

SMALL ARMS MONITOR

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

Window dressing

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

The civil society monitoring team is partially writing in 'exile' today as diplomats have decided to close some of the meetings focused on draft text for a outcome document. After many years and many dozens of Monitors produced, we have become somewhat proficient at 'adding value' to discussions even when we are not physically present. Diplomats have the right to exercise options to keep NGOs from discussions, though most all delegations understand the value of having individuals in the room who can 'read back' and reflect on what has been discussed and decided. Such decisions complicate our work at times, but not always by a lot.

Even when we have been excluded from discussions, whether in the UNPoA, the Disarmament Commission, or elsewhere, the window into the workings of disarmament diplomats is never completely closed.

Many of us have alternate means of capturing at least the essence of what takes place in 'closed' sessions. Not only are delegations willing to share their thoughts after the fact, but there are insights that can be gleaned based on years of following trends and reporting on all kinds of disarmament

proceedings. As most diplomats have gathered from references to our various web sites, but especially the site of Reaching Critical Will, there is plenty to weigh in on regardless of how frequently we might be 'invited' to leave.

For some of the NGO representatives who have traveled long distances to share their experiences and aspirations with us in New York, and who have heavy logistical burdens to bear both before and after their journey, the absence from UNPoA sessions has perhaps more emotional impact. To be excluded from something you labored long and hard to attend is not easy, nor is to easy to understand what could possibly be taking place in 'closed' sessions that is so very different from the discussion in 'open' ones.

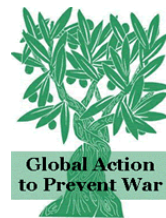
There are ways to handle such matters that preserve state prerogatives and provide streams of information and patterns of access that justify long journeys. More collaboration with NGOs based at headquarters might help some. More sharing and less overlap regarding information sources might help as well. Some of these changes seem to be in the air, which is good news for all.

Regardless of how indispensable to disarmament deliberations we might feel, states do maintain the right to hold discussions without our direct presence. But as we do our duty and address the terms of access, we must be reminded that the window is never fully closed. There will always be pathways available to find the information we need to do the jobs our organizations and the broader community of civil society need us to do. •



31 August 2012
Vol. 5, No. 5

- 1 | Window dressing
- 2 | ISACS practical application
- 3 | Launching ISACS
- 3 | Cryptoquote
- 4 | News in Brief
- 5 | UNPoA in Sub-Saharan Africa
- 6 | GIS meeting
- 7 | UNPoA in Central America
- 8 | NGO statements
- 10 | Calendar



Side event: Enhancing the practical application of ISACS

Eloise Watson | *Reaching Critical Will of WILPF*

Together with the Monterey Institute of International Studies (MIIS), the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) arranged a side event to give a prototype demonstration of their joint project: a knowledge management software tool designed to enhance and facilitate the practical application of the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS). (These standards were officially launched yesterday; see yesterday and today's editions of the *Small Arms Monitor* for details.) The ISACS were established to provide guidance on implementing the UN Programme of Action (UNPoA) on small arms and light weapons (SALW) while bringing coherence to the UN's action on the illicit trade of SALW. The knowledge management software was proposed to UNIDIR in November and is still being finalized. Chaired by Ms. Kerstin Vignard, Chief of Operations (UNIDIR), the session was opened by Dr. Edward Laurence (MIIS), who, after sharing his excitement about the prospects of the software tool, expressed his gratitude to the extensive team involved in its development.

Dr. Wolfgang Bindseil, Deputy-Head of Division (Conventional Arms Control, German Foreign Office) also praised the instrument; he endorsed it as a 'game-changer' since it will render the ISACS more simple and accessible to users, thereby multiplying the potential of the standards. Similarly, Dr. Patrick McCarthy, Project Coordinator of ISACS, revealed great enthusiasm for the initiative. According to Mr. McCarthy, this management software takes the ISACS as they are, derives indicators from them, and makes them more 'user-friendly'. As such, the core value of the instrument lies in its capacity to help UN agencies and member states navigate and more effectively apply the ISACS. If the management software secures funding for its second phase, Mr. McCarthy envi-

sions that the management software will merge with and eventually become part of the ISACS project as a whole.

Mr. Himayu Shiotani, ISACS Indicators Project Manager, presented an overview of the tool in practice. He explained that the downloadable software tool allows users to digitally view and search the ISACS modules in an organized manner, generates comprehensive data on the implementation effort of small arms control commitments, assists UN agencies and member states in strategic and program planning and small arms control program design, and more. The four key functions of the tool, as outlined by Mr. Shiotani, are as follows: i) to explore the ISACS modules; ii) to create customized surveys which generate qualitative and quantitative data on the implementation efforts; iii) to generate reports on the completed survey; and iv) to host and review relevant documents. An impressive prototype demonstration clearly exhibited the aforementioned functions of the software. In addition, three potential scenarios in which the tool could be useful were mentioned, including as a way of evaluating international-scale practices and operations (by UN agencies), national state authority operations, and local-scale operations.

Another positive feature of the knowledge management software was highlighted in the Q&A discussion. After applauding the apparent flexibility provided in the software (in so far as users can customize their own surveys and respond to the questions they choose), a Venezuelan delegate commended the privacy option permitted by the software. Ms. Vignard agreed that the software is unique in allowing users to conduct self-assessments where sensitive data can be excluded from what is shared externally. •

SMALL ARMS MONITOR

31 AUGUST 2012 | Vol. 5, No. 5

The *Small Arms Monitor* features civil society reporting and analysis on meetings of the UN Programme of Action (UNPoA) on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. It is coordinated, edited, and published by the Reaching Critical Will project of WILPF in coordination with Global Action to Prevent War and the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA). PDF versions of all *Small Arms Monitors*, along with statements and other documents from the conference, are available at www.reachingcriticalwill.org.

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

Side event: Launch of ISACS

Dr. Edward Laurence | Monterey Institute

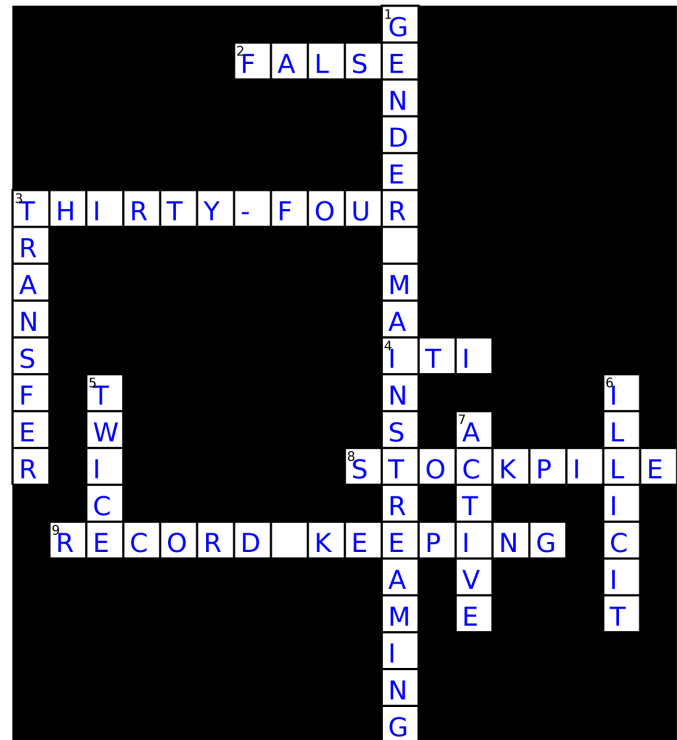
On Wednesday afternoon, Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA), a group of 22 UN agencies, launched the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS). Since 2008 over 100 experts on all aspects of small arms control from governments, international organizations, civil society, and the private sector (e.g. gun manufacturers) have met in person and online to develop a set of standards that, if implemented by states, would significantly reduce the diversion of small arms and light weapons and contribute to the reduction of armed violence. There is now an ISACS Secretariat in New York as well as a web site where practitioners can find the completed /standards modules (www.smallarmsstandards.org). At the moment these modules include marking and record-keeping, conducting surveys, stockpile management, tracing, collection, destruction of weapons, and border control and law enforcement cooperation.

While based on the three small arms agreements—the UNPoA, Firearms Protocol, and the International Tracing Instrument—the standards stand alone, unconnected with any formal reporting requirement. They are designed to be used by those states that desire to reduce the risk of diversion and misuse by implementing the standards.

To enhance the practical application of these standards, the United Nations Institute of Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in conjunction with the Monterey Institute of International Studies has developed a software tool that allows the user to electronically search and organize 800 pages of text, all contained on a laptop. It also allows the user to generate data on the level of implementation of each standard, which then can be used for a variety of purposes—advocacy, raising awareness, and establishing a baseline of implementation which can inform both setting priorities of work and designing programs.

Who are the users? First, the standards were developed for use by the 22 UN organizations that comprise CASA, in order to enhance their support and technical assistance to states they work with on controlling small arms. Second, states that are developing small arms controls on their own now have a set of standards to prioritize and guide their work. Third, donors and recipient states can use the standards to coordinate their efforts. Finally, the creators of ISACS made it clear from the beginning that these standards were also available for use by civil society actors as they collaborate with states to implement the standards. •

Small arms crossword answers



Small arms cryptoquote

The following jumbled quote is by someone with ties to the United Nations that date back to 1975:

UN TDLA UN EFX FSGUL NXVSKCEO DR URRXVEXH
MDMSTUECDLN KXGUCLN SLULNZXKXH, IDEF CL
EXKGN DR MXKNDLUT ULH NDVCD-XVDLDGCV
NXVSKCEO, EFX LXAUECYX CGMUVE DR NGUTT
UKGN ZCTT VDLECLSX ED XBCNE. - NXVKXEUKO-
AXLXKUT IUL QC GDDL

News in Brief*Katherine Prizeman | Global Action to Prevent War***ITI Implementation Plan***Chapeau*

- Iran said that an introductory paragraph should be included that first notes progress made in implementing the ITI and then identifies the challenges, in particular those due to a lack of capacity.
- Cuba noted that all the chapeaux in the documents should be consolidated.

Section I chapeau

- Cuba and Iran called for the addition of a reference to states' different situations, capacities, and priorities.
- New Zealand cautioned against over-qualifying commitments.
- Switzerland agreed and urged states to avoid weakening already existing commitments.

Para 1

- The US said that the reference to "parts and components...reassembled" referred to a form of illicit manufacturing, which goes beyond the scope of the ITI, and suggested new text: "and where appropriate to mark other parts in addition to the frame and/or receiver to aid in tracing."
- Switzerland suggested "to the extent possible" rather than "where possible."
- Iran said to add "small arms and light" before "weapons" and "essential structural components" rather than "parts and components."

Para 2

- The EU suggested the addition of "in all relevant aspects including registering the marks, recordkeeping, information exchange, and international cooperation" at the end of the paragraph. The EU also called for references to the implementation challenges identified by the 2011 MGE.
- Iran suggested replacing "law enforcement officials" with "personnel."
- Algeria agreed and expressed preference for "training personnel" noting that it is of a national prerogative to determine which officials are appropriate.
- USA stated that it is law enforcement that does trainings and conduct traces and it is, therefore, reluctant to change this, but suggested the language, "appropriate government officials including law enforcement."
- Nigeria suggested adding "and other arms-bearing agencies."
- Iran cautioned against inclusion of "training" stating that there is no related obligation in the ITI.

Para 3

- The US called for greater clarity suggesting the lan-

guage, "deepen information exchanges among national points of contact."

- India suggested "and in accordance with their constitutional processes" following "as necessary."
- New Zealand said that the current language lends itself to two interpretations and must be clarified—general information exchange or calling for greater access to information by national points of contact.
- Switzerland agreed it was unclear and should reference enhancing the role of national points of contact.
- Cuba called for deletion of "clarifying their roles."
- Brazil noted the importance of this paragraph referring to its own difficulties in tracing weapons.

Para 4

- Belgium said that the purpose of this paragraph is to enhance information exchange as states need access to records for relevant recipients, entities, and brokers.
- Pakistan stated that this language wrongly limits tracing to countering diversion, which is not part of the ITI itself, and suggested deleting the first phrase and restricting the language to requirements of the ITI, in particular that states have the capability to trace SALWs and to do so in a timely manner.
- Iran agreed that diversion is not addressed in the ITI, but is included in the UNPoA.
- Zimbabwe called for reference to the definition of diversion with the language "non-state actors unauthorized to receive the weapons."
- Cuba suggested adding "illegal" before "diversion."

Para 5

- Mexico and the Netherlands called for a reference to relevant regional organizations.
- The US said there are few organizations outside of national authorities that actually take tracing information and pursue it to the point of investigation and prosecution so it is important to have restrictions on releasing information.
- New Zealand said it was sympathetic to the concerns of the US and could agree to language on national discretion.
- Iran said the language was too prescriptive and beyond the scope of the ITI.
- India agreed the language was outside the ITI and required further study and informal consultations.
- The EU and New Zealand called for the deletion of "as stipulated in the provisions of the ITI."
- The EU called for the addition of "and peace support operations," but India and Algeria expressed disagreement over the ITI's mandate to deal with this concept.

continued on next page

Side event: Implementation of the UNPoA in Sub-Saharan Africa 2001–2010

Rohie Drammeh | *Reaching Critical Will of WILPF*

The Institute for Security Studies (ISS), in cooperation with the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations, organized a side event to present a preliminary report on the implementation of the UNPoA on small arms and light weapons (SALW) in sub-Saharan Africa between 2001 and 2010. The preliminary report examines the progress made by many African countries in implementing the UNPoA over this ten year period. A final publication of the report will be issued at the end of this Review Conference, which will provide the opportunity of consultation with African governments.

Mr. Rob Wensley, Counsellor for Disarmament at the Permanent Mission of South Africa to the United Nations, chaired the event. Ms. Lauren Tracey, researcher at ISS, outlined and presented the preliminary report. In the report, the sub-Saharan region has been divided into four divisions: West Africa, Southern Africa, East Africa, and Central Africa, and the progress in several sections is outlined for each sub-Saharan region. Ms. Tracey explained that with the assistance of regional organizations, the acquisition of marking equipment has been made possible for many African states. Indeed, the key progress areas in implementation of the UNPoA are marking, tracing, and record-keeping. A number of collection and destruction initiatives have also been conducted in many African states, as well as collaborative initiatives and awareness campaigns. But some challenges still remain, such as the need for technical and financial assistance in many African countries, which hampers the progress of the UNPoA in those states.

Dr. Tarek A. Sharif, Head Defense and Security Division (DSD) in the Peace and Security Department of the African Union Commission, spoke about the continental efforts in implementing the UNPoA in Africa and how the African Union has taken several steps in order to reduce the human suffering as a result of SALW. Mr. Francis K. Wairagu, Head of Research and Gender at the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA), presented RECSA's work on implementation of the UNPoA and ITI. Mr. Wairagu spoke of how the harmonization of legislation is important for the implementation of the UNPoA and that it is in progress in several African states. He also mentioned how the recognized desire for the participation of women has lead to the development of a regional gender policy.

Mr. Baffour D. Amoa, President of the West Africa Action Network on Small Arms (WAANSA), spoke of the role of the WAANSA in relation to the UNPoA and ECO-WAS. He also mentioned that the difference in national laws makes it easier for illicit SALW to pass borders and

argued that the harmonization of laws could help in the prevention of such situations.

The general consensus of the side event was that the foundation for successful implementation has been laid and many African states have made progress in the implementation of the UNPoA. However, resources are needed to sustain and advance the work done so far and cooperation between states needs to be improved for future effectiveness. •

News in Brief, cont'd

Para 5 bis

- Iran suggested the language, “to establish, where appropriate, one or more national points of contact to facilitate the exchange of information and act as a liaison on matters relating to the implementation of the ITI” and said that the current language insufficiently suggests that the only role of national points of contact is to conduct traces.
- Algeria noted that this paragraph favors tracing over other ITI obligations, such as marking and registration, and suggested reverting back to the ITI language in paragraph 25.
- Mexico suggested adding ““for those states that have not yet done so...”
- India said that if the paragraph repeats ITI language, then it would not be necessary to include it.
- Madagascar also said to delete the paragraph.
- New Zealand said this is an ongoing process and commitment to national points of contact must be reiterated.
- The US, supported by Switzerland, suggested adding a deadline, perhaps requiring identification of the national point of contact by the next Review Conference.

Para 6

- Iran and New Zealand said the existing language of the ITI was preferable.

Para 6 bis

- Algeria suggested adding “financial, administrative, technology transfer, technical, and other infrastructure” after “legal” to have a more complete list.
- Cuba said to take out the term “measures” and after “facilitate” insert “the transfer of technologies.”
- Norway questioned the difference between 6 bis and 7 and Egypt said 6 bis was redundant.

Para 7

- The US suggested replacing “upon request” with “where appropriate” to indicate requests are not automatic. •

Side event: Group of Interested States meeting

Katherine Prizeman and Dr. Robert Zuber | *Global Action to Prevent War*

The second of two sessions of the Group of Interested States in Practical Disarmament Measures (GIS) took place at the German Mission at mid-day on Thursday. As with the first meeting on Tuesday evening, a broad array of perspectives and tools were on display, all related to responsibilities to implement the UN Programme of Action (UNPoA) as effectively and comprehensively as possible in all global regions.

The GIS was founded as an initiative of the German government to help diplomats move more easily from affirming disarmament norms and priorities to implementing practical measures to achieve priorities and fulfill norms. In addition to highlighting technical implementation challenges and successes in diverse global regions, the GIS also provides an opportunity for states to exchange capacity assistance under the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) program, within the PoA-Implementation Support System, “Matching Needs and Resources”. Capacity assistance is considered by many to be the lifeblood of the UNPoA process and the GIS has contributed much to preserving a focus by states on the many ways in which timely support can yield huge dividends towards the elimination of illicit small arms.

In addition to German government officials, especially Detlev Wolter, Head of the Conventional Arms Control Division of the German Foreign Ministry, the program highlighted an important country context related to the spread of illicit small arms (Côte d’Ivoire) as well as some of the important international NGOs (the International Action Network on Small Arms, Small Arms Survey, the Federation of American Scientists, and the corporation Armatix) working on eliminating the scourge of these weapons worldwide. Daniel Prins, head of the Conventional Weapons branch of UNODA, is one of the co-chairs of the GIS process and lends significant weight to this forum for motivating and informing practical implementation efforts.

The first presentation focused on the Small Arms Survey’s “Illicit Weapons Project,” which has examined both authorized transfers and illicit trade in high intensity conflict areas and areas of high levels of organized crime, such as Somalia, Iraq, and Afghanistan. Among the objectives of the project are to improve public understanding and to expand the pool of data related to these weapons and practices. The presenter, Matt Schroeder, noted that \$8.5 billion USD in small arms is traded annually. Also of Small Arms Survey, Pierre Gobinet presented on developments in demilitarization, which is the complete range of activities that remove the military advantage of weap-

ons, ammunition, and explosives, and do not necessarily require destruction. Mr. Gobinet presented a study of demilitarization in Southeast Europe and noted that demilitarization costs approximately \$1,000 USD per ton.

The presentation on small arms issues in Côte d’Ivoire was conducted by Anzian Kouadja, Executive Secretary of the National Commission of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in Côte d’Ivoire. As is widely known, Côte d’Ivoire has been wracked by several crises, including refugees from atrocity crime violence across the borders with Sierra Leone and Liberia as well as electoral controversies that resulted temporarily in two men and their supporters claiming electoral victory with significant amounts of resulting violence. Mr. Kouadja explained that the National Commission was established in 2009 to assist in implementing national policy on SALW including strengthening physical security and stockpile management, removing anarchy in private security, promoting community awareness, and securing control over artisanal weaponry.

In addition, the GIS took up the issue of gender integration in small arms control. The presentation highlighted not only the way in which women are victimized by illicit arms, but also the ways in which the full participation of women in small arms policy, in UNPoA implementation efforts, in conflict resolution, and in post-conflict weapons collection and civilian disarmament efforts, including efforts related to Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) programs are essential. Ms. Mimi-doo Achakpa of IANSA provided background information on how gender mainstreaming is important for the UNPoA and disarmament and arms control writ large. Ms. Achakpa noted that gender rules are learned behavior, as are notions of masculinity, and are dynamic concepts such that training within the security sector is imperative. She also recalled the gender mainstreaming action plan developed by IANSA and UNODA in 2003.

The final presentation came from the corporation Armatix on methods of using “smart technology” and electronic control for firearms to prevent misuse and diversion.

The GIS continues to prove to be an important part of the formal disarmament machinery providing a forum for concrete discussion on implementation best practices and lessons learned. This type of exchange is vital for continuing to strengthen implementation of the UNPoA in a comprehensive, consistent, and global manner. •

Side event: Implementation of the UNPoA in Central America

Lily Gardener | *Reaching Critical Will of WILPF*

Armed violence continues to be a defining problem for Central America, as has been noted by some delegations at the UNPoA process. In this context, the Permanent Mission of Guatemala to the UN and Red Centroamericana para la Construcción de la Paz y Seguridad Humana (REDCEPAZ) co-hosted an event on the implementation of the UNPoA in Central America. The event was chaired by Jose Alberto Brit, Deputy Permanent Representative and had presentations by Ms. Ana Yancy Espinoza, REDEPAZ and Ms. Mayda de León Wantland, Instituto de Enseñanza Para el Desarrollo Sostenible (IEPADES).

Ms. Espinoza's presentation introduced the issue of arms trafficking in the context of geographical and political tensions. She explained the history of arms trafficking in the region in terms of phases, beginning with the Central American Crisis from 1970 to 1990. She argued that in 1990 to 2000 the region became a deposit area where arms were not demobilized or destroyed. She pointed out that the arms being traded and traded for drugs from 2000 to 2008 were left over from conflicts in 1970s to 1990s. Since 2009 the region has seen a rise in organized criminal activity as well as the diversification of arms traffickers. Ms. Espinoza argued that the research shows that trafficking has become a lucrative business with high profit margins. This has impacted on the diversity of strategies to distribution as well as routes used.

Research has also shown that 96 percent of the imports into the region are small arms, which dispels the myth that large arms are predominately being trafficked. Espinoza argued that the figures on ammunition imports reinforce this argument. There is also evidence that waterways are increasingly proving to be a blind spot for monitoring and control efforts.

The challenges identified by Espinoza are connected to the political will of countries prioritizing and collaborating within the region on the issue of arms control. She also stressed the import to attack other aspects of organized crime through a multifaceted approach, which in-

cludes public awareness raising, training security forces on gun control, improving legal frameworks as well as addressing the issue of border control.

De León Wantland spoke about the statistics coming out of the Central American region. She stated that the majority of seized weapons are guns and revolvers, 50 per cent of which are classified as illegal. She contended that this demystifies the statement that only illegal arms are part of the trade.

The increased use of private security companies has increased the number of armed agents in the region, in many cases significantly out numbering the police. De León Wantland expressed concern at the number of "lost weapons" by both law enforcement officials and private security, especially considering that small arms are the leading cause of homicide. She argued that this is indicative of violence in the region.

Only three countries have changed laws to correspond to the UN Programme of Action. However, De León Wantland contended that when new laws are developed they rely on international frameworks for legal reform.

De León Wantland called on states to comply with reporting and to strengthen national laws including all the provisions that are in international instruments. She argued for coordination mechanisms and the need to included aid to victims of armed violence.

When asked how they would evaluate the past 10 years of the UNPoA and what influences it would have in the next 10 years, both women argued the UNPoA has had a positive impact as it provide a comprehensive framework for disarmament and prompted better data collections. While data collection will get improve over time, helping develop policy, the UNPoA will continue to be a roadmap for state to disarm. However, as Espinoza stated, there is a need to include culture and social change. While statistics are crucial in developing an understanding, there are many issues needing to be addressed, which requires a multi-disciplinary approach. When armed violence is discussed, many elements are not included. •

HOW MUCH DO DONORS INVEST IN SMALL ARMS CONTROL?

Friday, 31 August 2012, 13:15, Conference Room E

Alistair Gee, Act for Peace (National Council of Churches, Australia)
Philip Alpers, GunPolicy.org (Pacific Small Arms Action Group)

NGO Statement: Implementation—looking forward, acting now*Hector Guerra | International Action Network on Small Arms, Mexico*

Honorable Señora Presidenta, Estimados delegados y delegadas, compañeras y compañeros de las organizaciones de la sociedad civil, Reciban un cordial saludo. Mi nombre es Héctor Guerra y es un placer hablar desde mi nuevo rol como Coordinador General de la Red e IANSA.

En esta Conferencia de Revisión, además de mirar lo hecho, los Gobiernos no deben desperdiciar la oportunidad de mirar hacia delante de manera creativa y productiva. En este sentido, mirar hacia delante, no se trata sólo del futuro, se trata también de actuar inmediatamente para superar las debilidades y desafíos el PoA y así, asegurarnos de que haya un porvenir.

La sociedad civil comparte la preocupación expresada por el Embajador Jim McLay de Nueva Zelanda en su reciente referencia sobre el PoA en Small Arms Survey, y cito, “ahora enfrentamos una amenaza peor que (la parálisis) / y esta es la gradual pero sostenido deslizamiento hacia la indiferencia y la oscuridad a pesar de que los países están concientes de esto.”

Hizo notar que otro fracaso, como lo vimos en 2006- podría dañar la credibilidad del PoA. Igualmente dañina sería una Conferencia de Revisión que repita simple e insipidamente los compromisos existentes.

Inspirados por esta preocupación urgente, nos tenemos que preguntar: ¿Qué fue exactamente lo logrado? Una década ha pasado desde que el PoA ha sido adoptado, y medidas específicas para poner freno al tráfico ilícito de armas pequeñas fueron establecidas. Debemos ir más allá y evaluar cómo los Estados han implementado el PoA, para también poder respondernos esta pregunta: ¿Existe en la implementación una manera de medir el impacto de la violencia armada en la vida cotidiana de la gente?

Aunque los reportes nacionales sean universales, hay que decir que una auto evaluación, comprehensiva y analítica (que no la hay), nunca sería una herramienta suficiente para monitorear, medir y analizar el impacto de ningún “programa de acción”. Por eso, la falta de un mecanismo independiente para evaluar la implementación en el nivel nacional amenaza su importancia. Asimismo, el PoA carece de un mecanismo independiente para evaluar si su implementación actual a escala nacional plantea una amenaza a su propia relevancia.

La Alta Representante para Asuntos de Desarme, Angela Kane, aseguró recientemente que el PoA, y cito, “carece de indicadores medibles y metas concretas de implementación”, fin de la cita. Ciertamente, los componentes esenciales para medir la efectividad del PoA han sido la presentación de informes y los mecanismos de seguimiento, que han sido aplicados de manera irregular e inconsistente.

Resulta urgente que en las próximas dos semanas este vacío crítico sea resuelto, y se acuerde un modelo creíble que genere un mecanismo de evaluación independiente lo antes posible. Para certificar que el PoA está cumpliendo su propósito, necesitamos la evidencia adecuada para permitir un análisis que sea sustentado con una perspectiva basada en datos, que sean completos y comparables. Los recientes esfuerzos desarrollados en esta materia por parte de UNIDIR, el Small Arms Survey y la iniciativa CASA, por ejemplo, sugieren claramente que esto es factible.

Asimismo, esta Conferencia de Revisión debe acordar como uno de sus productos finales, un mandato para el seguimiento integral, independiente, y objetivo de la implementación del PoA que vaya más allá de informes nacionales sobre logros o requerimientos de los Estados, con el desarrollo de indicadores medibles y metas de cumplimiento concretas que permitan analizar si se cumplen los compromisos que asumieron.

Recordemos que en el documento final de la cuarta Reunión Bienal de Estados, se logró un compromiso para “reconocer la necesidad de una medición integral de los progresos en la implementación del Programa de Acción, 10 años después de su adopción, como un insumo para la Conferencia de Revisión de 2012”.

La Conferencia de Revisión debe establecer también ciclos para la presentación obligatoria de informes, que sean razonables y manejables, un ejercicio que, si es llevado a cabo con seriedad, ofrecerá datos muy importantes sobre la implementación nacional.

Hemos notado que muchos Estados han hecho un llamado por una cooperación y asistencia a los Estados que sea continua y fortalecida para que pueda apoyar los esfuerzos de implementación que estos desarrollan. Un número importante de Estados quiere el establecimiento de un Fondo Fiduciario de las Naciones Unidas en el que puedan aportar varios Estados para apoyar proyectos en el contexto del PoA, IANSA comparte la preocupación de los Estados-miembro en que en la actualidad no se disponen de suficientes recursos para la implementación. Por ello, apoyamos el pedido para la movilización de fondos adicionales para las organizaciones vinculadas con la promoción de las metas del PoA, el cual es un logro único por parte de los Estados. Por nuestra parte, entendemos que la implementación es un proceso permanente de todos los Estados.

Finalmente, la sociedad civil comparte la desilusión expresada por la mayoría de los Estados Partes ante el fracaso para lograr un acuerdo alrededor del Tratado sobre Comercio de armas, el pasado mes de julio. Sin embargo, confiamos en que los Estados logren un ATT en un futuro próximo, y que den un paso importante en ese sentido en la Asamblea General en octubre. De manera importante, nos complace que haya habido consenso sobre la firme inclusión de armas pequeñas y ligeras en el ATT.

Nos entusiasma que el tema de las municiones haya recibido un apoyo mayoritario para su completa inclusión en los alcances del ATT. Asimismo, confiamos en que este apoyo se traduzca en una inclusión del tema en el texto final del ATT.

Tomamos nota sobre la importante aspiración en el marco de la “Declaración”. De tal forma, instamos a que los Estados evalúen con cuidado si los pasos propuestos en los documentos sobre la implementación del PoA y del Instrumento sobre Marcaje y Rastreo son suficientes para el logro de esas aspiraciones. Preguntémonos si los pasos sugeridos tienen el alcance para atender, “los desafíos y obstáculos que quedan para la completa implementación” del PoA y el Instrumento sobre Marcaje y Rastreo.

En los días siguientes, será necesario enfocarse en cómo lograr resultados “claros y tangibles” para crear las condiciones para tener una RevCon relevante en los próximos seis años. En esa ocasión, deberíamos haber logrado una implementación más clara, cercana a lo que sucede en la realidad de las comunidades, y poder decir que el PoA ha reducido drásticamente los niveles de violencia por arma de fuego, entre la gente común y corriente alrededor del mundo. Gracias por su amable atención. •

NGO Statement: Renforcement du Programme d'action—Projetons nous vers la prochaine Conférence d'Examen

Marie-Thérèse | *International Action Network on Small Arms, Gabon*

Excellence, Madame la Présidente, Mesdames et Messieurs, Mes collègues ont souligné les efforts essentiels déployés dans «le passe » et aussi ceux de l'heure pour assurer un avenir constructif au Programme d'Action.

Permettez moi maintenant que nous nous tournions vers ce que IANSA et les partenaires de la société civile considèrent comme essentiels relatifs à “ un regard sur le futur ” faisant partie de vos efforts. Plus précisément, je vais aborder la question du renforcement du dispositif normatif du Programme d'Action.

Cette deuxième Conférence d'examen devrait nous permettre de regarder vers l'avenir avec des propositions visant à élargir et à approfondir la mise en œuvre, mais aussi à mettre à jour le Programme d'action, l'affiner, et surtout, le renforcer en révélant tout son potentiel sous-utilisé. Plus que jamais, nous avons besoin de mesures nationales, régionales et mondiales qui répondent aux besoins des millions de personnes qui souffrent, directement et indirectement, de la violence armée.

Certaines choses sont plus claires aujourd'hui qu'elles ne l'étaient il ya une décennie -, nous savons maintenant les choses que nous ne savions pas. De même, certaines questions sont plus consolidées - ou politiquement dominante - que lorsque le Programme d'Action a été adopté. Les membres d'IANSA croient que le Programme d'Action est un «document vivant» qui doit évoluer avec le temps.

En ce qui concerne le renforcement des dispositions normatives du Programme d'Action, deux domaines sont particulièrement importants à nos yeux: l'intégration appropriée des munitions et un traitement plus robuste des contrôles aux frontières. Or, ces deux questions ne sont pas spécifiquement une matière théorique pour nous. Elles peuvent sembler techniques, mais elles ont de très graves répercussions réelles.

En Afrique, d'où je suis originaire, nous vivons dans la région des Grands Lacs, une situation d'instabilité en matière de sécurité des populations et des institutions. Les milices et les rebelles armés profitent de la faiblesse du contrôle des frontières entre la République Démocratique du Congo et du Rwanda pour développer une contrebande d'armes et de munitions, ce qui alimente la guerre dans la région, mettant en danger la paix et la sécurité

Le contrôle des munitions est une partie intégrante des efforts visant à mettre un terme au commerce illicite des armes et à la mise en œuvre du Programme d'action. « Sans une balle, le canon se tait ». En outre, la prévention et la lutte contre le commerce illicite des munitions peut réduire les dommages humanitaires.

IANSA soutient fermement l'accord dans le document final de la réunion préparatoire du Programme d'Action de l'Union Africaine “qui inclut des munitions et des armes légères et de petit calibre. Nous encourageons donc la prise en compte du contrôle des munitions dans les efforts de la mise en œuvre sur les plans nationaux et sous-régionaux. “

Nous espérons vivement que d'autres pays ou régions emboîteront le pas aux pays africains dans ce sens.

Les aspects suivants sont aussi essentiels: les nouvelles avancées technologiques et administratives dans le marquage, le traçage, le stockage et le transport de munitions, la promotion de la collaboration et assistance internationale, régionale, sous-régionale, avec les organisations intergouvernementales et non gouvernementales - pour la bonne gestion des stocks de munitions afin d'empêcher le détournement et les explosions dans les installations de stockage et de rapports universel des efforts de la mise en œuvre du PoA liés au sujet des munitions.

Sur cette question, IANSA juge indispensable que les États maintiennent un niveau élevé de débat éclairé sur les munitions d'armes afin que ceci soit profitable à d'autres forums liés aux armes. Lors de ces discussions, nous ne devons pas perdre de vue d'autres initiatives complémentaires essentielles qui servent à renforcer notre travail cette semaine.

La question des contrôles aux frontières est applicable à toutes les régions du monde. Il intègre plusieurs sous-thèmes, notamment la coopération et l'assistance, le contrôle des exportations, la documentation d'utilisateur et le détournement.

Aussi promouvoir la coopération et l'échange d'informations sur le traçage liés aux armes , la contrebande et le crime organisé dans les régions frontalières est d'une importance capitale. Afin de faciliter ce processus, les États devraient être encouragés à renforcer la coordination interinstitutionnelle à l'échelon national et régional, et plus précisément dans les zones frontalières. Ils devraient également renforcer la coopération et l'assistance internationale (y compris les approches triangulaires et Sud-Sud), ainsi que l'échange d'informations sur les bonnes pratiques en matière de contrôle des frontières, en coopération avec l'Organisation Mondiale des Douanes, Interpol, les autres agences des Nations Unies et aussi les organisations non gouvernementales.

Compte tenu de leur importance, ces points doivent figurer en bonne place dans la planification pour les six prochaines années.. Nous avons été très encouragés par la nature constructive et concrète de la réunion d'experts gouvernementaux de 2011, et nous croyons que cela peut servir de modèle pour l'avancement du Programme d'Action à la Conférence d'Examen prochaine. Nous suggérons que les contrôles aux frontières pourraient s'avérer un sujet productif pour une réunion d'experts gouvernementaux en 2014 et 2016.

Comme la délégation de la Nouvelle-Zélande l'a indiqué hier, un certain nombre de sujets ont reçu un large soutien des États membres dans ce processus, y compris la législation nationale, l'amélioration de la gestion des stocks, le renforcement des douanes et de la police, la promotion de l'information et de la coopération, et l'amélioration du fonctionnement nationale des organismes de coordination.

De même, les coûts humains des armes légères méritent une attention particulière lors de l'examen du calendrier des prochaines réunions du PoA, et IANSA espère que les impacts négatifs humanitaires de la prolifération des armes soient également l'objet d'au moins une réunion du groupe d'experts..

Comparé à d'autres instruments internationaux - existants ou proposés - le Programme d'Action a le plus grand potentiel pour réduire la violence armée sur le terrain, s'il est mis en œuvre de manière efficace. Comme la pierre angulaire du désarmement international et de l'architecture du contrôle des armes légères et de petit calibre, l'efficacité, l'application généralisée et mesurables du Programme d'Action est essentielle, mais semble être en retard.

Les gouvernements devraient être assurés que la société civile est prête à les aider dans toutes les manières possibles. Merci! •

SMALL ARMS MONITOR 5.5

Calendar of events for Friday, 31 August 2012

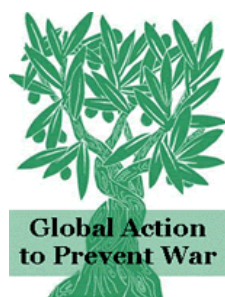
When	What	Where	Who
10:00–13:00	Consultations on draft outcome document	Conference Room 1 North Lawn Building	
13:15–14:45	How Much do Donors Invest in Small Arms Control?	Conference Room E North Lawn Building	Act for Peace Contact: Philip Alpers alpers@gunpolicy.org
15:00–18:00	Consultations on draft outcome document	Conference Room 1 North Lawn Building	

THE SMALL ARMS MONITOR IS PRODUCED AND SPONSORED BY:



Reaching Critical Will

a project of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom



Global Action
to Prevent War



WOMEN'S INTERNATIONAL LEAGUE FOR
PEACE & FREEDOM

