



SMALL ARMS MONITOR

*Civil society perspectives on the Third Review Conference of the
UN Programme of Action on small arms
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Reaching Critical Will

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The *Small Arms Monitor* is produced by the Reaching Critical Will programme of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) during meetings related to the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons.

Editor: Allison Pytlak

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EDITORIAL: WHAT ARE WE DOING HERE? THE REASONS FOR A REVIEW CONFERENCE

Allison Pytlak | *Reaching Critical Will of WILPF*

There is one question that cuts through all issues raised during the first week of the Third Review Conference to the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons (UNPoA): what are we doing here? As the consultations on the second draft outcome document unfolded over the second half of last week, this salient question emerged along with others: what are states seeking to accomplish at the Review Conference (RevCon)? What do they have the responsibility to address?

The subject of the RevCon's mandate has been raised in connection with many topics: the extent to which gender and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) are included in the outcome document; efforts to address ammunition; and how to account for emerging technology, which changes the nature of production, marking, and tracing in both positive and negative ways.

A large number of delegations from multiple regions view this conference as an opportunity to strengthen the UNPoA and its implementation and some, such as the Netherlands, Ghana, Ireland, and CARICOM were outspoken on that point during consultations on the draft outcome document. They have pointed to the language in the instrument and from the outcome document of the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States that allows for the RevCon to go beyond simply reviewing progress made and also consider additional steps that will reinforce and complement the language of the UNPoA, such as through other processes, as with

ammunition, or through action points and commitments for states in the outcome document.

Fewer countries favour limiting the RevCon to an assessment of "progress made", in the words of one state, on UNPoA implementation. Among the states advocating this perspective are some unusual bedfellows, like the US and Iran. Given the visible animosity between the two countries, yet their similar aspirations for this conference, each may have an interest in allowing the other to push for a harder line and then face backlash from other member states.

The two approaches are perhaps most visible in discussion around topics such as gender and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There is generally strong and widespread support for including and maintaining the current references to both of these subjects, however some questions were raised about the extent to which these references are relevant to the UNPoA. For example, one state acknowledged that it agrees with the goal of referencing the gendered impact of small arms and light weapons but feels that some of the references may not be appropriate or related to implementing the UNPoA. It also questioned the logic of ensuring equal participation of women, noting that it implies a "50-50 split" between men and women that it doesn't see as necessary. Another reminded other states that the proposals on gender and the SDGs are valid and noble, but they change the balance and nature of the instrument and do not relate directly to the mandate of the

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Editorial, continued

RevCon. One delegation is concerned that some of the references in the draft outcome document that would lead to trainings or laws on gender-based violence (GBV), and that this is not the space to be addressing the issue of GBV beyond acknowledging the relationship it has with small arms and light weapons. The same state made a similar point about not duplicating commitments made elsewhere on the SDGs. Given the widespread support for maintaining references on both topics it is hoped that they will continue to appear in the third draft outcome document, released on Sunday, but it is troubling to see resistance to them. Including them helps to break down silos and connect agendas, and recognises that the challenges of development, gender equality, and gender-based armed violence require holistic solutions.

Another, slightly less visible, division is around the treatment of various technologies such as 3D printing, and polymer and modular weapons. At present these are all named in the draft outcome document, but there has been some pushback from a few states about doing so explicitly and concern expressed primarily by developing states that the measures in the document will inhibit their access to technology, particularly with respect to 3D printing, as was noted explicitly by one country. A proposal has been made

to consider possible elements for a guidance document on implementation of the International Tracing Instrument (ITI), taking into account new technological developments, such as polymer and modular weapons, to consider adoption of it at the Seventh Biennial Meeting of States in 2020. While being overly specific in naming these technologies could result in leaving out other technologies that are of concern, to not take note of the changing technological landscape risks rendering the UNPoA out of date.

The second version of the draft outcome document proposes a schedule of future meetings, some of which will focus on specific issues or topics in order to make them relevant and productive. Yet this too received some resistance from those states that are taking a limited view of the RevCon; one of which warned against a “proliferation of meetings”. Certainly, the calendar of meetings on disarmament and arms control issues is a full one but the proposals would move away from meeting just for the sake of meeting and instead focus discussion on precise subjects that are of concern to very many member states, and utilise time effectively.

As states turn to a new draft of the outcome document this week, the two perspectives on the mandate and value of this RevCon will be tested further. Agreeing a progressive outcome document that furthers the impact of the UNPoA has proved difficult in the past, given that it must be adopted by consensus, even if there is a majority view in many areas. Those who would like to see the instrument continue to be relevant and viable will need to be vocal and proactive; all will need to be constructive.

Why is it important to get this right? “The decisions that governments make here this week will affect my future, and all young people around the world,” said Mei-Ling Ho-Shing, a survivor of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School, in Parkland, Florida said. “Please don’t let us down. •



Photo courtesy of PSAAG

LAUNCHING A NATIONAL ARMS TRANSFER DATABASE AT REVCON3 IN NEW YORK

Erly Munoz | Centre for Armed Violence Reduction

The Centre for Armed Violence Reduction (CAVR) has launched a National Arms Transfer Database (NATD) during the at the Third Review Conference (RevCon) of the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons (UNPoA). The NATD consists of an affordable, easy to use software package designed for low-capacity states. Its aim is to prevent the diversion of arms, control arms transfers, and maintain accurate records of conventional weapons. This simple software also generates detailed national reports at the press of a button.

The opening days of the RevCon have provided the opportunity for delegations and representatives to give interventions on the different challenges and priorities that must be acknowledged in order to effectively implement the provisions highlighted in the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. The representative of the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), from Antigua and Barbuda, stressed during his intervention the need to strengthen national and international cooperation in order to help governments develop their technological and institutional capacity in efforts to curb the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. "We call for focused strategies that support the full and effective implementation of the POA and the ITI. Our vulnerability as [small island developing states] SIDS requires consideration given the porosity of our borders."

This claim was also supported by countries such as Costa Rica, which is geographically located in the transit route for small arms and light weapons and ammunition that presents a high risk of diversion, provoking diverse types of conflict in the region. The representative of Costa Rica stated in its intervention, "Within the range of control measures, the physical marking of small arms and ammunition at the time of its manufacture and/or import strengthens the capacity of states to control and track weapons more effectively; as well as the minimum information for the maintenance of records and the improvement of stockpile management systems.

It is important to emphasise that ensuring good administration in the management of the arsenals of both public and private forces is one of the most effective measures to prevent arms that have been legally acquired by the state or the private sector from being diverted to illicit traffic."

During the general exchange of views the Pacific Islands have been significantly under-represented. Of all the member states from the region, only two have taken part at RevCon to date, Papua New Guinea and Samoa. We hope to see more in attendance next week. Since its foundation, CAVR has been key in supporting the capacity of Pacific Island governments. Among the different ways of fostering cooperation in the Pacific, CAVR provides technical assistance and works to identify solutions to arms control and treaty implementation issues. Likewise, it has also worked with partners and government officials to build technical capacity in South East and South Asia, and the Caribbean.

On 19 June a side event organised by the Permanent Mission of Australia and the non-governmental organisation Small Arms Survey provided an overview of the global number of arms holdings with a section titled "How many firearms are there in the world?". The panelists revealed the latest data on firearm possession in the world, affirming that there are over 1 billion firearms in the world today, including 857 million in civilian hands. The panelists revealed the latest data on firearm possession in the world, and expressed their concern as to what extent governments withhold information on firearms ownership. Furthermore, they reiterated the need to develop tools for the record-keeping of weapons and facilitate the exchange of information between states as crucial to achieve effective coordination mechanisms.

During its activities in the Pacific, the Centre has seen that most countries do not have a big conventional arms trade profile.

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National arms transfer database, continued



Photo courtesy of PSAAG

Furthermore, most do not have an arms transfer database fit for purpose. This is in part due to the fact that they do not have the financial, institutional, and regulatory capacity—or the need—to manage an overly onerous or comprehensive system. For example, bespoke systems can cost upwards of US\$ 1 million, and have implications for long term support, costs, and human and technological resources.

To address this gap, CAVR in partnership with Gary Fleetwood of the Australian Criminal Intelligence Commission has developed the NATD, a low-cost, modular, and technologically light database solution. The initial work has been funded through two existing grants—a recently agreed Arms Trade Treaty Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) grant for Samoa, and an UN trust fund (UNSCAR) grant to support Treaty adherence among the Melanesian countries of Vanuatu, Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea (PNG). This system helps small and medium-sized countries establish databases to track and

manage licences and arms transfers. The system works well for both states that allow civilian possession, as well as those states that do not allow civilian possession. In addition, the system can be set up to generate the raw data necessary for states to fill out their Arms Trade Treaty and UNPoA annual reports.

The RevCon continues until 29 June and states will continue working toward agreement on an outcome document under the presidency of Ambassador Jean-Claude Brunet of France. The Pacific Small Arms Action Group (PSAAG) and the Centre will be supporting the civil society efforts to include the priorities of all global regions as part of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA).

To explore opportunities for development assistance and to know more about the NATD and how to view a prototype, please contact the Centre for Armed Violence Reduction at info@armedviolencereduction.org. •

HOW THE AU AND AFRICAN REGIONAL ORGANISATIONS LEAD THE WAY IN SILENCING THE GUNS

Kelly Wert | *Non-Violence International-NY*

The German House hosted a panel on 19 June to discuss the implementation of the Silencing the Guns Plan of Action (STG-PoA), a regional plan for small arms control developed by the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) with support from the German Federal Foreign Office.

The 2001 UN Programme of Action highlighted regional organisations' role in small arms control in order to create more effective transnational solutions. Since then, the African Peace and Security Architecture under the African Union (AU) has sought to coordinate regional organisations in Africa to promote small arms control and resolve conflicts. In 2017, the AU adopted the Roadmap for its initiative, Silencing the Guns in Africa, which renewed commitment to peace and security issues in Africa and recognised that while the driving forces of conflict may vary across regions, a common problem is small arms control.

The framework of the relationship between the AU and regional organizations is intended to promote as much local control as possible, so the AU should only be required to intervene if a regional organization is unable to resolve a conflict or lacks the necessary resources to do so. A multi-regional approach allows for the most effective solutions, as each area can focus on different issues that are geographically relevant and a single operation can be effective across borders.

One strong regional organisation is ECOWAS, which was represented at this event. ECOWAS has a greater effect because it has a strong mandate for arms control, but representatives pointed out that it is not the case across Regional Economic Communities (RECs); it is important to identify which RECs have both strong mandates and the capacity to be useful in order to have the greatest impact.

Where implemented effectively, the Africa-wide Plan of Action has the potential to provide a common platform for African states, non-governmental organisations, and donors to work together. Einas Mohammed, Head of the African Union

Defense and Security Division, also discussed the need to focus resources on underserved regions and issues, not only on areas where success is easiest.

Regional strategies for small arms control highlighted by ECOWAS include border management, tracing, craft weapon manufacturing regulation, regional physical security and stockpile management standards, legislation harmonisation, and public awareness and education. Strategies for dealing with these issues have been planned for the short, medium, and long term, in countries including Benin, Burkina Faso, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea Bissau, Liberia, Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, and Togo.

The panel agreed that small arms control is a regional issue and requires a regional approach. Borders are porous and frequently serve to increase divisions between countries that are more alike than different. Border management strategies are more useful than securing borders. Coordination between geographically overlapping areas is often absent, and management strategies promote the regional cooperation that is necessary to achieve small arms control. The panel concluded that the AU should work to support development of small arms focal points. Regional cooperation is crucial to achieving the Roadmap framework. •



TURNING DESTROYED ILLEGAL FIREARMS INTO A COMMODITY FOR PEACE

Peter Brune | Humanium Initiative

The first target of the Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16 calls for significant reductions in “all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere”. Humanium Metal, an initiative by the Swedish non-profit organization IM Swedish Development Partner (www.manniskohjalp.se/en) provides a tool for specifically addressing this challenge, on an individual as well as societal level.

Humanium Metal is a unique supply chain that distributes metal from destructed illegal firearms making it available for commercial production. The initiative is being presented at the Third Review Conference (RevCon3) of the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons (UNPoA) in June 2018. Peter Brune, Policy Adviser Humanium Metal, explains, “Humanium Metal as an initiative that aims at contributing to the reduction of armed violence, directly targeting the number of illegal fire-arms seized by relevant authorities, as stated as an indicator under SDG16.” A key point is to reduce existing stockpiles of illicit arms and strengthening awareness raising efforts about the devastating consequences that the high level of violence have on society.

Central America functions as a pilot region, and on two occasions the remains from destructed firearms from El Salvador have been handed over to the Humanium Metal Initiative. The active involvement of local civil society organisations has been crucial for the overall success. This includes community-oriented disarmament actions, job creation, and vocational training by promotion of production and long-term advocacy-oriented efforts to prevent armed violence. Humanium Metal thus generates financial and moral support to those directly affected by the armed violence and it also aims at changing attitudes in local and global communities.

The metal is available as steel powder, which is suitable for a variety of production methods, and leading brands are now forming partnership with Humanium Metal to use the metal in their production. This connects Humanium Metal to the most powerful lobbying group of them all—the consumers.

On 19 June the Swedish watch-manufacturer TRIWA launched a kickstarter campaign for the watch Triwa X Humanium Metal, an innovative watch molded out of Humanium Metal. The campaign turned out to be a success and in the first 48 hours almost \$100,000 USD was raised. For every purchase, a portion of the funds made from the sales circles back to the society where the firearms were originally collected and supports the victims of armed violence.

By its collaborative approach in which a number of actors, including public authorities, government institutions, the private sector, and civil society are involved to find lasting solutions, Humanium Metal contributes actively not only to SDG 16 but also to an additional number of other goals. These include partnership for the goals, gender equality and prevention of gender-based violence, economic growth and job creation, sustainable cities, and prevention of urban violence.

The Humanium Metal Initiative has gained significant international attention and has been awarded, among others, the Grand Prix for Innovation in Cannes Lions and the RedDot Award. The initiative is also backed by high-profile ambassadors such as Hans Blix and the Dalai Lama.

Learn more at www.humanium-metal.com. •



NEWS IN BRIEF

Marina Kalliga | *Reaching Critical Will of WILPF*

The positions conveyed here are not comprehensive but intended as a summary of the remainder of the general debate and an unattributed overview of state positions on key issues discussed during consultations on the second draft outcome document.

Intergovernmental organisations

- The League of Arab States focused on the need to ramp up international aid to address the illicit trade in SALW and urged states in a position to do so to bolster the technical capacity of developing states.
- The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) circulated a working paper to states and in their intervention called on them to join the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which establishes rules for international arms control, to make controlling the proliferation of ammunition a priority, to prevent the diversion of SALW through strong licensing systems, adequate border control, and stockpile management, and to explore how efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals can help them meet their commitments under the UNPoA.
- Among their many initiatives, the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe mentioned their joint training program with UNODA aimed at empowering women and increasing their participation in policy-making, planning and implementation processes in the area of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation.
- The East African Community highlighted the need to place small arms and light weapons (SALW) control within a development context, a practice it is already implementing in its new development strategy.
- The Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) spoke about its projects on SALW control, including the progress it has made in marking, in constructing armories to safely store SALW and their ammunition, training on best practices on physical security and stockpile management, and the destruction of obsolete surplus or collected small arms, which has reduced the number of SALW in circulation. RECSA also has a policy to mainstream gender in arms control interventions.
- The European Union referred to the new strategy to

combat the illicit trade of SALW and its ammunition it developed in order to respond to four significant developments since 2005.

- The African Union mentioned its roadmap for Silencing the Guns by 2020, and four key recommendations to tackle the illicit trade in SALW: tackling root causes, addressing the wide availability of arms, scaling up international cooperation and assistance, and developing effective monitoring and evaluation frameworks.
- The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) spoke about a number of its projects, including the establishment of national commissions on small arms in states across the region and programmes on weapons collection, border control, physical security and stockpile management, and marking.
- The UN Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) referred to the UN Secretary-General's initiative to establish a dedicated fund within the Peacebuilding Fund to support government action on illicit SALW. CASA emphasised the importance of the integration of gender perspectives in small arms control and the meaningful participation of women in policymaking, planning, and implementation of the PoA.
- The Organisation of American States focused its intervention on the adoption of the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Tracking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA).
- The North Atlantic Treaty Organisation acknowledged the importance of mainstreaming gender into all its activities, and developed guidelines for policy makers, practitioners and others on the integration of gender perspectives into small arms control projects.

Non-governmental organisations

- The NGO statements were delivered by members of the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), and a special guest invited by IANSA, Mei-Ling Ho-Shing, survivor of the mass shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, Florida. In her speech, Mei-Ling Ho-Shing reminded the UN member states that gun violence is a serious threat in developed countries too and it poses a clear obstacle to achieving SDG 4 on education, including Target 4.
- In this segment the conference heard from another survivor of gun violence, Alex Galvez from IANSA Survivors Network in Guatemala who spoke about the effects of the proliferation of SALW in Latin

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News in Brief, continued

America, including over 100,000 deaths each year from gun violence; the amplification of the lethal nature of violence against women by the presence of a firearm; and the long-term emotional and economic effects suffered by the survivors of gun violence.

- Rebecca Peters from IANSA outlined the network's six priority issues for the review conference: ammunition, destruction of surplus SALW, addressing non-conflict settings, gender-based action, establishing links with the SDGs, and exploring synergies with the ATT. These issues are elaborated on in IANSA's briefing paper that was circulated to member states at the conference.
- Ema Tagicakibau from IANSA Women's Network focused on the priority of addressing gender dimensions in the UNPoA, including by recognising the critical role women play in disarmament, non-proliferation, and small arms control; by funding initiatives for strengthening women's capacity to participate in small arms control; research that examines the gendered impacts of armed violence; by endorsing the Call to Action that offers more recommendations on gender and small arms control.
- Dr. Widad Akre from IANSA Middle East and North Africa highlighted the risks posed by both poor physical security of SALW stockpiles, particularly the diversion of SALW, and the need for more sustained systems and the use of new technologies to respond to the risks. She emphasised that misuse of arms can lead to damage of civilian infrastructure and subsequent breakdown of crucial services, and negative impact the proliferation of SALW has on women's equality, political participation, and access to resources.
- Seydi Gassama of Amnesty International Senegal spoke about the easy supply of SALW in Africa that have been imported from Europe, Asia, and the Americas, and urged exporters to Africa to act with more restraint and to take on the responsibility of trying to prevent diversion of SALW, including by requiring authenticated end-user certificates. He also reminded member states of the importance of robust arms control for development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Outcome document: Section I "The Declaration"*Ammunition*

- There are a few states that are very vocal about their wish to see any reference on ammunition removed from the outcome document, while the majority of

states want to retain all existing references to ammunition.

- A specific proposal was made regarding a paragraph on ammunition in the Declaration. The proposal is to amend the language to base it on paragraph 9 of the BMS6 outcome document. A number of states expressed their support for the proposal to add language from this BMS6 paragraph to the RevCon's outcome document.

Synergies

- One state noted that there is a widespread misunderstanding of the word "synergy" and that it is being misused. The conference president stressed the need for a discussion at this RevCon on what the term "synergies" means, and in what areas synergies with other instruments should be explored. He offered two examples of areas in which he believes synergies with other instruments should be discussed: reporting and international cooperation and assistance. These two areas have also been brought up by member states. I
- It was argued that synergies in reporting obligations under different instruments, including the Firearms Protocol and the Arms Trade Treaty, should be taken advantage of in order to lessen the reporting burden of states, which would lead to higher reporting rates. States have also pointed to the need to better coordinate international cooperation and assistance given under different instruments, but which may serve projects that lead to improved UNPoA implementation.

Gender

- During consultations on Section I, the Declaration, a proposal was made to strengthen the language of paragraph 16 which reaffirms the need to "fully mainstream gender dimensions in implementation efforts" by adding to it references to additional gender-related issues. Many states expressed their support for this proposal of strengthening paragraph 16.

Outcome document: Section II "Implementation of the UNPoA"*Ammunition*

- Some states want all references to ammunition throughout the outcome document deleted, claiming that ammunition is not in the scope of the UNPoA and was deliberately left out of it during the 2001 process of adopting the UNPoA text, and pointed to other venues within the UN that these states see as more appropriate to deal with ammunition.

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News in Brief, continued

- A majority of states see SALW ammunition as inseparable from the weapons and insist that ammunition should be added to the scope of the UNPoA in order to enhance the effectiveness of UNPoA implementation. They called for all references to ammunition in this section of the second draft outcome document, and the document in its entirety, to be maintained in the final outcome document.

Synergies

- The states that do not want to see synergies between the UNPoA and other instruments explicitly referenced in the outcome document claim that there can be no reference in the outcome document to instruments that do not enjoy universal support and to which they are not a party.
- Other states explained that the draft outcome document makes it clear that exploiting synergies with other instruments only applies to states that are parties to the instruments and thus does not impose any added obligations to states that are not parties to them.
- Some states proposed the removal of paragraphs 37 and 38 of Section II, which they described as "language imported from the ATT."

Transportation

- A few states asked for the removal of Section II (b) on transportation on the basis that transportation is not included in the original text of the UNPoA. Seventeen states highlighted the need to retain these paragraphs in the final outcome document because of the role they can play in preventing diversion of SALW into the illicit market.

Unauthorised end-users

- One state proposed that explicit language be added to the outcome document to prohibit the transfer of SALW to end-users that are not duly authorised by the government of the recipient state. Around 2-3 other states supported this proposal.
- Mention was made of prohibiting transfer of SALW to non-state actors. A few states that opposed this suggestion of a blanket prohibition, expressing the opinion that there can be non-state actors within a country who could be legitimate recipients of SALW transfers. Another point made regarding this language was that some countries may not operate with "end-user" licences but with "end-use" licences

and a proposal was made to add the term "end-use" to the outcome document to encompass this practice as well.

Civilian possession

- A group of twelve countries proposed the strengthening of controls on the acquisition of firearms by civilians, because they deem the current regulation on the use and possession of firearms by civilians to be weak. They want to see a reference to possession of SALW by civilians in the outcome document. Another state voiced their support for the inclusion of this reference in the outcome document. Referring to the statement on civilian possession of SALW, one state emphasised that the discussion should be on illicit trafficking of SALW, and that the domestic use, possession, and acquisition of SALW by civilians is completely a state's own prerogative.

Craft weapons

- An emerging challenge for many countries is the production of craft weapons, which are not marked upon production. This issue came up both during the debate on Section II of the outcome document on Thursday morning, and during a side-event on Wednesday. One state proposed inclusion of language on craft weapons in the outcome document, specifically the inclusion of "craft manufacturing" in the preamble of section III.

2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

- At least thirty-four states expressed strong support for the references to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and three of them wish to see the language strengthened to more effectively link the UNPoA not solely with SDG Target 16.4 on illicit arms flows but with the entire agenda. One state wants to see an explicit link between the UNPoA and SDG 5 on gender equality. However, five states did not look as favourably upon the inclusion of the sub-section on the 2030 Agenda.
- One state argued that the RevCon should not be adding commitments for states under the UNPoA that duplicate the commitments made elsewhere, but should reinforce similarities.
- Another state added that the UNPoA is not the place to create new indicators. Two states argued that the SDGs are not directly related to the mandate of the conference and they constitute an amendment to the UNPoA.

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*News in Brief, continued**Gender*

- A few states voiced their opposition to the sub-section on gender contained in Section II. The dissenting states argued that the provisions of the gender sub-section fall outside of the scope of the UNPoA and thus should be deleted from the outcome document. In response, a large number of states reaffirmed their commitment to the inclusion of strong language on gender dimensions in the outcome document, and stressed that this is in line with a number of important initiatives taken within the UN.
- There was also some discussion about the specific references to gender-based violence (GBV) in the draft outcome document. A couple of states took the position that the UNPoA is not the appropriate forum to be dealing with the issue of GBV because it is unrelated to the UNPoA mandate, and suggested that if paragraph 92 is maintained then a specific reference to the use of SALW in gender-based violence be added so as to anchor it in the UNPoA context. One of these states added that, while the conference should be examining how SALW contribute to GBV, the outcome document should not be making commitments for new “laws, regulations and administrative procedures,” which is how they interpret paragraph 92. Two states spoke in favour of paragraph 92, the first one voiced its support for establishing links between the implementation of the UNPoA and the fight against GBV while the second reminded the member states that it is well-established that flows of SALW enable gender-based violence and thus this paragraph must be included in the text.
- A couple of states took issue with the references to UNSCR 1325 because they opposed any mention of the UN Security Council anywhere in the outcome document.

3D printing

- Paragraphs 62 and 63 were met with considerable opposition by a number of states that argued that there is no need to single out this one technology, or that these paragraphs paint 3D printing in too harsh a light, and that attempts to control 3D printers could prevent their transfer and hamper the technological development of developing countries.
- One state suggested that instead of deleting these paragraphs, as was proposed by a couple of states, references to 3D printing be replaced by less aggressive and generic language like “modern technologies”. One state explained that all that is being asked in

paragraph 63 is for manufacturers, distributors, and users of 3D printers to have an awareness of the laws pertaining to what is and is not permitted for a 3D printer to create.

Export control

- One state called for the addition of the phrase “best practice export control regimes” in many paragraphs throughout the outcome document, including in paragraphs 51, 56, 58, 62, and 71 of the outcome document, and in paragraph 66 it wishes to add that new forms of manufacture of SALW be covered by best practice export control regimes. A group of states highlighted that the risk of SALW diversion can be reduced by proper arms export controls.

National reports

- In addition to the Secretariat presentation that had a strong focus on national reporting, five states touched upon the subject in their interventions. Two states stressed the importance of national reports and expressed support for paragraphs on national reports in the outcome document in their current form. Two states wish to see the national reports be analysed, and a proposal was made to add a paragraph in the outcome document that recognises the importance of performing qualitative analyses of the national reports. The fourth state expressed some reservations with paragraphs 72 and 76. It asked for clarification on the requirements under paragraph 72 on including information in their national reports on illicit trade routes and diversion, which they share with other organisations like INTERPOL, but not in their national reports. It asked for refining the language in paragraph 76 that encourages states to provide information on available resources, in order to reflect the fact that national reports are retrospective and it would be difficult for states to predict what they will be able to fund in the next two years.

Outcome document: Section III “Implementation of the ITI”*Creation of a guidance document*

- A proposal was made to consider possible elements for a guidance document on the implementation of the ITI that would take into account new technological developments, including polymer and modular weapons, and would be developed through the next report of the UN Secretary-General. Adoption of the guidance document would be considered in the next BMS in 2020. Eighteen states expressed their support for developing a guidance document.

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News in Brief, continued

Tracing

- It was argued that the language in paragraphs 11 and 14 is too restrictive in its focus on “conflict and post-conflict situations” and a proposal was made to add language that is inclusive of tracing done in non-conflict situations. A group of countries voiced their support for the proposal to not limit tracing to conflict and post-conflict situations.
- A different amendment was proposed to paragraph 11, to add the term “illicit” before small arm or light weapon to clarify that tracing will not be done to SALW that are not illicit. Another state was supportive of this amendment.
- One state argued for the need to make a clear distinction between law enforcement tracing and conflict tracing, and opposed paragraph 15 on the basis that it implies post-conflict tracing being carried out by entities other than states and the law enforcement community. It wishes to see the rewording of any paragraphs that call for greater capacity for peacekeepers and other entities outside of states and the law enforcement community carrying out tracing, in order to make sure that the obligations of other entities are restricted to cooperation. On the other hand, a different state is proposing an amendment to paragraph 15 to suggest the inclusion of tracing in UN peacekeeping missions.

Marking

- A couple of amendments were suggested to paragraph 7 of this section that encourages states to take advantage of the opportunities new technologies can offer for the marking of SALW. One suggestion is that new technologies should also be used to recover obliterated markings on SALW, and the other suggestion is the adoption of unique marking codes.
- A group of states highlighted the necessity of this RevCon to result in an agreement on a process with a view to reaching consensus on marking of modular weapons. They mentioned the possibility of an annex to the ITI, which could also include other developments, such as weapons with polymer frames.
- In regard to marking, the concern was raised by one state that paragraph 6 is too prescriptive and it leaves the possibility open for states to identify a different essential or structural component of a small arm or light weapon from the frame and

receiver, which is the primary component on which marking has to be provided, and that could lead to marking on certain parts of a weapon that are easily replaced and thus could be lost.

Microchips and micro-marking

- Three states spoke against the inclusion of the terms “microchips and micro-marking” in paragraph 23, arguing that there is no need to reference specific new technologies. One of these states was opposed to the reference because the use of microchips and micro-marking would have costly implications for states and thus some states would not be able to have access to them.

Record-keeping

- A couple of comments were made in regards to record-keeping. A proposal was made to add a new paragraph or to amend paragraph 7 in order to reflect that new technologies also present new opportunities for improved record-keeping, including in assisting states to identify records and to share them. Referring to paragraph 9, a state pointed out that the requirements for the maintenance of records under the ITI might be lower than the requirements under other instruments, and proposed an amendment to the language to clarify that the ITI requirements would be the minimum requirements.

Outcome document: Section IV “International cooperation and assistance”

Multi-partner trust facility through the Peacebuilding Fund

- In his new disarmament agenda, the UN Secretary-General introduced a proposal to establish a multi-partner trust facility through the Peacebuilding Fund, which would aim to provide sustained and coherent funding for small arms control initiatives at the national and sub-regional levels. One state urged the member states to take advantage of the opportunity presented by this RevCon to endorse the Secretary-General’s proposal.
- Four states want to receive more information on the proposal, and one of them recommended that the Secretariat deliver a briefing on it.
- One of these states pointed out that paragraph 17, which references the multi-partner trust facility, includes the word “voluntary”.

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- The states that are UNSCAR donors stated that they look forward to the coordination of UNSCAR with the new trust facility under the Peacebuilding Fund.

Fellowship programme

- Paragraph 12 of section IV of the draft outcome document refers to the proposal made by the Non-Aligned Movement (NAM) in its working paper they submitted to the conference on establishing a UN fellowship programme on small arms and light weapons. Twenty-nine states supported the inclusion of this proposal in the outcome document. In a Secretariat presentation to the conference delivered by Mr. Daniel Prins on Friday morning, he posed a number of questions regarding the fellowship programme, including what types of capacity-building would be targeted through this fellowship. One state echoed the questions of Mr. Prins, and mentioned the need to be clear on the sustainability of such a program. Two states that are supportive of the fellowship programme expressed their preference for the wording proposed by NAM in the working paper that refers to a “fellowship” programme rather than a “training” programme, which is the term used in the draft outcome document.
- The second sentence of paragraph 12 was seen as problematic to five states that questioned the authority of the review conference to make decisions regarding the timeframe and funding of the fellowship programme. The suggestion was made for the outcome document of this review conference to simply recommend consideration of the fellowship programme, and at a later stage a General Assembly resolution could provide more details regarding the funding and other logistical questions. At the end of the debate, the Secretariat confirmed that the General Assembly governs the budget issues related to the PoA and does so through its annual resolution on the PoA. The Secretariat explained that the GA resolution would need to specify the characteristics of concrete proposed activities, such as their location, duration, and the number of participants, and would need to be explicit on the sources of funding for the fellowship program, as it would likely not be feasible to fund it within existing resources.

Ammunition

- Five states proposed the deletion of paragraph 16 which mentions ammunition because of their well-known position to not allow the ammunition to appear anywhere in the outcome document. One state elaborated on its position, arguing that the language in paragraph 16 to directing funding to coordination

on ammunition is an example of the why it has been concerned with mentioning ammunition in the outcome document, because it would lead to the UNPoA having a two-tier membership and preferential treatment being given to one of those tiers. Five states stressed the need to take ammunition into account.

Gender

- One state expressed reservations about paragraphs 27 and 28, which refer to providing funding for programmes that deal with gender dimensions of SALW. The state claimed that while it is very supportive of including references to gender dimensions in the outcome document, it is concerned that these paragraphs imply that gender is always relevant, which is contrary to its belief that gender is not always an issue in the context of SALW. In his presentation, Mr. Daniel Prins stated that gender considerations are always relevant when talking about training. The donor states to UNSCAR pointed out that the applicants for their grants must take gender considerations into account when formulating projects on SALW. Another state reiterated a recommendation it had made in the debate on section III that any reference to gender-based violence should be followed by the phrase “using illicit SALW” to make it directly relevant to the UNPoA. Six states expressed their support for the references to gender in these paragraphs.

Outcome document: Section V “Follow-up to the Third Review Conference”

Day-to-day implementation proposal

- A proposal was introduced by a state during the debate on Section V based on the working paper submitted to the conference on the day-to-day implementation of the UNPoA, which could involve forming a committee of a group of member states on a voluntary basis that would hold regular meetings to monitor implementation, concretely identify challenges, and strive for greater coherence of implementation of the PoA at each level. The state expressed its willingness to work on terms of reference on what this mechanism should look like, and suggested that during this review conference a decision be made for such terms of reference to be addressed at the latest by the next BMS. Three states stated their interest in this proposal. One of them suggested the proposed committee could serve as a place to have ideas vetted and as a means to disseminate information between member states, but two of them were concerned about the potential cost and burden of the frequency of the committee meetings.

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News in Brief, continued

Guidance document proposal

- A group of states recalled the challenges posed by new technologies and urged states to take them into account when deciding on follow-up mechanisms to the review conference. They reminded member states that the ITI does not properly address modular design in SALW manufacture and the absence of an agreed standard on marking modular weapons poses a serious challenge, thus a process should be decided upon with a view to reaching a supplement document to the ITI, such as an annex, to establish consensus on the marking of modular weapons and also addresses other developments in new technologies. One state pointed out that paragraph 7 of Section V refers to an annex to the ITI, but if the proposal made by several states yesterday for a guidance document to the ITI on new technological developments is accepted then the language of paragraph 7 would need to be amended to reflect that the guidance document should be considered at the next Biennial Meeting of States.
- Three states shared the view that it is premature to refer to negotiations on a guidance document or annex, and would like to see the word “negotiate” replaced by language such as “consider”.
- A number of questions were posed by one state regarding the proposal of an annex or guidance document to the ITI, including what states would negotiate on; what should be included in it; what would its relationship to the ITI be; and if this is the right time to start negotiations on the ITI. The state stated that it will await the amendments made to paragraph 7 before making a decision, but it would be very hard for it to agree on the text before it has answers to the questions, and would likely have to propose the deletion of the paragraph.

Ammunition

- Acknowledging the differences of opinion on the issue of ammunition, one state urged member states to come up with language on ammunition in the final outcome document, including the proposed establishment of mechanisms to examine the inclusion of ammunition in the UNPoA in technical terms, such as an open-ended working group. The state emphasised that many states view the inclusion of ammunition as crucial, and that any mechanism to address it should be synchronized with the review cycle of this forum. A state expressed deep interest in this

proposal, and emphasised the need to review the scope of the UNPoA in order to strengthen it and to go beyond examining its implementation every six years. Another state supported considering ammunition and recommended including more direct language on ammunition in paragraph 7.

BMS7 (2020)

- Several issues were raised in regards to paragraph 5 on the next Biennial Meeting of States (BMS). One state recommended the deletion of paragraph 5, as well as paragraph 6, on the basis that it is premature to be deciding on the topics of the BMS7. One state speaking in its national capacity and a group of states proposed the inclusion of the issue of the illegitimate and deliberate supply of SALW to unauthorised end-users in addition to the issue of diversion or leakage of weapons to the list of topics to be covered in the BMS7 in 2020. Another state spoke about the need to reach a consensus on the topics of the BMS7 if member states decide that during this RevCon a decision will be made regarding the BMS7 topics. One state expressed support for paragraph 5 with its current form.

BMS8 (2022)

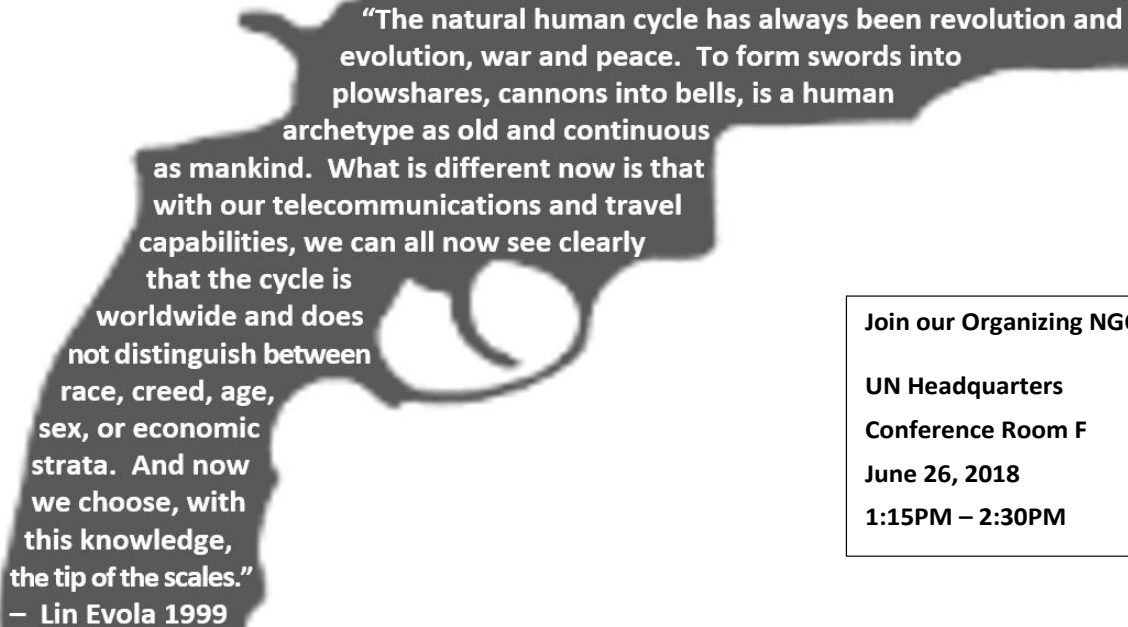
- Opposition was also voiced to paragraph 6 on the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS8). One state proposed that the topic of BMS8 be focused on SDG16.4 rather than cover the 2030 Agenda more broadly, which was met with support by a handful of states. A further proposal was made that the BMS8 be used as an opportunity to analyse progress made towards SDG16.4, and two states expressed interest in examining this idea further.

Review mechanisms

- The term “meeting fatigue” was used by a few states when speaking against adding any new meetings to the existing review mechanisms in place, namely the two BMSs and the review conferences in every six years. They suggested that rather than establish an open-ended working group the BMS should be used to consider a particular issue in-depth. One of these states proposed deleting paragraphs 4, 6, and 7 because it will not agree with any proposals to add new meetings, and the other state proposed deleting the reference to a meeting of governmental experts in 2021 in paragraph 1.



Peace Angels Project *and the* USA Weapons Destruction Campaign



“The natural human cycle has always been revolution and evolution, war and peace. To form swords into plowshares, cannons into bells, is a human archetype as old and continuous as mankind. What is different now is that with our telecommunications and travel capabilities, we can all now see clearly that the cycle is worldwide and does not distinguish between race, creed, age, sex, or economic strata. And now we choose, with this knowledge, the tip of the scales.”
– Lin Evola 1999

Join our Organizing NGO at:

**UN Headquarters
Conference Room F
June 26, 2018
1:15PM – 2:30PM**

Since 1992, the Peace Angels Project (the “Project”) has taken a revolutionary approach to decreasing the numbers of small arms and light weapons in our world. Rather than relying solely on lawmakers to reduce America’s “weapons footprint”, the Project has developed a unique program called the USA Weapons Destruction Campaign (“USAWDC”).

The USAWDC (in cooperation with major media outlets and top-level law enforcement bureaus) calls upon individuals and government agencies to relinquish their stockpiles of weapons. Once destroyed, these weapons metals become the raw materials for six-story-tall Peace Angel monuments. The first three, sixty-four-foot-tall monuments are planned for New York City, Los Angeles and Silicon Valley. Each public monument is expected to absorb one million weapons and will stand in perpetuity as an icon of peace for current and future generations.

To date, thousands of crushed weapons have been received by the Peace Angels Project. A portion of these destroyed weapons became part of the Project’s high-profile, thirteen-foot Renaissance Peace Angel. This iconic statue is in the permanent collection of the National September 11 Memorial Museum in New York City. The Renaissance Peace Angel will be unveiled with ceremony at the Museum in October 2018 in the presence of dignitaries and members of the press.

On July 19, 2018, the Peace Angels Project and the Los Angeles Sheriff’s Department will join forces to launch the USAWDC. This momentous event is expected to be covered by national and international media outlets. Lin Evola will speak as will other notables. This event will mark the beginning of a movement to reduce the numbers of weapons in America.

We extend a special thank you to IANSA for hosting this side event at the United Nations for the Peace Angels Project.

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