence, thereby sustaining popular and united support for such programs.

⁶ The complete list of NGO speakers are as follows: International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), Gender Equality Network for Small Arms Control (GENSAC), Forum on the Arms Trade, Control Arms, Asociación para Políticas Públicas (APP), Mines Advisory Group (MAG), Nonviolence International Southeast Asia (NISEA), Global Initiative Against Transnational Organized Crime (GI-TOC), Fondation pour l’étude des relations internationales et du développement - Small Arms Survey (SAS), Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP), HALO Trust, Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining and its Ammunition Management Advisory Team (GICHD - AMAT), Foundation for Security and Development in Africa (FOSDA), Norwegian People's Aid, Bolivian Women's Efforts (BWE), International Humanitarian Law and Youth Initiative (IHLYI), Peace Angels, WAANSA Nigeria, World Federalist Movement (WFM), Security Research and Information Centre (SRIC).

SIDE EVENT: UNSCAR in Action: Strengthening Global Support for the UNPoA

The UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR) and IANSA jointly held a side event on Wednesday (03 June) afternoon titled “[UNSCAR in Action: Strengthening Global Support for the UNPoA](#)”. The side event highlighted UNSCAR’s role in supporting practical, high-impact initiatives to strengthen SALW controls and implementation of international commitments. Finland, speaking on behalf of the UNSCAR donors, emphasized the importance of sustained support for preventive measures and well-resourced national institutions, while the UNSCAR Secretariat reported strong demand for assistance, noting that more than 100 applications were received in 2025–2026.

Four speakers showcased successful UNSCAR-supported projects. Cambodia cited UNSCAR support contributing to a broader process in combating arms smuggling in Southeast Asia, with three regional workshops organized to support dialogue, capacity building, and confidence building at the national level. The Philippines recognized UNSCAR’s valuable role in supporting States’ operational cooperation among states through practical dialogue, confidence building, and regional cooperation. UNSCAR support has enabled states and partners to share experiences and develop context-specific solutions. The Mines Advisory Group (MAG) project demonstrated effective destruction of illicit weapons and ammunition, while IANSA highlighted regional engagement to prevent armed violence and strengthen community-level approaches to violence prevention.

In the event’s closing statement, Germany emphasized that targeted funding and country ownership are key to achieving effective results and stressed the importance of sharing lessons learned and project outcomes to strengthen global SALW control efforts.

June 4, 2026 – Day 3

Open-Ended Technical Expert Group (OETEG) on Developments in Small Arms and Light Weapons Technology, Manufacturing and Design

On 4 June, the BMS9 proceedings were suspended to allow the OETEG to convene and begin its examination of developments in SALW technology, manufacturing, and design. A total of three panel discussions were organized from Thursday to Friday morning (04–05 June):

- Panel 1: Challenges posed by developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of small arms and light weapons, in particular polymers, modular and illicit 3D printing (04 June – morning)
- Panel 2: Panel 2 Opportunities presented by developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of small arms and light weapons to strengthen national implementation in line with relevant provisions of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument (04 June – afternoon)
- Panel 3 International cooperation and assistance: sharing expertise and good practices to address challenges and opportunities presented by developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of small arms and light weapons (05 June – morning)

Chaired by the Permanent Representative of the UN, H.E Michael Kanu, the session focused on the challenges posed by emerging technologies, particularly polymer, modular, and 3D-printed firearms, as well as opportunities for international cooperation and technical assistance. Adedeji Ebo, the Deputy High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, emphasized the importance of developing practical recommendations ahead of BMS10 and highlighted the need to consider gender and youth perspectives alongside technical discussions.

PANEL 1: Challenges Posed by Polymer, Modular, and 3D-Printed Firearms

The primary focus of the meeting was the growing proliferation of polymer, modular, and 3D-printed firearms. Expert briefers highlighted how advances in additive manufacturing have transformed the nature of illicit weapons production. Rachel Bolton King from Nottingham Trent University noted that the absence of internationally agreed definitions for polymer, modular, and 3D-printed firearms continues to complicate regulation, tracing, and law-enforcement efforts. Challenges include identifying the primary component of modular firearms, ensuring durable markings on polymer materials, and improving consistency in recordkeeping and tracing practices across states.

Rueben Dass, an Associate Research Fellow at the S. Rajaratnam School of International Studies (RSIS) described how newer generations of 3D-printed firearms have become increasingly independent of regulated components, making them more difficult to detect and control. He also highlighted the role of online communities in facilitating the spread of technical knowledge and digital blueprints, as well as the growing links between 3D-printed firearms and criminal and extremist activities. Panelists expressed concern that these developments are reducing barriers to illicit firearm production while complicating traditional tracing and enforcement mechanisms.

Samantha Allen, Senior Policy Director, Protective Security and Small Arms at the Ministry of National Security of Jamaica, outlined provisions in its 2022 Firearms Act, including recognition of digital blueprints and 3D-printed weapons in national legislation. She presented ongoing legislative and operational reforms to regulate the acquisition and use of 3D-printing technologies while strengthening cooperation between law enforcement and border security agencies.

Marking, Traceability, and Forensic Challenges

Discussions in Panel 1 repeatedly returned to the question of how existing marking and tracing systems can adapt to new manufacturing technologies. Experts identified significant differences in marking requirements and forensic methodologies across states, hindering effective international cooperation and tracing efforts. Recommendations included establishing clearer guidance on identifying and marking essential firearm components, promoting greater consistency in national marking standards, and improving forensic recovery techniques.

Several delegations shared national experiences and best practices. The United Kingdom emphasized that 3D-printed firearms should be subject to the same tracing requirements as conventionally manufactured firearms, while Switzerland and France highlighted the importance of durable markings, including the possible use of metallic inserts for polymer components. Discussions also covered the relative strengths and weaknesses of different marking methods, including laser engraving, stamping, and embedded metal tags. The Republic of Korea highlighted its efforts to strengthen regulatory frameworks governing weapons manufacturing and described community-based reporting mechanisms that support early detection and prevention efforts. Canada reiterated its prohibition on ghost guns, while India highlighted its digitized firearm registration and licensing systems.

Many delegations stressed that responses must remain practical, technically focused, and consistent with existing commitments under the UNPoA and ITI. Saudi Arabia emphasized that states retain primary responsibility for regulating manufacture and transfers within their national jurisdictions and cautioned against creating entirely new frameworks outside existing instruments. At the same time, many speakers acknowledged that no single state could address these challenges alone and underscored the importance of information sharing, technical expertise, and international cooperation.

PANEL 2: Technology as Part of the Solution

While much of the discussion focused on the risks associated with emerging technologies, the afternoon panel focused on opportunities presented by developments in the manufacturing, technology, and design of small arms and light weapons to strengthen national implementation in line with the UNPoA and ITI. Experts, such as Paula Soumaya Domit from the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) highlighted the benefits of centralized databases, digitized recordkeeping systems, advanced forensic methods, and artificial intelligence applications that can improve tracing, detection, and information analysis. Dr. Billy Henwood, assistant professor at Trent University and forensic science consultant with Conflict Armament Research (CAR), spoke about the forensic recovery of serial numbers and CAR's approaches to tracing, including its work on a hybrid marking invention with UNODA. Leí Soudido Santos, the Brazilian Federal Criminal Police Representative, argued that technology should not be viewed solely as a source of new threats, but also as an important tool for strengthening the implementation of the UNPoA and ITI.

The discussions concluded with broad agreement that emerging technologies will continue to reshape the challenges associated with illicit SALW production and trafficking. Panelists emphasized the need for continued dialogue, practical technical recommendations, and sustained international cooperation to ensure that international tracing and control mechanisms remain effective in a rapidly evolving technological environment.

June 5, 2026 – Day 4

Open-Ended Technical Expert Group (OETEG) on International Cooperation and Assistance – (Continued)

On 5 June, the OETEG continued its work by examining international cooperation and assistance in addressing developments in SALW technology, manufacturing, and design. International cooperation and assistance discussions focused on sharing expertise and good practices to address challenges and opportunities presented by developments in the manufacturing, technology, and design of small arms and light weapons. Speakers also emphasised that technological developments have created new implementation demands that many states, particularly in developing countries, lack the resources and technical capacity to address independently.

PANEL 3: Building Sustainable National Capabilities

Lynn Hyder, Specialized Officer at the Firearms Program of INTERPOL, underscored that privately manufactured firearms, including 3D-printed and hybrid firearms, present a direct challenge to the way states identify, trace, and investigate illicit weapons. She presented a recommendation for Member States to strengthen their legal and operational framework, acknowledging the reality that 3D-printed and hybrid firearms do not always fit neatly within existing legal definitions. States should consider how national frameworks regulate digital firearm design files, precursor components, partially manufactured receivers, barrels, firing mechanisms, other critical parts, and relevant manufacturing equipment, including electrochemical machining for barrel manufacturing or 3D printers.

Calistus Joseph, Assistant Director, Policy, Strategy and Innovation, Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security, CARICOM IMPASS, underscored that assistance should be measured not by the quantity of equipment provided but by the capabilities it creates; he also outlined five principles for effective assistance: country ownership, alignment with national priorities, harmonization among partners, results-oriented programming, and mutual accountability.

Mansour Al Sultan, Director of Weapons Regulation and Small Arms Liaison at the Ministry of Interior, Republic of Iraq, highlighted the establishment of specialized committees, cooperation with international organizations, and the development of the Iraqi National Arms Bank, which supports the registration, marking, and regulation of civilian-owned firearms. The system was presented as an example of how national recordkeeping mechanisms can contribute to tracing and accountability efforts.

Johnson Asante-Twum, Managing Director of IANSA, representing civil society on the panel, called for legislative reforms in less capacitated states to provide a legal basis for controlling SALW manufactured using new technologies. He also recommended capacity enhancement for regulatory agencies in standardization and certification of new technologies in SALW manufacture and control.

Panelists repeatedly stressed the importance of real-time information sharing, coordinated law-enforcement efforts, and the use of existing international mechanisms to improve tracing and diversion-prevention efforts. That technology transfer should not be understood as the simple transfer of equipment. Instead, it should include training, maintenance, interoperability, cybersecurity considerations, local adaptation, and long-term technical support. Discussions also warned that short-term funding can support projects but cannot build the institutions needed to sustain implementation over time.

States shared a range of relevant national experiences in implementing the UNPoA and ITI. Sierra Leone described its efforts to strengthen implementation through the national marking of state-owned weapons, annual licensing procedures for civilian firearms, and the development of a five-year National Action Plan that is aligned with broader national development objectives. Sierra Leone also highlighted programs designed to support alternative livelihoods for craft firearm manufacturers, illustrating the importance of addressing the socioeconomic dimensions of illicit weapons production.

Many delegations further emphasized that international cooperation remains essential if states are to keep pace with emerging technological developments. Iran stressed that new commitments and expectations must be accompanied by predictable and accessible assistance for developing countries. Australia, Germany, Mexico, Nigeria, India, and the Dominican Republic similarly argued that technical assistance, training, and information-sharing mechanisms are necessary to ensure that all states can effectively implement agreed commitments.

SIDE EVENT: Maritime Security and Illicit Arms Trafficking

A side event organized by the Small Arms Survey on maritime aspects of the UNPoA drew attention to the role of maritime routes in facilitating illicit trafficking. Speakers highlighted the challenges faced by coastal states and small island developing states in monitoring large maritime areas with limited resources. Speakers noted that illicit arms trafficking frequently exploits weaknesses in maritime governance, data collection, and interagency coordination.

Discussions emphasized the importance of maritime-specific training, improved communication mechanisms, stronger public-private partnerships, and enhanced coordination between customs authorities, port operators, law-enforcement agencies, and regional organizations. Participants stressed that because illicit trafficking networks operate across borders and regions, responses must likewise be cooperative and transnational.

Fourth Plenary Meeting: Adoption of the OETEG Report and BMS9 Outcome Document

In the afternoon of 5 June, the UNPoA meeting reconvened with final discussions on the adoption of the OETEG report and consideration of elements of the broader draft BMS9 outcome document [A/CONF.192/BMS/2026/CRP.1/REV.1*](#) presented by the conference president (Australia). The debates

surrounding the final text reflected broader discussions that had characterized the week: how to respond to evolving technological challenges, how to strengthen implementation through international cooperation and assistance, and how to preserve the consensus-based nature of the UNPoA process while adapting to new realities.

Delegations generally supported recommendations aimed at improving detection capabilities, promoting regular reporting, and strengthening responses to emerging technological challenges. However, some states expressed their opposition to several paragraphs of the draft outcome document. The United States called for votes on provisions related to capacity-building, gender, and other substantive issues, while Iran argued that certain sections of the text introduced language that did not reflect consensus within the UNPoA process. Other delegations, including Belgium, Ghana, Colombia, Nigeria, and South Africa, advocated that the text should be considered as a whole rather than voting paragraph by paragraph. Following procedural discussions, the document was ultimately adopted despite reservations expressed by Libya⁷, the Islamic Republic of Iran⁸, and the United States⁹.

Due to the limited meeting time remaining, the conference president from Australia urged Member States to continue submitting their remarks via the “eDelegate” system. The meeting concluded on 5 June 2026 with the adoption of the draft report as orally revised and contained in document A/CONF.192/BMS/2026/CRP.1/REV.1*¹⁰ [A/CONF.192/BMS/2026/L.4](#) and with the authorization of the chair to finalize the report. The final official report of the BMS9 outcome is [A/CONF.192/BMS/2026/1](#) issued on 19 June 2026.

This summary was written by Olha Kovach, Bianca Pabotoy, and Dr. Brian Wood. With editorial contributions from Johnson Asante-Twum, Emily Callsen and Dr. Natalie Goldring.

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Regulate weaponry
– **develop community**

⁷ Libya dissociated itself from the concept of gender.

⁸ The Islamic Republic of Iran dissociated from paragraphs 6 and 28.

⁹ The United States dissociated from paragraphs 6, 7, 10, 11, 17, 25, 30, 46, 50, 53, 56, 59.

¹⁰ UN BMS9 Draft Outcome Document available from: [https://docs-library.unoda.org/Programme_of_Action_on_Small_Arms_and_Light_Weapons_-_NinthBiennial_Meeting_of_States_\(2026\)/2026_06-05_Draft_BMS9_Outcome_Document_CRP1_REV1_as_orally_revised.pdf](https://docs-library.unoda.org/Programme_of_Action_on_Small_Arms_and_Light_Weapons_-_NinthBiennial_Meeting_of_States_(2026)/2026_06-05_Draft_BMS9_Outcome_Document_CRP1_REV1_as_orally_revised.pdf)