

# SMALL ARMS MONITOR

Civil society perspectives on the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons

## Cause and effect

Ray Acheson | *Reaching Critical Will of WILPF*

During the general statements segment of the UN Programme of Action (UNPoA) Review Conference (RevCon), several member states have drawn attention to pressing issues related to cause and effect relationships related to small arms and light weapons (SALW). Comments have focused primarily on the relationship between supply and demand of SALW as well as between SALW proliferation and armed violence, instability, and development. This RevCon should ensure that the plans of action for further UNPoA implementation incorporate mechanisms for measuring and analyzing the supply and demand of SALW, the effects of proliferation of SALW, and the impact of the UNPoA on the above.

Most of the UNPoA's mechanisms address the supply and management side of SALW. Legislation for preventing diversion, stockpile management procedures, marking and tracing requirements, etc., are focused on in order to prevent the weapons from being diverted to the illicit market or illicit users. However, as several delegations pointed out, these mechanisms have proven insufficient for restricting or reducing the supply of weapons. Iran's delegation criticized over-production and supply of SALW and called for reduction of these activities. The delegation of Bangladesh noted, "During the last two decades, the number of companies and countries manufacturing and exporting small arms and light weapons has magnified manifold." Tanzania's delegation demanded that the unacceptable impunity in the manufacture and transfer of SALW must be addressed, as it has led to the suffering of hundreds of thousands of people.

On the other hand, many states pointed out that the UNPoA also has not sufficiently dealt with the demand side of the equation. Among others, the Arab Group, Bangladesh, China, Holy See, Iran, and Pakistan called for member states to analyze the demand side, noting that demand manifests in civil

conflicts, regional and sub-regional disputes, the rise of organized criminal and terrorist activities, drug and human trafficking, and more. The Iranian delegation argued that as long as the "situations nurturing the illicit trade" in SALW continues, so will the demand for such weapons. In this regard, the Holy See called for more research on the dynamics of conflict and crime in order to analyze these aspects of illicit SALW.

Countless delegations also highlighted the effect of both supply and demand on armed violence, and in turn on stability and development. Several delegations suggested that more research and analysis is needed to fully understand and confront the situation. The Mexican delegation said it is studying links between demand for arms and poverty and insecurity. The Chinese government encouraged member states to investigate both the symptoms and underlying causes of illicit SALW and to "take effective measures and provide active help to countries concerned in promoting economic development, achieving peace and stability, and removing the danger of war and conflict, so as to create conditions for a fundamental solution to the issue of illicit trade in SALW." In a similar vein, the Dutch delegate said illicit trade in SALW should be approached in an integrated manner addressing good governance, security and justice reform, and providing alternative livelihood initiatives.

These recommendations may seem like a tall order for UNPoA implementation efforts. But it is vitally important for the Review Conference to take up this idea of cause and effect in order to enhance its implementation mechanisms as the small arms process moves into its next years.

To this end, the Norwegian delegation encouraged better documentation of the casualties of armed violence and stronger monitoring, measuring, and analysis of armed violence in order to understand the effects of illicit SALW on people across gender and

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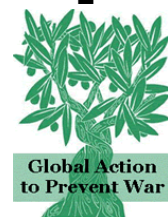
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*Cause and effect, cont'd*

age, communities and states. Likewise, the UK delegation said member states have to look closely at how they measure the impact of the UNPoA in order to make it more effective in the future.

Before the Review Conference, several civil society groups—Action on Armed Violence, Article 36, IKV Pax Christi, and Oxford Research Group—issued a brief encouraging member states to use the RevCon to strengthen casual reporting mechanisms. They argued, “Understanding of the impact of SALW, and therefore an effective response to this impact, is best built on evidence of the patterns of casualties being caused.” Furthermore, “Recording, identification and acknowledgment of the casualties from armed violence is also the starting point for efforts to ensure the rights of victims, and is vital for meeting the needs of individuals and violence-affected communities and societies.”

These groups thus recommend that the Review Conference outcome document include language that underscores “the importance of evidence-based research, casu-

alty recording and measurement, and monitoring of the impact and incidence of armed violence,” as well as “the pressing need to further integrated gender perspectives into relevant aspects of Programme of Action implementation and the importance of including gender and age aggregation in evidence-based research.” They suggest that relevant language could be added to both the declaration and the UNPoA implementation plan.

Many delegations emphasized that this Review Conference will have to undertake a frank assessment of its impacts on preventing and combating the illicit trade in SALW in order to determine how to best move forward with implementation. Critical to all such assessments will be not just information on the supply of weapons but also on the demand, as well as data and analysis on the levels and characteristics of armed violence. The outcome of this Review Conference should ensure that monitoring mechanisms are built in to the implementation plan as a critical step towards meeting the Programme’s objectives in full. •

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**All views expressed in this publication are solely those of the contributing authors and do not necessarily reflect the positions of the supporting organizations.**

## Donor drive

Dr. Robert Zuber | *Global Action to Prevent War*

One of the key elements for Programme of Action (PoA) implementation, as has been widely discussed by diplomats, is ‘capacity assistance’ linking donor and recipient states. The UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) has attempted to institutionalize capacity support through the program of “matching needs and resources” through the PoA Implementation Support System (PoA-ISS).

This UNODA program, which is an integral and regular part of the agenda of the Group of Interested States for Practical Disarmament Matters (GIS), is for states that wish to embark on important new efforts to destroy illicit small arms and secure borders and harbors, among other activities, and to be partnered with donor states with the resources (money, technology, consultation) to make such efforts possible. The excellent and attentive UNODA Regional Offices are available to make such partnerships as fully operational as possible.

While the program has yet to achieve the robustness hoped for in terms of the number of resource partnerships developed and maintained, there is broad agreement that effort to institutionalize such relationships is time well spent. As Global Action to Prevent War (GAPW) has mentioned many times, implementation-oriented capacity support is the lifeblood of the PoA and effective strategies for motivating new capacity partnerships are highly prized.

A missing ingredient in all of this good work is the encouragement of reciprocity. Such reciprocity is grounded in a sound principle: not only is giving more ‘blessed’ than receiving, but generosity creates opportunities for learning and skill development that are different from and often more robust than those generated through receiving.

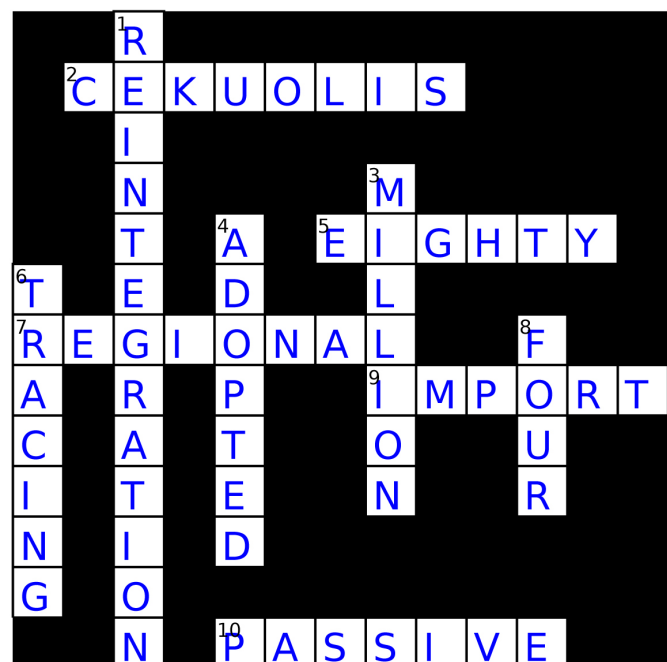
This encouragement of reciprocity has a twist in this context, insofar as the PoA is not so much about returning the favor but in spreading its impacts. The hope is that states which have received assistance on various PoA-related projects will in turn share lessons learned and skills practiced with other states that can benefit from such assistance. In this way, bilateral exchanges result in multi-lateral webs of skills and information sharing that can create hopeful and practical options for implementation.

While there remain disincentives for some states to grasp this truth, all have skills and insights to contribute to the elimination of illicit small arms and their dire threats to security. In this struggle, no state is without needs, but neither are states without capacity to contribute to the needs of others. This recognition has been strikingly (and thankfully) apparent in many of the national

statements issued early in this first week. States have PoA related capacity deficits, but they also have initiated programs—both internally and externally—that brand themselves as leaders and authors of capacity support. This trend must continue so that more and more states can openly claim authority and generosity in the areas of their particular expertise.

There is an organizing principle which asserts that we should discourage anyone from making demands without also making commitments. Couched within our expressed needs should be some tangible contribution of resources, both to address areas of immediate concern and to offer assistance to others facing similar circumstances. What states ‘want’ regarding implementation needs to be accompanied, more and more, with commitments to contribute some of their own resources. In this way, capacity assistance can generate change on the ground as well as sound pedagogy and honed skills to guide the next phase of implementation efforts. •

## Small arms crossword answers



**News in Brief***Ray Acheson | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF*

The News in Brief is not a comprehensive summary of statements but a brief overview of positions on key aspects of the discussion.

*Legal nature of instruments*

- Gambia suggested the UNPoA would have been more effective as a legally-binding treaty.
- Mali and Norway would prefer for both the UNPoA and the ITI to be legally-binding.

*International cooperation and assistance*

- Arab Group called for elaboration of indicators to identify whether or not donor countries are providing sufficient assistance.
- China suggested that regions map out their priorities and strengthen intraregional communication, coordination, and cooperation.
- Iran stressed the importance of “non-discriminatory and unconditional” technology transfer to developing countries.
- South Africa noted that while states providing assistance may request verification or a monitoring mechanism from a recipient state, such matters should be subject to bilateral arrangements and do not warrant consideration by the RevCon.

*Marking, tracing, and record-keeping*

- Barbados called for analysis and coordination of arms traces.
- Switzerland noted that UN peacekeeping and peace-building operations have a significant role to play in marking and tracing SALW, which would enhance the identification of transfers to embargoed countries and constitute a preventative measure against destabilizing SALW transfers into countries emerging from conflicts.

*Reporting*

- Arab Group suggested developing a mechanism to distribute and review reports.
- Iran cautioned against changing the voluntary nature of reporting under the UNPoA and ITI or creating “complicated” templates for reporting.
- Switzerland said it would support any recommendation to produce rigorous and substantial reports that indicate not only what has been done but also quantify and qualify the remaining challenges.

*Supply and demand*

- Arab Group highlighted its priority of analyzing the root causes of armed conflict.
- Bangladesh argued that it is important to tackle the supply side of illicit SALW, noting that companies producing SALW have increased substantially.

- China said both the symptoms and underlying causes of illicit SALW must be addressed.
- Iran argued that as long as the “situations nurturing the illicit trade” in SALW continues, so will the demand for such weapons.
- Iran and Nicaragua criticized over-production and supply of SALW and called for reduction of these activities.
- Mexico said it is studying links between demand for arms and poverty and insecurity.
- Tanzania demanded that the unacceptable impunity in the manufacture and transfer of SALW must be discussed.

*Measuring UNPoA impacts*

- Norway encouraged better documentation of the casualties of armed violence and stronger monitoring, measuring, and analysis of armed violence.
- UK said states have to look closely at how they measure impact of the UNPoA to make it more effective.

*Gender and age*

- Argentina, Mexico, Netherlands, Niger, Norway, and Sweden called for integration of gender perspectives into UNPoA implementation.
- Argentina also called for an age perspective.
- Norway also called for use of gender and age aggregated data in the evidence used as the basis of implementation of the UNPoA.
- South Africa called for further integration of the role of women into efforts to combat the illicit trade of SALW.

*Victims’ assistance*

- Norway said the UNPoA should build on the rights-based approach to victim assistance established by the landmine and cluster munitions conventions and the Convention on the Rights of People with Disabilities.
- Switzerland noted that victims are not just those killed or wounded but also those whose lives have been altered because of a conflict or crime.

*Civil society*

- Argentina, Bangladesh, Netherlands, Niger, and Norway welcomed civil society involvement in UNPoA implementation.

*RevCon outcome*

- Arab Group argued the RevCon should adopt a single final document limited in nature. This document should not “delve into the legal nature” of the relevant instruments.
- Djibouti said the RevCon must gauge whether there is a willingness to undertake substantive reform that is vital and necessary for UNPoA implementation.

- Gambia said the RevCon must not aim for low-hanging fruit but frankly assess how effective implementation efforts have been at reducing armed violence and forging a genuine commitment for follow-up and monitoring mechanisms.
- Iran said the conference should avoid the introduction of subjects that “fall beyond the scope” of the UNPoA and ITI.
- Nigeria called for an outcome that delineates challenges faced by member states.
- Norway said the RevCon needs to agree on a forward looking programme of work that will enable full implementation of the UNPoA and exploration for increasing its relevance.
- South Africa cautioned against assuming that the basic elements of the UNPoA have been implemented, arguing that focus should be on implementation of current provisions rather than new issues or an updated UNPoA.
- Switzerland said a priority for the conference must be to adopt required measures to strengthen implementation, including a follow-up mechanism that includes a monitoring mechanism.

#### UNPoA meetings

- Cuba said there should be no new meetings.
- Iran warned against proliferation of meetings.
- Switzerland called for predictable meetings that pro-

vide information, analysis, support, and advice.

- Sweden and UK encouraged more detailed discussions on specific areas through MGE and BMS cycle.

#### Other

- ECOWAS, Mali, Norway, and Zambia highlighted the need to address ammunition.
- Gambia, Mexico, Nigeria, and Norway called for more work on combating illicit brokering.
- Israel and UK called for states to address issue of MANPADS.
- Mali said arms transfers must be morally accounted for, in particular the transfer to non-state actors.
- Mexico and Tanzania supported establishment of controls over private ownership of small arms to ensure they are not misused or diverted.
- Netherlands and Switzerland highlighted the importance of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development.
- Netherlands and UK said illicit trade in SALW should be approached in an integrated manner addressing good governance, security and justice reform, and development.
- Russia said states should focus on prevention of illicit trade in SALW because it is easier to prevent them from entering illicit markets than it is to remove them.
- Russia called for a ban on access to SALW by all non-state actors through “global political obligation”.

Q Y U U J E O U H S Z P J R A L O N P P X U A V W  
X P T E K C O R G F N G C U M M G V D V I A E E R  
L W U O Y Z Z D F Z J E L A W E O I L E C M R M X  
C Y L W M W J U O G B W E O L P H U L I N C V U Z  
W U P Y F E R W C W C X R J A K Q L N I A I F T O  
L S S G R L T Q C Z J J R U U C B S F T R K Y Y W  
C E A T Q P D E H J B Y A A N V O R V N E R T L I  
T L W Y H J R V E W M I B G C Q M X K D P D K W B  
F F R T F S L X T M J M R M H A G G X M S D A I F  
W I J R U T Q Q A Q F Z E R E O R V U Z Z B N I O  
F R Q G D A H Y R Y X D D B R F E D X B U Z B F L  
N J H K S Q N E Z Z L B N V S X N D V Y Q P R C N  
W C S L U U Z T P P C D U G P M A E F Q R E A I M  
C O R B Z P C L I V C H V X F T D I G E K R E Y T  
T F A R C R I A I T N A W T L B E R R Z M I E A A  
M I T L B J Y H S E A Z V P M B P Q J R X L H P K  
Z X R N O F E C B G W N T G P O T Q X D N W I L J  
R A O V J L P K X P A U K Z G M T K D I G S U Y Q  
T G M M I M B Q V S O F R G I Q R T W K H C O H X  
L A H S D D K J V P W R H G A G Z A B B D H E W B  
Y H S E J J A G T R P U T O W X C H L B R D J H R  
M I Y U S T O O M O B E G A X B C I D U B V V V K  
M N R E V L L Y A N U N C N B R F M F G G F T M R  
B A U G O T H M M H A N D H E L D X U T P D C B M  
R V S U S N O P A E W T H G I L E N C V H Y M I T

LIGHTWEAPONS  
CREW  
HANDHELD  
UNDERBARREL  
MOUNTED  
GRENADE  
LAUNCHERS  
ANTIAIRCRAFT  
PORTABLE  
ANTITANK  
RIFLES  
ROCKET  
MISSILE  
MORTARS



## Attention to gender continues in the UNPoA

Melina Lito | *Global Action to Prevent War*

As the UN Programme of Action (UNPoA) on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) proceeds to its second day, gender has been one of the recurring themes addressed during the General Exchange of Views. The Netherlands, Norway, Niger, Mexico, South Africa, Tanzania, Sweden, Argentina, CARICOM, MERCOSUR, the European Union, Kenya, Lithuania, Trinidad and Tobago, Luxemburg, Portugal, Kazakhstan, and the United States, have all referenced gender in their statements.

The European Union noted that gender remains one of the persisting barriers to implementation of the UNPoA. Likewise, Portugal identified gender as an area where further developments are required, especially in increasing women's participation in combating the flow of small arms and light weapons (SALW).

To this end, the Netherlands noted that a gender perspective in the UNPoA is priority and made reference to its National Action Plan based on UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000). Similarly, Germany, noted that the connection between the UNPoA and Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000) should be highlighted in this conference's final outcome documents and called for the increased women's participation in Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) processes.

Norway turned its attention to the effects of illicit SALW on gender and age, and called for stronger monitoring of armed violence. Norway also called for a stronger gender dimension and inclusion of gender aggregated data in UNPoA implementation. Likewise, Lithuania noted "it is important to take due account of gender and age in the context of small arms. It is crucial in understanding the different ways that men, women, children are affected by armed violence and developing effective solutions."

Mexico referenced the inclusion of a gender perspective, along with its several other concerns in implementing the UNPoA. In this context, Mexico highlighted that the overall objective of the UNPoA is to reduce SALW-related human suffering and affirmed its commitment to work to achieve this objective. Meanwhile, South Africa called for the integration of the role of women in fighting against SALW and noted that such an objective requires "public awareness-raising efforts at the national levels where they are needed most, not only on integrating the role of women, but on implementing the UNPoA at the respective national levels in its entirety."

Brazil, speaking on behalf of MERCOSUR, noted that both a gender and age perspective must be integrated in PoA implementation while the United States noted that

implementation of the PoA can combat instances of gender-based violence by making access to SALW more difficult, called on actors who are working on DDR to address all needs of society, and referenced women's key participation as agents who can design and implement policies.

In addition to references by member states, gender concerns were also referenced by Ambassador Joy Ogwu of Nigeria in her opening remarks on Monday, 27 August 2012, where she acknowledged the effects caused by small arms and light weapons, especially in developing or post-conflict societies, including private citizens committing sexual and gender-based violence.

A gender perspective in the UNPoA is important because it is necessary to ensure that gender-specific experiences with SALW are accounted for and to ensure the protection of all survivors of SALW-related violence. The illicit flow of small arms can impact women and girls and men and boys in different ways. As such, we must be aware of the different needs of all members of society when designing effective strategies and mechanisms to eliminate the flow of illicit arms and prevent instances of future violence.

Particular attention must be given to the needs of women, who can often be underrepresented in policy discussions and who are not usually a priority focus in security strategies. In discussions about enacting and implementing measures to combat the illicit flow of arms, it is important to acknowledge the different ways that the illicit flows of arms can affect women, including but not limited to incidents of domestic violence or sexual- and gender-based violence. Likewise, women can be the weapons holders who can use weapons in combat or in self-defense. Finally, women can be active participants in policy-making tables to bring on and implement change; women's role in peace processes and at the decision-making levels was emphasized in UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000).

Therefore, as progress on the implementation and strengthening of the UNPoA is evaluated, and as key areas where more work needs to be developed are identified and strategy plans for the cycle period are established, attention on the various gender-related issues must be enhanced, especially in order to highlight women as agents who can bring change. •

## Words matter

*Dr. Natalie Goldring*

UN negotiators and observers are accustomed to parsing words carefully. The use of “shall” instead of “should”, for example, is the difference between a potentially robust mandate and a mere suggestion.

Semantic discussions, while important, can often become tedious. This was certainly a risk when delegates debated the meaning of the word “consensus” for almost the entire week of the last Preparatory Committee for the Arms Trade Treaty. But that debate affected the outcome of the treaty negotiation conference last month. Participating governments’ willingness to in effect define consensus as unanimity allowed the United States to single-handedly block approval of the Arms Trade Treaty.

In another example of this phenomenon, the latest version of the proposed PoA document, “Strengthened Implementation at the National, Regional and Global levels 2012-2018,” could (albeit inadvertently) significantly weaken implementation. In the June 2012 version of the document, the sections on implementation at these levels all began with nearly identical phrases: “In implementing the Programme of Action at the [national/regional/global] level, Member States undertake: ...” In the 23 August version of the document, however, the sections on implementation at each level had changed. In each case, the edits include inserting the phrase “where they have not yet done so”. The current versions of the chapeaux for each section follow:

- In the implementation of the Programme of Action at the national level and with a view towards reduc-

ing the suffering caused by the illicit trade, excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons, Member States, where they have not yet done so, undertake: ....

- In implementing the Programme of Action at the regional level, Member States in cooperation with the United Nations Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament, where they have not yet done so, undertake: ....
- In implementing the Programme of Action at the global level, Member States where they have not yet done so, undertake: ....

Encouraging countries to fully implement the Programme of Action is a laudable pursuit. But a literal reading of the new text suggests potential unintended consequences. By only referring to countries that have not yet undertaken the various listed activities, the current text in effect excludes countries that have already implemented some of the provisions. Some provisions, such as establishing a national coordination agency, may only need to be carried out once, in which case the change in language would not have a significant effect. However, many other provisions are ongoing commitments, such as ensuring that surplus stocks of weapons are destroyed, and ensuring effective control over the production, export, import, transit, or retransfer of weapons. Exempting countries from these continuing responsibilities would significantly weaken the implementation of the Programme of Action.

Fortunately, fixing this problem should not be difficult. One option is to simply remove the phrase “where they have not yet done so” in the language on national, regional, and global implementation. Another option is less graceful in its wording, but more inclusive from a substantive perspective. It would involve inserting, “...member states commit to continuing, and where they have not yet done so, undertake: ...” instead of the existing clause. Using this amended wording would encourage countries that have not yet implemented particular practices to do so, while also encouraging other countries to continue to participate. Either option would strengthen the text and would be inclusive. Words matter. •

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**Side event: Launch of UNIDIR-SAS analysis on PoA national reports***Eloise Watson | Reaching Critical Will of WILPF*

Together with Small Arms Survey, UNIDIR organized a side event to launch their joint publication, *A decade of Implementing the UN PoA on SAWL: Analysis of National Reports*. Chaired by Ms. Kerstin Vignard, Chief of Operations of UNIDIR, the session included remarks by Dr. Keith Krause (Director of SAS) and Ms. Hannelore Hoppe (Director and Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs). Ms. Katherine Green (Consultant at SAS) gave a concise overview of the statistical findings of the Analysis of National Reports, followed by Ms. Sarah Parker (Senior Researcher for SAS) who gave an important summary of the substantive findings of the publication.

Dr. Krause opened the discussion, summarizing the idea behind the publication: to distil and examine the contents of states' national reports on their implementation of the PoA in order to assess the extent to which they are implementing the national-level commitments reflected in the PoA and to highlight regional trends in implementing the PoA. Dr. Krause explained that, though national reports serve as a valuable source of information, they do not provide a complete picture of states implementation of the PoA. He suggested they therefore be used as a springboard for further assessments of PoA implementation efforts. Mrs. Hoppe also pointed out the significance of national reports in the campaign to effectively implement the PoA. According to Mrs. Hoppe, such reports are a key vehicle for governments to inform others about the specific measures they have undertaken and simultaneously provide a means for states to communicate their assistance needs.

A statistical summary of reporting trends by Ms. Green proved highly interesting. A total of 161 states have submitted at least one report in the last decade, leaving 32 states (many of which are from Asia) yet to report on their efforts aimed at PoA implementation. Notably, most states have reported three times since 2001. Ms. Green also drew the attention of the audience to the increasing level of reporting by African states, and to Europe's consistently high level of biannual reporting.

Ms. Parker succinctly conveyed the thematic findings of the book, including that of manufacture, marking, record-keeping and tracing, international transfers, brokering, stockpile management and security, surplus identification and destruction, public awareness, and criminalization. As Ms. Parker explained, the aforementioned categories have varying results in relation to the extent to which states are meeting their PoA commitments, and the way in which states are working to meet these com-

mitments. For example, while the commitment of states with respect to surplus identification systems is relatively strong, the commitment of states with respect to marking weapons at the point of import is less impressive. According to the publication, many states are undertaking important work (particularly through civil society) in raising public awareness of the issue of the illicit trade of SALWs, though it is less clear as to how effective such work has been.

The shortfalls of national reporting received considerable attention during the Q&A session. Like Dr. Krause, Ms. Parker stressed the importance of national self-assessment but underlined its failure to give a complete picture since many states do not report comprehensively, and since interpretation of the wording of current self-assessment templates is highly varied. As such, Ms. Parker emphasized the need to move beyond national reports to the use of external analysis; the provision of supplementary information acquired through increased civil society engagement, for example, will offer a more far-reaching view on the progress and gaps in states' PoA implementation. •





## Side event: Preventing big bangs and saving lives

Katherine Prizeman | *Global Action to Prevent War*

On Tuesday afternoon, the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) hosted an event focused on its work on physical security and stockpile management, including activities associated with rapid response interventions, destruction of landmines from national stockpiles and unserviceable expired ammunition, and support for Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) operations. The event highlighted how UNMAS is directly contributing to implementation of the UN Programme of Action (UNPoA) through its programs.

The mandate of UNMAS personnel was described as the “the first responders” clearing the way for peacekeepers and other humanitarian workers. UNMAS also evaluates post-conflict situations to identify partners, funds, resources, and other expertise to address acute threats of stockpile security, as well as collection and destruction of weapons, ammunitions, and other conventional explosive weapons. UNMAS has done work in Afghanistan, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Guinea-Bissau, Libya, Republic of the Congo, South Sudan, and Somalia, coordinating all UN actors for an integrated emergency response and acting as a focal point for a variety of humanitarian actors at work in these countries.

The UNMAS programs in Libya and the DRC were highlighted through two films detailing how UNMAS operations were rapidly deployed in the aftermath of emergency situations in each state. In Libya, following the revolution, UNMAS arrived to facilitate the post-conflict response to protect civilians from explosions and to remove explosive remnants of war among other needed activities associated with the high level of insecurity of stockpiles and explosive weapons that continues to plague society. To date, UNMAS has destroyed over 180,000 landmines and unexploded ordnances (UXO) in Libya through 23 deployed clearance teams. In DRC, following the March 2012 ammunition depot explosion that killed over 200 hundred civilians over night, UNMAS was the first to arrive to limit further explosions and casualties and is currently establishing a joint civilian-military headquarters to strengthen coordination. In Côte d’Ivoire, UNMAS has established a program with national authorities to strengthen safe storage of weapons and ammunition stockpiles, provide technical assistance for proper disposal of weapons and ammunition, prevent accidental explosions, and prevent loss, theft, and diversion, all of which contribute to the full implementation of the UNPoA.

Director of UNMAS, Agnès Marcaillou, also underscored the role that UNMAS has played in providing ex-

pertise and support related to stockpile management and implementation of the UNPoA. Stockpile management and destruction has already emerged as a high priority for the next phase of the UNPoA review cycle as several delegations during the general debate, including Japan, the EU, and Sweden, have called for greater emphasis to be placed on this issue. Moreover, other important themes of the UNPoA are integrally related to the work of UNMAS, such as eliminating the risk of diversion of explosive weapons to neighboring countries and to the illicit market as well as strengthening DDR programs in collecting, storing, and disposing of weapons.

Following the presentations from the UNMAS personnel, delegates and civil society attendees were invited to ask questions regarding how UNMAS can better assist states in implementing the UNPoA as well as to help identify best practices and lessons learned for improving UNMAS services. There was some interest in the particular trainings offered by UNMAS that are closely developed and implemented with the full cooperation of national authorities. One participant spoke of the experience of Sierra Leone and the process of destroying surplus weapons in the aftermath of the civil war and prior to the next elections. A delegate from Australia highlighted the importance of lessons learned and information sharing, in particular among donor countries, national authorities, and other experts. Furthermore, a question was posed regarding UNMAS’ work in Somalia, which is primarily to support the work of UNOSOM.

It is no surprise that easily available and poorly managed weapons and ammunition come at an enormous financial and human cost and directly contribute to the proliferation of illicit trade in these weapons and components. As this Review Conference continues over the next two weeks and states recommit to full implementation of the UNPoA, services provided by UNMAS must be fully made use of so that post-conflict societies, which are most vulnerable to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, are given the support and assistance needed to combat this scourge and fully implement the UNPoA in all its aspects. •

## Side event: Strengthened border controls

Lily Gardener | *Reaching Critical Will of WILPF*

The New Zealand Permanent Mission hosted an event on the key themes and outcomes of the expert roundtable on Combatting Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons Through Strengthened Border Controls. In her welcome address, Ms. Bernadette Cavanagh stated that it was regrettable that border control was not included on the RevCon's agenda.

The first speaker Ms. Mélanie Régimbal, Director of The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), provided a background of UNLIREC 'Sea-borne Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons, Ammunition and Explosives in Caribbean Region' discussion paper. She discussed the geographical complexity of the Caribbean transit zone, arguing that it is impossible to check all containers. Régimbal reported that the increased trafficking of firearms is in tandem with the growing drug trade, which is occurring through an intermodal system of transportation. She called for greater policy and operational dialogue, as well as the inclusion of the private sector in future discussions.

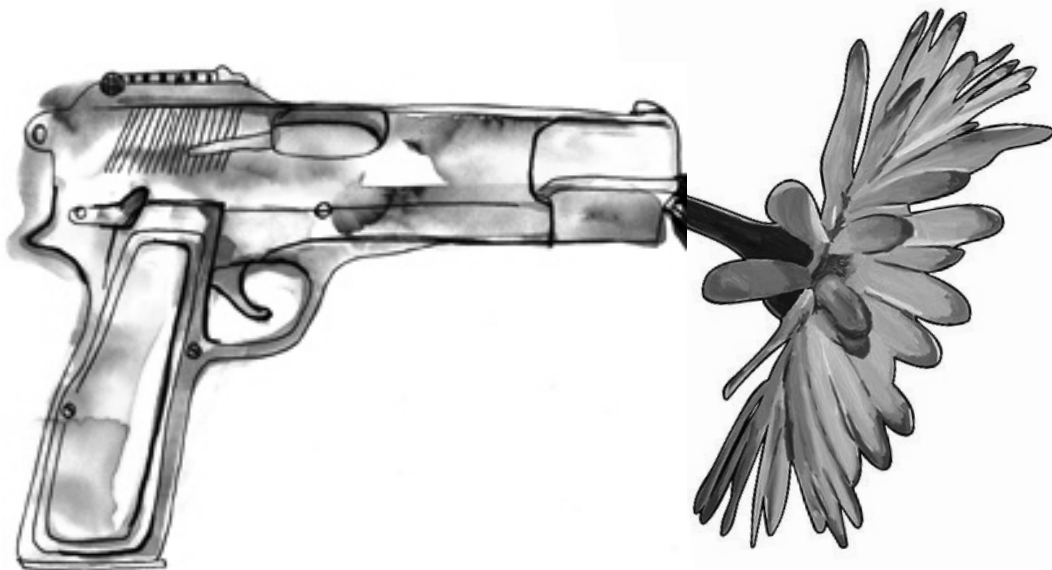
Ms. Melissa Charles, Security Services Agency Trinidad and Tobago (T&T), provided analysis of the current situation in T&T. There are 1.6 million illegal guns in circulation in the Caribbean area; the rate of firearm related homicide is 70 per cent, well above the world aver-

age. She argued that there is a link between proliferation and violence, which illustrates the need for strengthened legislative and administrative framework. While at the regional level there are maritime and air security agreements, there are still loopholes in border security.

Mr. Camillo Gonsalves, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines (SVG), examined the capacity issues facing smaller states. He explained that SVG is part of an archipelago in which 25 islands are not inhabited. The coast guard consists of less than ten vessels and there is no surveillance aircraft. The majority of the coast guard's time is dedicated to fishing vessels and protecting tourists. This makes the area fertile ground for smugglers.

Ms. Philippa King, Australian Permanent Mission, facilitated the post-panel discussion where a number of issues were raised about existing regional cooperation agreements, border relations, human rights, cross regional training, the impact of the private sector, pirates, the fishery industry and gender mainstreaming.

Mr. Eden Charles, Trinidad and Tobago concluded the session calling for border control to be included in future negotiations, as well as a future Arms Trade Treaty. He stated that the minorities have been vocal in what they do not want, and urged delegates to use the UNPoA RevCon as a "platform to flood the room in what they want." •



## Side event: Weapons tracing and peace support operations

Rohie Drammeh | *Reaching Critical Will of WILPF*

The Permanent Mission of Belgium to the United Nations organized a side event to discuss weapons tracing in relation to peace support operations (PSOs). Mr. James Bevan, former head of UN Sanctions Monitoring Group on Cote d'Ivoire, Director of Conflict Armament Research; and Mr. Glenn McDonald, yearbook coordinator and senior researcher at the Small Arms Survey, presented the Small Arms Survey Issue Brief of March 2012 that they wrote on the subject of weapons tracing and PSOs. In it, they examine the normative frameworks and practical mechanisms that could be used to trace conflict weapons.

Also among the speakers were Mrs. Tracy Hite, criminal intelligence officer at INTERPOL; Mr. Holger Anders, arms expert at the Embargo Monitoring Unit of the UN Operation in Cote d'Ivoire; Mr. Frank Meeussen (moderator), Belgian Ministry of Foreign Affairs; and Mr. Thomas Lambert, Deputy Permanent Representative of Belgium to the UN.

Weapons tracing involves a set of methods used to identify and track the origins of weapons and ammunition. In criminal investigations, weapons tracing has an established role of proving firearm related offences and revealing the source of illicit supplies to criminals. Weapons tracing in conflict and post-conflict situations, such as by PSOs, has however been limited in practice and remains a matter of theory. Today, the only bodies that have been able to implement weapons tracing in conflict and post-conflict situations are UN Groups of Experts, which specifically work with the purpose of detecting and tracing arms embargo violations.

The International Tracing Instrument (ITI) was adopted by the UN General Assembly in December 2005 with the objective of identifying and disrupting sources of illicit small arms. The ITI offers a useful framework for strengthened marking, record-keeping, and tracing. Unfortunately it does not include ammunition although ammunition, like weapons, can be traced.

When tracing and identifying weapons, the type (model) of weapon is investigated, along with the serial number, and after that the origin and the manufacturer can be determined and contacted. All PSO's have a mandated responsibility to monitor weapons, but do PSO's investigate the weapons origin and source of illicit trade?

There is a difficulty in the investigative capacity of PSO's. Most peacekeeping missions gather information on the weapons in an area of conflict, but not much is done with the information afterwards. PSO's have mandates to monitor, but without referring to investigation

and tracing of weapons, these mandates often prove insufficient in practice.

However, there are solutions to these problems, the primary one of which is the development of analytic/investigative capacity within PSO's and the adoption (and explicit mandating) of weapons tracing and investigation within PSO's.

In line with this, Mrs. Tracy Hite informed the audience about the INTERPOL Illicit Arms Records and tracing Management System (iARMS), a web-based system which facilitates information exchange and cooperation between law enforcement agencies on firearm crime. The pilot will be launched in October and will hopefully be available for all at the end of December 2012. •



Mohsin Kaza / Reuters



## SMALL ARMS MONITOR 5.3

### Calendar of events for Wednesday, 29 August 2012

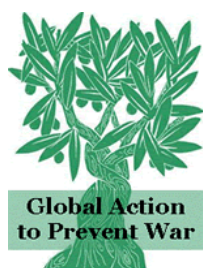
When	What	Where	Who
10:00–13:00	Plenary	Conference Room 1 North Lawn Building	
9:00–17:30	Monitoring Illicit Arms Flows: Sanctions, Networks and Capacity Building	Conference Room B North Lawn Building	Swedish Permanent Mission to the UN and SIPRI Contact: Hugh Griffiths griffiths@sipri.org
12:30–13:30	From Quality Data to Quality Policy Response: Evidence on Global Femicide from the Small Arms Survey (2011-2012)	Room 17-50 Daily News Building 220 E 42nd Street (between 2nd and 3rd Aves)	UN Women Contact: Pablo Castillo-Diaz pablo.castillo-diaz@un-women.org
13:15–14:45	Launch of International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS)	Conference Room 1 North Lawn Building	UN CASA Cont: Patrick McCarthy coordinator@un-casa-isacs.org
13:15–14:45	OSCE achievements in implementation of the PoA	Conference Room E North Lawn Building	OSCE Cont: Maria Brandstetter maria.brandstetter@osce.org
15:00–18:00	Consultations on draft outcome	Conference Room 1 North Lawn Building	
18:00–19:30	Launch of 'A Diplomat's Guide to the UN Small Arms Process' and 'Regional Organizations and the PoA'	Delegates Dining Room	Permanent Missions of Australia, Côte d'Ivoire, Guyana, and PNG Contact: Frances Lockhart Frances.Lockhart@dfat.gov.au

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