



General Assembly

Distr.: General
5 July 2024

Original: English

Fourth United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

New York, 18–28 June 2024

Report of the fourth United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

I. Introduction

1. At its seventy-eighth session, the General Assembly adopted resolution [78/46](#), in which it decided to convene the fourth United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects in New York from 17 to 28 June 2024,¹ preceded by the meeting of the preparatory committee in New York from 12 to 16 February 2024. The Assembly also underlined the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons for attaining Sustainable Development Goal 16 and target 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2. The Preparatory Committee held its session at United Nations Headquarters from 12 to 16 February 2024, the report of which is contained in document [A/CONF.192/2024/RC/1](#).

3. By its recommendation IV, the Preparatory Committee recommended Maritza Chan Valverde (Costa Rica) for the presidency of the Conference and requested that she undertake informal consultations, including open-ended informal consultations, if required, in the period before the Conference.

¹ The conference began on 18 June, as 17 June was a United Nations official holiday.



II. Organizational matters and proceedings of the Conference

A. Opening and duration of the Conference

4. The fourth United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects was convened at United Nations Headquarters from 18 to 28 June 2024. The Conference was opened on 18 June by the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs. At that meeting, Maritza Chan Valverde was elected President of the Conference.

5. At the 1st meeting, on 18 June, the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs delivered a statement on behalf of the Secretary-General of the United Nations. Ivor Fung of the Office for Disarmament Affairs served as the Secretary-General of the Conference. The Conference held plenary meetings and informal meetings.

6. The list of participants is contained in document [A/CONF.192/2024/RC/INF/2](#).

B. Rules of procedure

7. At its 1st meeting, on 18 June, the Conference adopted its rules of procedure ([A/CONF.192/2024/RC/L.3](#)).

C. Agenda

8. At its 1st meeting, on 18 June, the Conference adopted the agenda ([A/CONF.192/2024/RC/L.1](#)) as follows:

1. Opening of the Conference.
2. Election of the President.
3. Statement by the President.
4. Address by the Secretary-General of the United Nations.
5. Adoption of the rules of procedure.
6. Adoption of the agenda.
7. Organization of work.
8. Election of officers other than the President.
9. Credentials of representatives to the Conference:
 - (a) Appointment of the members of the Credentials Committee;
 - (b) Report of the Credentials Committee.
10. General exchange of views.
11. Statements by intergovernmental and other organizations.
12. Statements by non-governmental organizations.
13. Adoption of the final documents of the Conference.
14. Adoption of the report of the Conference.

D. Officers

9. The composition of the Bureau of the Conference was as follows:

President

Maritza Chan Valverde (Costa Rica)

Vice-Presidents

Argentina
Australia
Croatia
Egypt
El Salvador
Ghana
Indonesia
Latvia
Nepal
Philippines
Portugal
Romania
South Africa
Switzerland

E. Documentation

10. The documents of the Conference are available on its website, <https://meetings.unoda.org/poa-salw-revcon/programme-of-action-on-small-arms-and-light-weapons-review-conference-2024>.

III. Credentials

11. Pursuant to rule 4 of the rules of procedure of the Conference (A/CONF.192/2024/RC/L.3), according to which the composition of the Credentials Committee is to be based on that of the Credentials Committee of the General Assembly at its seventy-eighth session, the Conference appointed Andorra, China, Grenada, Nigeria, the Russian Federation, Solomon Islands, Suriname, Togo and the United States of America, as members of the Credentials Committee of the Conference.

12. At its 15th meeting, on 28 June, the Conference adopted the draft resolution recommended by the Credentials Committee in paragraph 14 of its report (A/CONF.192/2024/RC/2), after having examined the credentials of the representatives of the member States of the Conference and found them to be in order.

IV. General exchange of views

13. At its 1st to 5th meetings, from 18 to 20 June, the Conference held its high-level segment and general exchange of views.

14. At its 1st meeting, on 18 June, the Conference heard statements by the representatives of Qatar (on behalf of the Gulf Cooperation Council), Indonesia (on behalf of the Non-Aligned Movement), Morocco (on behalf of the Group of Arab States), Dominica (on behalf of the Caribbean Community), the European Union, Ghana, Albania, Guatemala, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Switzerland, Finland, Ireland,

Germany, Czechia, China, Romania, Liberia, Burundi, the United States, Sierra Leone and Hungary.

15. At its 2nd meeting, also on 18 June, the Conference heard statements by the representatives of Cameroon (on behalf of the Group of African States), France, Mexico, South Africa, the Republic of Korea, the Russian Federation, Pakistan, Cambodia, Cuba, Iraq, Senegal, the Philippines, Portugal, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Viet Nam, Yemen, Bangladesh, Canada, Spain, Oman, Chile, the Islamic Republic of Iran, India, El Salvador, Malaysia, Japan and Côte d'Ivoire.

16. At its 3rd meeting, on 19 June, the Conference heard statements by the representatives of Poland, Djibouti, Sierra Leone (on behalf of the States members of the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies), Argentina, Ecuador, Australia, Latvia, Nepal, Brazil, the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, Algeria, Honduras, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Thailand, Mauritania, Lesotho, Togo, Kenya, Austria, the Plurinational State of Bolivia, Nicaragua, the Syrian Arab Republic, Egypt, Ukraine, Nigeria, the Dominican Republic and Guyana.

17. At its 4th meeting, also on 19 June, the Conference heard statements by the representatives of Croatia (on behalf of a group of States and in a national capacity), the Bahamas (on behalf of a group of States), Lebanon, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Uruguay, Slovenia, Jordan, Mozambique, Jamaica, Italy, Myanmar, Colombia, Namibia, Tunisia, Greece, the Sudan, Saudi Arabia, Paraguay, Zimbabwe, Angola, Sri Lanka, Belgium, Eswatini, Haiti, the Kingdom of the Netherlands, Bulgaria and the Holy See.

18. At its 5th meeting, on 20 June, the Conference heard statements by the representatives of Uganda and the Niger.

Statements by intergovernmental organizations

19. Also at its 5th meeting, on 20 June, the Conference heard statements by representatives of the following organizations: African Union; League of Arab States; International Criminal Police Organization; Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe; Organization of American States; Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States; North Atlantic Treaty Organization; Caribbean Community; and Coordinating Action on Small Arms.

Statements by non-governmental organizations

20. At the same meeting, on 20 June, the Conference heard statements by representatives of the following organizations: International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA); Esfuerzos de Mujeres Bolivianas; Nonviolence International; Fondation pour l'étude des relations internationales et du développement; Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace; Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons; Control Arms; Youth Champions for Disarmament; Acronym Institute for Disarmament Diplomacy; Associazione Nazionale Produttori Armi e Munizioni Sportive e Civili; Gender Equality Network for Small Arms Control; OutRight Action International; Security Research and Information Centre; International Humanitarian Law and Youth Initiative; Women's International League for Peace and Freedom; Mines Advisory Group; World Federalist Movement; Foundation for Security and Development in Africa; Transparency International; and Firearms and Ammunition Import-Export Roundtable. Statements were also made by a IANSA ambassador, three IANSA youth ambassadors and a IANSA member.

V. Consideration and adoption of the final documents of the Conference and the report of the Conference to the General Assembly

21. At its 6th to 15th meetings, from 20 to 28 June, the Conference considered and negotiated the draft outcome document.
22. At its 15th meeting, on 28 June, the Conference adopted, as orally revised, by consensus, the outcome document (A/CONF.192/2024/RC/CRP.1/Rev.3) (see annex).
23. At the same meeting, the Conference adopted its report to the General Assembly ([A/CONF.192/2024/RC/L.5](#)), by consensus, and authorized the President to finalize it.

Annex

Outcome document of the fourth United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

I. 2024 Declaration

A renewed commitment to peace, security and sustainable development by preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and enhancing international cooperation and assistance

We, the States participating in the fourth United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, and its international tracing instrument, convened in New York from 17 to 28 June 2024, reaffirm our commitment to the full and effective implementation of all the provisions of the Programme of Action and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, through enhanced international cooperation and assistance with a view to promoting peace, security and sustainable development and reducing human suffering and socioeconomic consequences caused by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions, and hereby resolve to undertake the following measures, subject to the respective constitutional and legal systems of States, without prejudice to States' commitment under applicable international law.

1. We affirm our commitments to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, which constitute the global frameworks to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, in line with respective commitments included in the annual General Assembly resolution entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects", and in commitments made during previous Review Conferences and Biennial Meetings of States.
2. We reaffirm our respect for and commitment to international law and the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including the inherent right to individual or collective self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the Charter of the United Nations and the right of each State to manufacture, import and retain small arms and light weapons for its self-defence and security needs, as well as for its capacity to participate in peacekeeping operations in accordance with the Charter, and reaffirm the commitments, as well as all the principles, set out in the Programme of Action, including its preamble.
3. We express grave concern about the escalating tensions, crises, armed violence and conflicts taking place in many regions of the world aggravated by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and the complexity of conflicts and threats, which increases the demand for and heightens the risks of diversion of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients.
4. We express grave concern that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including illicit manufacture, brokering, transfer, circulation, their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled proliferation, initiates, exacerbates and sustains armed violence, has a wide range of negative humanitarian and socioeconomic consequences, undermines the rule of law as well as the respect for

international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and impedes the provision of humanitarian assistance to people affected by armed violence.

5. We recognize the importance of preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, throughout their life cycle, as part of our efforts to prevent and combat the activities of criminals, organized criminal groups and terrorists, to mitigate diversion to unauthorized recipients, with attention to the diverse regional and subregional contexts, through cooperation and coordination.

6. We reiterate that Governments bear the primary responsibility for preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, in accordance with relevant international obligations and commitments, and the importance of States assuming strong national ownership of the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

7. We will strengthen national capacities to fully comply with arms embargoes decided by the Security Council in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

8. We call for the inclusion of dedicated technical expertise in the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument with a view to revitalizing future meetings and the review process of the Programme of Action.

9. We recognize the importance of action-oriented and tangible outcomes of the Fourth Review Conference and continued cooperation and voluntary sharing of information and good practices for enhanced implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

10. We note the importance of collecting standardized data and producing analysis on illicit small arms and light weapons, where appropriate, feasible and consistent with national law, for the purpose of designing, implementing and reviewing evidence-based policies and strategies that strengthen the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument at all levels.

11. We encourage States to regularly submit, as appropriate, their voluntary national reports to provide a baseline for the adequate review of progress, to promote transparency and to help to facilitate international cooperation and assistance.

12. We acknowledge that voluntary national targets in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument can support national ownership and review of progress and can help to facilitate requests for assistance.

13. We call for more robust and effective implementation of the principles and provisions of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument through action-oriented measures throughout the life cycle of small arms and light weapons from the point of manufacture, prior to transfer, transfer, transport, retransfer, stockpiling and recovery, to their eventual use or disposal, as provided in those instruments.

14. We recognize the fundamental commitment to effective marking, record-keeping and tracing of small arms and light weapons through the lines of supply in line with the International Tracing Instrument, as appropriate and consistent with national law, to combat their diversion to unauthorized recipients and their illicit transfer through concerted efforts at the national, regional and global levels.

15. We recognize the responsibilities of States to cooperate in preventing, eradicating and combating the diversion of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients and to illicit markets, by addressing risks at the different

stages in the life cycle of small arms and light weapons, with a view to combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons across borders.

16. We recognize our commitment to preventing and combating the diversion of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients, as well as their illicit international transfer, taking into consideration that in the International Tracing Instrument small arms and light weapons are considered illicit, *inter alia*, if they are transferred without a licence or authorization issued by a competent national authority.

17. We recognize our commitment to preventing unauthorized re-exports of small arms and light weapons, as appropriate, in accordance with national laws and without prejudice to the right of States to re-export small arms and light weapons that they have previously imported, in accordance with their applicable bilateral agreements, including end-user documentation agreed with the originating exporting State that stipulates the terms of re-export before their retransfer.

18. We recognize that effectively addressing the diversion of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients is essential in achieving our shared goal of preventing and combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. We affirm our commitment to the prevention of diversion, including strengthening border controls, enhancing international cooperation and assistance, and improving stockpile management.

19. We recognize the importance of preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons as part of efforts to prevent and address all forms of violence, including, *inter alia*, terrorism, domestic crime, transnational organized crime and violent extremism, trafficking in persons and drugs, money-laundering and crimes that affect the environment, including trafficking in wildlife.

20. We note, as appropriate, the responsibilities of States at all stages, including manufacture, before and during transfer, post-delivery storage in stockpiles and end use or disposal, to cooperate to prevent and address diversion to unauthorized recipients at different stages in the entire life cycle of small arms and light weapons.

21. We commit to exchange timely and up-to-date information on cases of diversion of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients, as appropriate and consistent with national law, to better identify and combat illicit trafficking.

22. We stress the urgency of international efforts and cooperation aimed at combating this trade simultaneously from both a supply and a demand perspective.

23. We note the need for States to understand and address the root causes and socioeconomic and environmental drivers of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and devise appropriate ways of addressing them, according to their national laws and regulations.

24. We express concern that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons impedes the achievement of gender equality, and we encourage States to mainstream a gender perspective in the design and implementation of gender-responsive policies and programming on small arms and light weapons control.

25. We reaffirm that eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons contributes to preventing and combating human rights violations, gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence.

26. We underscore the essential role of and need to strengthen cooperation with civil society actors in supporting the efforts of States to fully and effectively implement the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument at the community, national, regional and global levels.

27. We encourage the inclusion of the perspectives and participation of young people in the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, as appropriate and where relevant, and recognize the positive contribution of young people.
28. We recall the need to ensure that international humanitarian law and international human rights law are taken into consideration in national decisions on the transfer of small arms and light weapons.
29. We are determined to prevent and reduce the human suffering caused by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and to address the differential impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys.
30. We recall the human cost of small arms and light weapons in conflict and non-conflict settings alike, as raised by the Secretary-General in his policy brief entitled “A New Agenda for Peace”, and we take note of the relevant recommendations contained therein to address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.
31. We acknowledge the need to continue to mark progress towards the achievement of relevant Sustainable Development Goals, including target 16.4.
32. We stress that the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument is essential for conflict prevention, post-conflict situations, peacebuilding, sustainable peace and development and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
33. We recognize the need for multisectoral and intergovernmental collaboration among relevant national stakeholders for the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.
34. We recognize that developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of small arms and light weapons encompass challenges and opportunities for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument in the context of efforts to address the illicit trade and illicit manufacture of these weapons, while bearing in mind the differing technological capacities and priorities of States and regions, and the need to address the technological gap, including through transfer of technologies.
35. We recognize that technologies have the potential to strengthen the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.
36. We recognize the impacts of different forms of illicit manufacture on the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, which may include, pursuant to relevant national laws, small arms and light weapons that are illicitly craft manufactured, illicitly converted, illicitly privately manufactured or those manufactured through the illicit use of additive manufacture technologies, such as 3D printing.
37. We call for the further strengthening of international cooperation and assistance in preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and implementing the International Tracing Instrument, to ensure the adequacy, accessibility, effectiveness and sustainability of international cooperation and assistance measures from the perspective of providers, donors and recipients, including funding, technology and equipment transfer and training programmes, stressing the importance of sustainable capacity-building measures and enhanced North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation, as well as strong national ownership.

38. We recognize the need to promote the full, equal, meaningful and effective participation of women in decision-making and implementation processes relating to the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument at all levels, including in leadership roles.

39. We acknowledge the respective roles of all competent national authorities involved in the different stages in the life cycle of small arms and light weapons, as appropriate and consistent with national law, in preventing the illicit manufacture of and illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and in addressing their diversion and illicit trafficking.

40. We encourage strengthened cooperation, where appropriate and in line with national legislation, with the private sector and industry to achieve the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

41. We reaffirm the importance of reinforcing regional and subregional cooperation, through improved coordination, consultation, information exchange and operational cooperation, as appropriate, with relevant regional and subregional organizations, mechanisms, road maps and other initiatives as well as law enforcement, border control and export and import licensing authorities.

42. We recognize that the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument benefits from ensuring the inclusion, participation and perspectives of victims and survivors affected by armed violence and illicit small arms and light weapons and the organizations representing them.

43. We take note of the adoption of the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management, a voluntary, separate and distinct cooperative framework that contains a set of political commitments for strengthening through-life conventional ammunition management, which States with a view to doing so may wish to consider in their efforts to implement relevant provisions of the Programme of Action.

44. We recognize the importance of strengthening coordination between the Programme of Action, the International Tracing Instrument and other relevant instruments to which a State is a party, to facilitate the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, combat armed violence, significantly reduce the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

II. Action-oriented measures for effective implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, 2024–2030

Bearing in mind the different situations, constitutional and legal systems, capacities and priorities of States and regions, States resolve to undertake the following measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacture of and trade in small arms and light weapons in all their aspects, as well as the diversion and illicit international transfer of those weapons to unauthorized recipients:

A. Preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects at all levels (national, subregional, regional and global)

Coordination and implementation at all levels

(a) Implementation at the national level

45. To put in place, where they do not exist, adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to exercise effective national control throughout the life cycle of small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including their manufacture, within their areas of jurisdiction and the export, import, transit, trans-shipment or retransfer of such weapons.

46. To apply and enforce adequate national controls to the entire life cycle of small arms and light weapons, in accordance with national legal frameworks, to minimize the risk of diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients, including criminals, organized criminal groups and terrorists.

47. To establish as a criminal offence, in accordance with national legal frameworks, the illegal manufacture of small arms and light weapons, including their manufacture without a licence, and to effectively enforce applicable laws, regulations and administrative procedures.

48. To comply, in line with national rules, laws and regulations, with all commitments under the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument related to the international transfer of small arms and light weapons and to strengthen or put in place, where they do not exist, and apply measures in order to prevent the diversion of small arms and light weapons to illicit markets and to terrorists and other unauthorized recipients, which may include export risk assessments, authenticated end-user and/or end-use certification and effective legal and enforcement measures, including, where appropriate, and in accordance with applicable bilateral agreements, post-shipment verifications.

49. To make all reasonable efforts to prepare and submit voluntary national reports in a timely manner and on a biennial basis, to facilitate the most informed review of the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

50. To strengthen national capabilities and resources, in accordance with national laws and regulations to monitor, detect, document, report and investigate the diversion of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients, bearing in mind the importance of a whole-of-government approach involving all relevant and competent national authorities.

51. To establish or designate, where one does not exist, a national point of contact to act as a liaison on matters relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action, and to share and update this information regularly, and to provide the point of contact with the necessary means to carry out its role.

52. To strengthen coordinated national approaches for the implementation of the Programme of Action, including, as appropriate, the establishment or designation of national coordination mechanisms involving relevant government agencies, including those responsible for law enforcement, border control and export and import licensing, and stockpile security.

53. To support illicit weapons recovery and voluntary surrender programmes to significantly reduce the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

54. To strengthen, where they exist, or to develop, where they do not, the capacities of national authorities to generate and share, where appropriate, at the national level, systematically collected and comparable information on seized or recovered illicit small arms and light weapons.
55. To ensure that national systems, strategies and voluntary action plans to address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons consider the links between national points of contact for the review of the Programme of Action and respective national focal points and action plans on women and peace and security and youth, peace and security where they exist.
56. To encourage the development and implementation of voluntary national action plans or other national policies in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action by making better use of existing information to improve the review of progress and to coordinate the development and implementation of such plans or policies, as appropriate, in collaboration with relevant stakeholders, including those from civil society, the private sector and industry, with those relevant to target 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and to the relevant United Nations resolutions on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.
57. To promote the full, equal, meaningful and effective participation of women in mechanisms relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action.
58. To actively engage, support and cooperate, where appropriate, with parliamentarians, civil society, including non-governmental organizations, research organizations, academia, the private sector and industry in efforts to implement the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.
59. To promote the integration of youth considerations by analysing the youth-specific impacts of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and ensure that the needs, perspectives and contribution of youth are incorporated into policies and plans, where they exist, in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action.
60. To take account of the differential impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys, including, where feasible and safe to do so, by collecting data disaggregated by sex, age and disability, and utilizing analysis mechanisms to inform evidence-based gender-responsive policymaking and programming with a view to strengthening the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels.
61. To facilitate and support the engagement of the United Nations, upon a State's request, to support their national efforts to implement the Programme of Action.
62. To ensure that efforts to implement the Programme of Action at the national level take into account respective commitments made in other relevant General Assembly resolutions on disarmament, in particular respective provisions of the General Assembly resolution entitled "The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects".
63. To consider the establishment, if not already in place, of national coordination mechanisms to develop expertise and improve analysis and strategic reporting on illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, including information-sharing between relevant national authorities.
64. To establish or strengthen, as appropriate, national laws, regulations and administrative procedures for the coordinated national implementation of the Programme of Action and other relevant instruments, including legally binding instruments to which a State is a party.

(b) Implementation at the regional and subregional levels

65. To encourage relevant regional and subregional organizations and mechanisms to designate, and share information on, points of contact for work relating to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

66. To encourage the sharing of experiences and lessons learned among regional and subregional organizations and mechanisms engaged in the establishment and implementation of regional and subregional road maps, instruments and other mechanisms.

67. To recognize the existing regional and subregional road maps, instruments and other initiatives to address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and encourage, where appropriate, the adoption, establishment and further strengthening of relevant and applicable regional and subregional instruments, mechanisms, targets and good practices to complement the global process and support the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument at the national level.

68. To consider establishing, where applicable, regional targets in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument with a view to ensuring that regional ownership and priorities underpin resource mobilization, requests for assistance and assistance programmes, as well as coordination efforts.

69. To consider, as appropriate, the establishment and implementation of further regional and/or subregional action plans, which could include goals and targets, measurable objectives and concrete indicators, with a view to addressing the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in a comprehensive, sustainable and coordinated manner in the respective regions.

70. To encourage relevant regional and subregional organizations to report to the United Nations on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

71. To continue strengthening the role of the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament in supporting the implementation of the Programme of Action.

72. To promote, where consistent with domestic laws and regulations, standardized data collection within regions to support the exchange of information, as appropriate, between law enforcement agencies, customs agencies and export and import licensing authorities.

(c) Implementation at the global level

73. To encourage States, relevant United Nations organs and agencies, and regional and international organizations to address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons at the global level.

74. To encourage States, relevant United Nations organs and agencies, the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL) and the World Customs Organization to enhance coordination and share good practices and lessons learned for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action.

75. To encourage, as appropriate, joint operations and other forms of operational cooperation with relevant international organizations, namely INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

76. To encourage States, relevant United Nations organs and agencies, and international, regional and subregional organizations, as appropriate, to enhance their cooperation with relevant international governmental and non-governmental organizations in order to prevent and combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

77. To exchange and, as appropriate, apply experiences, lessons learned and good practices, including reporting practices, relating to the implementation of all other relevant instruments to which a State is a party, in strengthening the implementation of the Programme of Action.

78. To eliminate the supply of small arms and light weapons to terrorists, including through the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action by, inter alia, establishing at the national level, as a criminal offence, the intentional supply of a weapon or weapons to terrorists and by strengthening, where appropriate, judicial and law enforcement cooperation with other States.

79. To share information with other States, as appropriate and consistent with national law, on successful prosecutions, incidents of diversion to unauthorized recipients and to illicit markets, illicit international transfers, illicit brokering, illicit trafficking routes and techniques, and good law enforcement and regulatory practices, including risk management methods and processes to prevent and combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

80. To encourage relevant international organizations to report on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, as appropriate.

81. To share, as appropriate, effective practices and lessons learned in the prevention of illicit online small arms and light weapons transactions, including through the “dark web” and other encrypted avenues, and the intangible transfer of small arms and light weapons designs that may facilitate illicit manufacture, which may include, pursuant to and where prohibited by relevant national laws, small arms and light weapons that are illicitly craft manufactured, illicitly converted, illicitly privately manufactured or those manufactured through the illicit use of additive manufacture technologies, such as 3D printing.

82. To take into account the differential impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys, including, where feasible and safe to do so, by collecting data disaggregated by sex, age and disability, and utilizing analysis mechanisms to inform evidence-based gender-responsive policymaking and programming with a view to strengthening the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels.

83. To request the Secretariat, within existing resources, to prepare an analysis of progress in the trends, challenges and opportunities related to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including with regard to national frameworks, based on information submitted and/or provided by Member States on their implementation, for presentation at the Biennial Meeting of States in 2026 for consideration and appropriate follow-up.

Preventing and combating illicit manufacturing, diversion and illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons throughout their life cycle

(d) Preventing illicit manufacturing, reactivation and conversion of small arms and light weapons

84. To ensure that national small arms and light weapons manufacturing is consistent with the provisions of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

85. To take, as appropriate and consistent with national law, measures to combat illicit manufacturing of small arms and light weapons, which may include, pursuant to relevant national laws, small arms and light weapons that are illicitly craft manufactured, illicitly converted, illicitly privately manufactured or those manufactured through the illicit use of additive manufacture technologies, such as 3D printing.

86. To engage, where appropriate, in an active dialogue with the additive manufacture industry to prevent and combat the illicit use of 3D printing technology to illicitly manufacture small arms and light weapons, while not hindering the legitimate use or transfer of these technologies.

87. To ensure, as appropriate and where possible and consistent with national law, that measures to address diversion and illicit trafficking are put in place at different stages of the life cycle of small arms and light weapons.

88. To ensure, according to their national legal frameworks, the strict regulation of small arms and light weapons manufacturing, and to effectively enforce applicable laws, regulations and administrative procedures.

89. To establish, in accordance with national legal frameworks, the illicit manufacture of small arms and light weapons as a criminal offence.

90. Subject to any legal requirements associated with the preparation of criminal prosecutions, to destroy confiscated, seized or collected small arms and light weapons that have been illegally manufactured, unless another form of disposal or use has been officially authorized, in which case such weapons have been duly identified, marked and recorded.

91. To specifically consider the challenges related to modular design and the use of polymers, notably the difficulties encountered in marking and tracing.

92. To strengthen cooperation and information exchange, as appropriate, on existing and new forms of illicit small arms and light weapons manufacture, which may include, pursuant to relevant national laws, small arms and light weapons that are illicitly craft manufactured, illicitly converted, illicitly privately manufactured or those manufactured through the illicit use of additive manufacture technologies, such as 3D printing.

93. To ensure that relevant national laws, regulations and administrative procedures prohibit, in the areas under the State's jurisdiction and control, the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons conducted through the Internet.

94. To take steps to prevent the illicit trade in and illicit manufacture of small arms and light weapons, in line with the provisions of the Programme of Action, as appropriate and consistent with national law, facilitated by the physical and electronic sharing of the plans, blueprints, designs and construction data required for their illicit manufacture.

95. To share, on a voluntary basis, as appropriate, national experiences and information in addressing the problem of the unauthorized conversion of small arms and light weapons, and data on the types of arms converted and conversion devices, with

a view to developing common understandings of the kinds of items that may be easily and illicitly converted, including replica and blank-firing small arms and light weapons, and consider specific and appropriate responses to the challenges that they pose.

(e) Preventing and combating the diversion of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients throughout their life cycle

96. States note that diversion risks exist at each stage of the life cycle of a weapon, including manufacture, before and during transfer, post-delivery storage in stockpiles and end use or disposal.

97. To encourage, as appropriate and consistent with national law, supply chain transparency in efforts to address the diversion of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients and to illicit markets throughout their life cycle.

98. To put in place, where they do not exist, adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to exercise effective control over the production of small arms and light weapons within their areas of jurisdiction and over the export, import, transit or retransfer of such weapons, in order to prevent illegal manufacture of and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons, or their diversion to unauthorized recipients.

99. To take steps to establish and implement processes, where they do not exist, to monitor, detect, document, report and investigate the diversion of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients throughout their life cycle.

Prior to transfer

100. When authorizing the international transfer of small arms and light weapons, to take all appropriate measures to prevent their diversion, including by assessing applications, according to strict national regulations and procedures consistent with the existing responsibilities of States under relevant international law, and acknowledging the legitimate needs of States to acquire small arms and light weapons in line with their right to self-defence.

101. To promote cooperation, especially information exchange between exporting and importing States, as well as transit States, to establish prior to transfer comprehensive measures to consider and avert the diversion of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients and to illicit markets.

Transfer controls

102. With a view to preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit brokering of small arms and light weapons, and as appropriate and consistent with national law, to develop adequate national legislation or administrative procedures to regulate brokering activities, including measures such as registration of brokers, licensing or authorization of brokering transactions as well as the appropriate penalties for all illicit brokering activities performed within the State's jurisdiction and control, and taking note of the recommendations contained in the report of the Group of Governmental Experts established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 60/81.

103. To exchange experiences, lessons learned and good practices relating to small arms and light weapons export, import and transit control, including end-user certificates, as appropriate and consistent with national law.

104. To strengthen the voluntary exchange of information on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including cases of diversion to unauthorized recipients, unauthorized retransfer, and financing for the illicit acquisition of small arms and

light weapons, as appropriate and consistent with national laws, including through the use of appropriate information-sharing systems.

Stockpile management and security

105. To ensure the safe, secure and effective management of all small arms and light weapons stockpiles under national control, to prevent their diversion to unauthorized recipients and to illicit markets.

106. To consider the opportunities that new technologies, when available, can offer for enhanced small arms and light weapons stockpile management and security, including through improved marking and record-keeping, and for the destruction of surplus, seized, obsolete and unserviceable small arms and light weapons that have been designated for destruction.

Irreversible deactivation and destruction

107. Without prejudice to national needs and priorities, to ensure that all confiscated, seized or collected small arms and light weapons that have been designated by the relevant national authority for destruction are destroyed or permanently deactivated, subject to any legal requirements associated with the preparation of criminal prosecutions. When other forms of disposal or use have been officially authorized, to duly mark and document such weapons as a means of reducing possible diversion to unauthorized recipients.

108. To take necessary measures, when a final decision is made to dispose of a small arm or light weapon by destruction or deactivation, to ensure that its destruction or deactivation has rendered the weapon, including all its essential components, permanently inoperable in line with national law, regulations and rules.

109. To exchange experiences, lessons learned and good practices and relevant guidance relating to the destruction or permanent deactivation of small arms and light weapons to prevent their diversion to unauthorized recipients and to illicit markets.

110. To consider, as appropriate and consistent with national law, adopting national measures on the deactivation or destruction of small arms and light weapons.

111. To consider, as appropriate and consistent with national law, certifying deactivated small arms and light weapons, and to ensure that the deactivation of small arms and light weapons is undertaken by competent national authorities.

(f) Programme of Action in conflict and post-conflict situations

112. To take all necessary measures to prevent the illicit trade in and diversion of small arms and light weapons from exacerbating ongoing conflicts and the situations in regions emerging from recent conflict, taking into account legitimate national defence and national security requirements.

113. To put in place adequate stockpile management and security measures for small arms and light weapons stockpiles located in areas affected by conflict or in post-conflict situations in line with the provisions of the Programme of Action and other relevant international instruments, including regular inventories, and surplus disposal, including through destruction.

114. To fully apply the provisions of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument in programmes designed to build peace and security in conflict and post-conflict situations, including disarmament, demobilization and reintegration, security sector reform and community violence reduction programmes, and in implementing peace agreements.

115. To encourage the consideration, where appropriate and on a case-by-case basis, of provisions of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument that are relevant to the mandates of United Nations peace operations, follow-up missions and regional peace support operations, in particular provisions on the collection, identification, record-keeping, tracing and destruction of illicit small arms and light weapons, in coordination with relevant specialized agencies of the United Nations system, and support to national capacity-building efforts, with the consent of host States, to prevent and combat illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including to ensure the adequate allocation of resources to relevant missions in that regard.

116. To strengthen national capacities to fully implement arms embargoes mandated by the Security Council in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations.

117. For those United Nations peace operations with a relevant Security Council mandate, to consider, in their operations, analysis and technical information-gathering on illicit small arms and light weapons with the provision of allocating adequate resources.

Encouraging transparency and information exchange

118. To redouble efforts to voluntarily report on a biennial basis on measures taken to implement the Programme of Action.

119. In order to strengthen implementation of the Programme of Action, to share and make full use of information on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including identified cases of diversion to unauthorized recipients and trafficking, and diversion methods and observable trends, as appropriate and consistent with national law.

120. To encourage, as appropriate and consistent with national law, information exchanges and cooperation between, inter alia, as applicable, law enforcement entities, including border control and customs authorities, and judicial entities in investigations, related criminal prosecutions, and efforts to prevent the diversion of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients, including information on trafficking routes and techniques.

B. Addressing the adverse consequences of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on peace, security and sustainable development

Consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action for sustainable development

121. To take advantage of all relevant synergies between the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, on the one hand, and the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and the recommendations of the Secretary-General's policy brief, entitled "A New Agenda for Peace", on the other hand.

122. To integrate small arms and light weapons control efforts into national development and prevention frameworks, to enhance efforts for the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and align such efforts with specific needs and national priorities and with achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

123. To seek opportunities to contribute to discussions on future sustainable development goals of relevance to the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

The differential impacts of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys

124. To take account of the differential impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys, and to strengthen or, where they do not exist, develop response mechanisms to address that impact.

125. To recognize that eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, including by addressing gender roles, norms and expectations for women and men to acquire illicit arms, contributes to preventing and combating gender-based and sexual violence and conflict-related sexual violence.

126. To address the persistent barriers to the full, equal, meaningful and effective participation and representation of women, including in leadership roles, in all decision-making, planning and implementation processes related to the Programme of Action, such as national small arms commissions, programmes relating to community safety, violence reduction, collection and destruction of small arms and light weapons, stockpile management, conflict prevention and resolution and peacebuilding.

127. To ensure the coordination between national authorities responsible for the implementation of the Programme of Action and relevant ministries or other national authorities responsible for women's affairs, gender equality or youth, as well as civil society groups.

128. To enhance, as appropriate, coordination processes, including voluntary national action plans, relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action with processes relating to women and peace and security, women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

129. To incorporate good practices in mainstreaming a gender perspective into policies and programmes on small arms and light weapons, including in the areas of programme design, planning, implementation, reporting, monitoring and evaluation, taking into account, as appropriate, relevant guidances.

130. To enhance, as appropriate, the mainstreaming of youth considerations by analysing the youth-specific impacts of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, and creating mechanisms to ensure that the needs, perspectives and potential contribution of youth are incorporated into policies and plans.

131. To encourage the coordinated implementation of voluntary national action plans on small arms and light weapons with national action plans established under United Nations resolutions on women and peace and security, and youth, peace and security, and relevant goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

132. To encourage, where feasible and safe to do so, the collection of data related to the differential impacts of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons disaggregated by sex, age, disability and other characteristics relevant in national contexts, including through national reports, and to increase understanding of the gender-specific impacts of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, in particular for the purpose of improving corresponding national policies and programmes.

133. To encourage the engagement and participation of men and boys in mainstreaming a gender perspective into policies and programmes on small arms and light weapons.

134. To fully assess the intricate linkages between armed violence associated with illicit small arms and light weapons and the health of women, men, girls and boys, which constitutes both a public health and a mental health concern. Addressing the mental health impacts of such violence requires strategies and programmes aimed at

prevention while also providing comprehensive social safety nets for victims and survivors.

Promotion of a culture of peace in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons

135. To promote, at all levels, a culture of peace through education and inclusive public awareness programmes on the problems of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

136. To take steps to assess the root causes of armed violence and conflict and incorporate findings into efforts to address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

137. To include, where feasible, as part of measures to reduce the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, public education and awareness-raising efforts focusing on the negative impacts and human costs of illicit small arms and light weapons.

III. Action-oriented measures for effective implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, 2024–2030

Bearing in mind the different situations, constitutional and legal systems, capacities and priorities of States and regions, States welcome progress made in the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument; note the challenges to the implementation of the Instrument, whether continuing, recent or emerging, including the need for enhanced international cooperation and assistance; and resolve to take a comprehensive approach to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including the diversion of small arms and light weapons and their illicit international transfer to unauthorized recipients, and undertake the following measures to achieve the full and effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument over the period 2024–2030:

A. General

138. To recognize the importance of national laws, regulations and administrative processes, to ensure the effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument for the marking, record-keeping and tracing of small arms and light weapons, and to prevent and combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

139. To reinforce efforts and enhance capacities to mark, record and trace small arms and light weapons in accordance with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument, and to maintain, develop or establish reliable and effective national legal and administrative frameworks.

140. To exchange information among relevant national authorities, as appropriate and consistent with national law and in line with the International Tracing Instrument, with a view to including all relevant information when responding to tracing requests, as appropriate, in a timely and reliable manner.

141. To ensure the effectiveness of the International Tracing Instrument in the light of developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of small arms and light weapons and reinforce efforts to implement the marking, record-keeping and tracing

commitments under the International Tracing Instrument regardless of the materials or manufacturing methods used.

B. Marking

142. To adopt legislative and other measures, where they do not exist, in line with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument to prohibit the illicit manufacture of small arms and light weapons, including unmarked or inadequately marked small arms and light weapons.

143. To specify, as appropriate, in national legislation the small arms and light weapons control components that require unique marking and apply the marking requirements specified in the International Tracing Instrument.

144. To cooperate with the private sector and industry, where appropriate and in accordance with national law, in developing durable marking of small arms and light weapons in line with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument.

145. To explore and take advantage of opportunities presented by technological developments for enhanced marking, record-keeping and the recovery of obliterated markings, in line with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument.

146. To work towards a shared understanding of what constitutes an essential, structural or control component of small arms and light weapons.

C. Record-keeping

147. To establish and maintain accurate and comprehensive record-keeping mechanisms in line with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument.

148. To ensure the accurate and comprehensive record-keeping of small arms and light weapons, consistent with national law, sufficient to enable competent national authorities to trace illicit small arms and light weapons in a timely and reliable manner in line with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument.

149. To ensure record-keeping practices for small arms and light weapons that are seized and collected for destruction in line with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument.

D. Tracing

150. To ensure the tracing of small arms and light weapons in line with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument.

151. To consult records within the State where the illicit small arm or light weapon was found and/or consult with the State of manufacture, export and/or re-export when tracing illicit small arms and light weapons in line with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument.

152. To ensure the retrievability and secure storage of all relevant records to facilitate the timely and reliable tracing of illicit small arms and light weapons.

153. To strengthen efforts to accurately identify and trace small arms and light weapons, including through training, capacity-building, cooperation and sharing of information, and through the transfer of technologies, good practices and tools relevant to tracing illicit transfers of small arms and light weapons to ensure the full and effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument.

154. To strengthen adequate, timely and reliable responses to tracing requests between States in line with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument and to reinforce judicial, law enforcement and other forms of cooperation between them with regard to tracing requests to facilitate criminal investigations and criminal justice responses, in line with national laws and regulations, and bearing in mind considerations of national security or ongoing prosecution processes.

155. To leverage and engage, as appropriate and consistent with national law, civil society in strengthening efforts for tracing illicit small arms and light weapons, taking into account that national Governments bear the primary responsibility for tracing illicit small arms and light weapons.

E. Encouraging transparency, information exchange and coordination

156. To enhance international cooperation in tracing and the voluntary sharing of information on the handling of tracing requests with the Secretariat as part of national reports.

157. To enhance the exchange, in accordance with national legal frameworks, of tracing results between appropriate national authorities, including those responsible for law enforcement, border control and export and import licensing, in conformity with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument.

158. To strengthen information exchange, as appropriate and consistent with national law, on the diversion of small arms and light weapons, as well as the illicit manufacture of small arms and light weapons, which may include, pursuant to relevant national laws, small arms and light weapons that are illicitly craft manufactured, illicitly converted or illicitly privately manufactured.

159. To voluntarily report on a biennial basis, as part of the national reports, on measures taken to implement the International Tracing Instrument, including their contributions towards Sustainable Development Goals to significantly reduce illicit arms flows by 2030.

160. To reinforce, as appropriate and in accordance with national law, the judicial and law enforcement cooperation between States on tracing requests in line with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument, to facilitate criminal investigations and criminal justice response and bearing in mind considerations of national security and ongoing prosecution processes.

161. To cooperate with INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization and consider the use of their tools, including the INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table, the INTERPOL national central bureau system, the INTERPOL Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System, the INTERPOL Ballistic Information Network, the World Customs Organization SAFE Framework of Standards to Secure and Facilitate Global Trade, and Customs Enforcement Network, and other relevant systems.

162. To encourage States in a position to do so to assist other States in building sustainable national capacity in the marking, identification, record-keeping and tracing of small arms and light weapons, including in assisting States to accurately identify markings on small arms and light weapons to facilitate the tracing of illicit small arms and light weapons with a view to enhancing the submission of and responses to tracing requests, and to encourage States receiving that assistance to take strong national ownership and ensure the sustainability of the assistance provided, including in conflict and post-conflict situations, and to address the technological gap, especially between developed and developing countries.

163. To encourage the implementation and sharing of good practices at the regional and subregional levels to support the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument.

164. To request the Secretariat, within existing resources, to conduct a study on obliterated markings and methods for marking recovery in the context of the International Tracing Instrument and report to the next Biennial Meeting of States.

IV. Action-oriented steps to address developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design for the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, 2024–2030

Bearing in mind the different situations, constitutional and legal systems, capacities and priorities of States and regions, States resolve to undertake the following measures to address the challenges posed by and opportunities associated with developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of small arms and light weapons and for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, with special consideration of the implications for international cooperation and assistance:

Programme of Action

165. To take advantage of opportunities presented by technological developments, as appropriate, to enhance prevention and detection of diversion of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients and to illicit markets, and to strengthen implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including in the areas of marking, tracing and stockpile management and security of small arms and light weapons.

166. To put in place, as appropriate, and consistent with national laws, regulations and administrative procedures, practical measures to detect postal shipments that include illicitly traded small arms and light weapons, both fully assembled and disassembled.

167. To strengthen, where appropriate and in line with national laws, cooperation with the private sector and industry, as well as civil society and academia, on technologies that improve the marking, record-keeping and tracing of small arms and light weapons and their safe and secure storage.

168. To take account of developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of small arms and light weapons, in particular technologies employed in the illicit manufacturing and the design of illicitly manufactured small arms and light weapons, in the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including illicit additive manufacturing, and to strengthen cooperation between law enforcement agencies so as to prevent illicit trade in illicitly manufactured small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients, including criminals, organized criminal groups and terrorists.

169. To encourage initiatives that raise the awareness of possible risks associated with certain technologies employed in the illicit manufacturing of small arms and light weapons and their illicit trade, while also promoting the opportunities offered

by such technologies to facilitate the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action.

170. To exchange experiences, lessons learned, good practices and relevant guidance relating to efforts to address the illicit manufacture of small arms and light weapons, which may include, pursuant to relevant national laws, small arms and light weapons that are illicitly craft manufactured, illicitly converted, illicitly privately manufactured or those manufactured through the illicit use of additive manufacture technologies, such as 3D printing.

International Tracing Instrument

171. To identify and address the challenges and leverage the opportunities presented by developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of small arms and light weapons for enduring marking, record-keeping and tracing capabilities.

172. To strengthen, where appropriate and in line with national laws, cooperation with the private sector and industry in addressing the challenges posed by and opportunities associated with the developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of small arms and light weapons to improve practices and reduce the costs of marking, record-keeping and tracing for the full and effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument.

173. To build sustainable capacity, including by facilitating the transfer of technology, and reinforce in a concrete manner international cooperation and assistance, and exchange of good practices in order to strengthen States' capacities in identifying, marking, recording and tracing small arms and light weapons by States in a position to do so.

Open-ended technical expert group

174. States decide to establish an open-ended technical expert group, convening within the week of the Biennial Meetings of States in 2026 and 2028, to develop agreed recommendations by consensus to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument in preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in the light of developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of small arms and light weapons, in particular polymer and modular weapons, and firearms produced using 3D printing, focusing on the provision of international cooperation and assistance.

175. Without prejudice to the legitimate use and transfer of technologies relevant to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and noting the deliberations of the first and second Open-ended Meetings of Governmental Experts on the Implementation of the Programme of Action, the open-ended technical expert group will identify and examine:

(a) Opportunities presented by developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of small arms and light weapons to strengthen national implementation in line with relevant provisions of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument;

(b) Challenges posed by developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of small arms and light weapons to the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, in particular:

(i) The use of polymers in small arms and light weapons manufacturing;

(ii) The marking, record-keeping and tracing of modular small arms and light weapons;

(iii) The illicit 3D printing of small arms and light weapons, their parts, components and accessories;

(c) Concrete international cooperation and assistance measures to build the capacities of States, including sharing expertise and good practices and providing training opportunities, to address the challenges and opportunities presented by developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of small arms and light weapons, and related technological developments, including bridging technology gaps, and providing technical assistance to strengthen national capabilities.

176. To encourage Member States to include relevant subject matter technical experts in their delegations to the open-ended technical expert group.

177. In the conduct of the work of the open-ended technical expert group, States decide that:

(a) The work of the open-ended technical expert group shall be conducted in an informal setting, with full translation and interpretation;

(b) To foster exchange and cooperation, the Chair of the open-ended technical expert group may invite briefings by relevant subject matter experts from the private sector, industry, civil society and academia;

(c) The Chair of the open-ended technical expert group will report on its work and the agreed recommendations of the group to the Biennial Meetings of States and/or the Review Conference.

178. States further decide to consider the adoption of agreed recommendations of the open-ended technical expert group by the Tenth Biennial Meeting of States in 2028, and no later than the Fifth Review Conference in 2030.

V. Action-oriented measures to promote effective international cooperation and assistance to ensure the effective implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, 2024–2030

Bearing in mind the different situations, constitutional and legal systems, capacities and priorities of States and regions, and stressing that adequate, effective and sustainable international cooperation and assistance based on the needs and priorities of requesting States remain essential to the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, States resolve to undertake the following measures in accordance with national law to promote effective international cooperation and assistance to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacture of and trade in small arms and light weapons in all their aspects, as well as the diversion and illicit transfer of such weapons to unauthorized recipients:

A. Encouraging international cooperation for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument

179. To strengthen, as appropriate, partnerships and cooperation at all levels in preventing and combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects throughout the life cycle, in particular on border and customs control; marking, record-keeping and tracing; preventing diversion to unauthorized recipients and to illicit markets; illicit brokering; stockpile management and security; destruction and disposal.

180. To encourage States to provide cooperation and assistance to requesting States, in particular technical and financial assistance as well as technologies and equipment, in the areas relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

181. To collaborate on capacity-building initiatives to enhance the capabilities of both exporting and importing States in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

182. To strengthen the exchange of information and the use of secured databases, as appropriate, in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, as well as the provision of technical and financial assistance, as appropriate, for the purpose of strengthening national capacities in this area.

183. To use national points of contact to strengthen the exchange of information and other forms of international cooperation, including operational cooperation, in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

184. To promote cooperation at the regional and subregional levels to monitor, prevent, detect and intercept cross-border trafficking of illicit small arms and light weapons, including through information-sharing, as feasible.

185. To encourage cooperation and assistance with a view to enhancing the control of illicit manufacture, which may include, pursuant to national laws, illicit craft manufactured or illicit privately manufactured small arms and light weapons.

186. To strengthen cooperation with relevant United Nations organs and agencies in supporting States in strengthening the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

187. To strengthen cooperation with subregional and regional organizations, including through the role of the United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament.

188. To strengthen, where appropriate and in line with national laws, cooperation between national law enforcement agencies, national policymaking bodies, INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization, including the exchange of good practices, lessons learned, observable trends and other relevant information, in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

189. To enhance dialogue and partnerships, where appropriate and in line with national laws, with the private sector and industry regarding effective small arms and light weapons marking and record-keeping, as well as tracing of illicit small arms and light weapons, especially in the light of recent developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of small arms and light weapons.

190. To encourage and, as appropriate, strengthen cooperation with and support for parliamentarians and civil society, including non-governmental organizations, research organizations, academia, the private sector and industry, in furthering the

implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and to draw on their experiences, expertise and good practices for this purpose.

B. Ensuring the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument through adequate, effective and sustainable international assistance

191. To work towards adequate, measurable, nationally owned and timely international cooperation and assistance that focuses on national priorities and sustainable outcomes and impacts to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, aligning assistance programmes with the specific needs and contexts of requesting States to maximize their effectiveness and sustainability.

192. To explore ways to ensure and further strengthen comprehensive, coherent and sustainable international assistance related to all aspects of the illicit trade in and diversion of small arms and light weapons.

193. To encourage States in a position to do so to share expertise, provide financial support, transfer knowledge, resources, equipment and technology, explore South-South and triangular cooperation, bearing in mind that they are not a substitute for North-South cooperation, and build institutional capacities to strengthen border control, national customs and law enforcement to prevent diversion to unauthorized recipients and to illicit markets, in particular by loss and theft, through the safe, sustainable, secure and efficient management of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons, including the regular disposal of weapons beyond use.

194. To urge States, international, regional and subregional organizations, as well as United Nations regional centres for peace and disarmament, in a position to do so to provide technical assistance, including training and other forms of capacity-building support, including relevant technology and equipment, to States requesting such assistance.

195. To urge States in a position to do so to increase assistance and transfer of technology to, especially, developing countries, upon request, in order to bridge the technological gap between States, where it exists, in implementing the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, including in the areas of marking, record-keeping and tracing of small arms and light weapons; and also to urge States in a position to do so to enhance the transfer of relevant knowledge, technology and equipment for this purpose.

196. To consider the development of appropriate national frameworks, dedicated structures, procedures and capabilities, including guidelines or policies and organizational development, as well as capacity-building programmes, including development of proposals, provision of technical expertise and technology transfers to build sustainable capacities for addressing diversion of and illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons.

197. To promote the development and regular updating of user-friendly tools, courses and good practice guidance to assist States in addressing diversion of and the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

198. To urge States to consider making available financial assistance and improved funding arrangements, including through the utilization of official development assistance-eligible funds, existing United Nations trust funds and other funding mechanisms, including through bilateral assistance and national budgeting.

199. To urge States in a position to do so to make financial contributions to the Secretary-General's Saving Lives Entity, dedicated to providing sustainable, cross-sectional, multi-year programming focused on eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in settings of conflict and pervasive crime, and other existing funding arrangements such as the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation, and to encourage the timely and effective implementation of respective initiatives under those arrangements.

200. To urge the promotion of good practices and lessons learned concerning modalities and procedures for international cooperation and assistance aimed at ensuring the effective implementation of the Programme of Action by, among other things, promoting the full, equal, meaningful and effective participation of women, engaging youth and further encouraging the mainstreaming of a gender perspective and youth-related considerations in the implementation of the Programme of Action.

201. To make full use of national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument to identify needs and opportunities, communicate requests for international assistance and cooperation, including the matching of needs with available resources and expertise, and share progress and achievements in international assistance.

202. To encourage the use of voluntary, nationally owned baseline assessments and relevant findings with a view to addressing needs in a comprehensive and sustainable manner and to inform areas of enhancement throughout the life cycle of small arms and light weapons.

203. To encourage States in a position to do so, on a voluntary basis and mutually agreed terms, to embed technology transfers in broader cooperation frameworks so as to build sustainable capacities for the life-cycle management of small arms and light weapons.

204. To encourage the reinforcement of international cooperation and assistance to make use of new technologies for marking, record-keeping and tracing, where available, in strengthening the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument in the light of recent developments in the manufacturing, technology and design of small arms and light weapons.

205. To promote regional mentoring, training and infrastructure assistance programmes for preventing, mitigating and combating the illicit trade in and diversion of small arms and light weapons.

206. To establish or strengthen assistance programmes for victims, survivors and others affected by armed violence and armed conflict in the context of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

207. To support and expedite the implementation of the Fellowship Training Programme on Small Arms and Light Weapons Control to strengthen technical knowledge and expertise in areas related to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, in particular in developing countries, and to provide the necessary yearly financial resources to ensure a sustained operationalization of this programme.

208. To encourage States and the United Nations to make use of the United Nations country-level development instruments, such as the common country assessment and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, as mechanisms to identify and leverage resources for international assistance towards the achievement of relevant Sustainable Development Goals, including target 16.4.

C. Coordination of international assistance for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument

209. To continue to improve coordination among assistance providers, between assistance providers and recipients, and among relevant stakeholders and national authorities.

210. To ensure national ownership of international assistance projects by, inter alia, involving national authorities in the project planning and implementation cycle and tailoring assistance to support national structures, procedures and legal frameworks, as appropriate, upon request by the recipient State and with the consent of the provider(s).

211. To request the Secretariat, within existing resources, to prepare options and circulate them prior to the beginning of the seventy-ninth session of the General Assembly, with a view to establishing at the same session a dedicated funding mechanism under the United Nations to receive voluntary contributions by Member States aimed at advancing international cooperation and assistance activities related to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, complementing existing funding mechanisms, and to urge Member States in a position to do so to contribute to this funding mechanism once it has been established.

212. To request the Secretariat to establish and maintain a structured procedure to process offers and requests for assistance submitted under the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and to work towards matching needs and resources, and in that regard:

(a) To maintain and further develop the dedicated reporting website as an information-sharing platform with good practices, lessons learned and relevant ongoing and upcoming international assistance activities related to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument;

(b) To strengthen the exchange of information on assistance projects and programmes, including experiences on completed assistance projects and on existing and new coordination mechanisms;

(c) To liaise and cooperate with bilateral and multilateral assistance providers, including across the United Nations system, as well as other global and regional assistance mechanisms, to identify opportunities, ensure complementarities and avoid duplication;

(d) To promote clarity and transparency through the development of criteria for possible prioritization and coordination of assistance requests, taking into consideration the requesting States' needs and priorities;

(e) To review national reports to assess tailored assistance needs for the further consideration of the requesting State;

(f) To develop voluntary and flexible templates, for consideration by States, for assistance offers and requests and project proposals;

(g) To liaise with requesting States, providers, donors, existing assistance mechanisms, and implementing partners to maximize opportunities for matching needs, resources and technical capacities;

(h) To support requesting States in refining their requests for assistance, including in the process prior to preparing their requests, to ensure that requests are better fulfilled;

(i) To support voluntary nationally owned assessments and scoping missions, upon request by requesting States;

(j) To provide technical assistance and support for the development of project proposals upon request by States;

(k) To make project proposals and offers received available to potential providers and recipients, as appropriate and upon consent, in order to facilitate the matchmaking efforts;

(l) To provide assistance through the Saving Lives Entity and the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation, as appropriate;

(m) To liaise with Member States in a position to do so to encourage financial contributions and active participation in the Saving Lives Entity, the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation, the newly established funding mechanism, and other relevant funding mechanisms such as trust funds or other mechanisms;

(n) To promote the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation as a support mechanism for States to access, and in this regard encourage projects in partnership with relevant stakeholders;

(o) Where appropriate and upon the consent of the requesting and providing States, to monitor projects implemented and, as appropriate, to report back on overall trends and on general activities undertaken to the Biennial Meetings of States and the Review Conferences;

(p) To assess the effectiveness and concrete results of the structured procedure for international cooperation and assistance and report the findings to the Biennial Meetings of States.

213. To establish or strengthen subregional, regional and cross-regional cooperation, coordination and voluntary information-sharing mechanisms in order to enhance the effectiveness of assistance programmes, strengthen the matching of needs with resources, improve dialogue between providers and recipients, avoid duplications and maximize complementarities.

214. To enhance coordination, establishing and maintaining sustainable funding sources, and, where appropriate, maximize the role of relevant stakeholders, including parliamentarians, non-governmental organizations and civil society, academia, research institutions and the private sector and industry, where appropriate.

VI. Follow-up to the fourth United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

States, reaffirming the importance of enhancing the coherence, effectiveness and continuity of the process of implementing the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and recalling the recommendation to link and ensure the complementarity of meeting outcomes, such as those of the Review Conferences and the Biennial Meetings of States:

A. Schedule of meetings

215. Decide to hold, in accordance with the relevant provision of the Programme of Action, a one-week Biennial Meeting of States in 2026 and in 2028.

216. Decide to hold a fifth United Nations conference to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument

in 2030. The Fifth Review Conference will be scheduled as a two-week event and will be preceded by a preparatory committee meeting of not more than five days.

217. Reaffirm the importance of the early designation of the President of the Review Conference and the Chair of future meetings on the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and of the open-ended technical expert group, and encourage the relevant regional group to make such nominations, if possible, at least one year in advance of the corresponding meeting.

218. Will seek, where feasible, to schedule follow-up meetings on the Programme of Action so as to avoid overlap between them and meetings of the global disarmament cycle.

219. Decide that the open-ended technical expert group will convene for at least two days and no more than three days in 2026 and in 2028, respectively, within the week of the Biennial Meetings of States.

B. Regional and subregional meetings

220. Encourage interested States and subregional, regional and international organizations in a position to do so to convene or fund subregional or regional meetings in preparation for the meetings on the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

C. Meeting participation

221. Encourage States in a position to do so to provide financial assistance through a voluntary sponsorship programme to enable States and other stakeholders that are otherwise unable to do so to participate in meetings on the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

222. Encourage the equal, full, meaningful and effective participation of women in the meetings on the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and take steps to address their underrepresentation in this regard.

223. Recommend to the Secretariat that it report at Biennial Meetings of States and Review Conferences on overall progress on the participation of women.

224. Encourage Member States to nominate women as candidates for the positions of President of the Review Conference and Chair of the Biennial Meetings of States and encourage Presidents and Chairs to continue to strive for both gender and geographical balance within the bureaux of future meetings.

225. Encourage, as appropriate, the meaningful participation of youth in meetings on the Programme of Action.

226. Encourage measures for inclusion and accessibility of persons with disabilities to meetings on the Programme of Action and request the Secretariat to reinforce the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy in this context.

227. Encourage parliamentarians, and civil society, including non-governmental organizations and the private sector and industry, to engage, as appropriate, in meetings on the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

228. Encourage the participation of appropriate experts from States, including fellows from the Fellowship Training Programme on Small Arms and Light Weapons Control, in accordance with the topics of the Biennial Meetings of States and the Review Conferences.