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Update for the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons Biennial Meeting of States

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Committee Overview

Recent Developments

The Sixth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS6) to Consider Implementation of the *Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects* (PoA SALW) will occur this from 6-10 June 2016 at the United Nations (UN) headquarters in New York City.¹ This meeting is part of the obligations established in the PoA SALW to hold a meeting every two years.² States have stressed that the topics of “international cooperation and assistance, capacity-building, and the transfer of technology,” should be integral to the meetings that will be held from 2012 to 2018 for the PoA SALW and the *International Instrument to Enable States to Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons* (ITI).³

The outcome documents of the Fifth BMS and the Second Open-Ended Meeting of Governmental Experts (MGE2) offer a perspective into some of the concerns and issues that are to be addressed at the BMS6.⁴ At the MGE2 in 2015, Member States suggested five issues for consideration in June:

- “Consideration of the need for further agreed guidance for marking polymer weapons; the marking, record-keeping and tracing of modular weapons; and strengthening 3D printing regulations in the context of 3D weapon printing, including further dialogue with Industry on the above issues;”
- “Consideration of enhancing the modalities related to international cooperation and assistance, including the transfer of technology;”
- “Consideration of an enhanced role for regional and subregional organizations in international cooperation and assistance and the exchange of information;”
- “Consideration of the further utility of national reports submitted on the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument for the provision of information on matching needs with resources;”
- “Consideration of existing trust fund modalities for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and whether the setting up of other trust funds is required.”⁵

Echoing the points stressed by the PoA and ITI’s meeting schedule, one of the top concerns MGE2 was the role of international cooperation and assistance in the PoA SALW.⁶ In consideration of these issues, the Secretariat of the UN will submit for consideration a report at the BMS6 “on the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of financial and technical assistance” of the PoA SALW and ITI since the adoption of the PoA SALW in 2001.⁷

The 2016 BMS6 is expected to be the final PoA-related meeting before the Third Review Conference in 2018.⁸ Its working methods will be similar to previous PoA SALW meetings, as was outlined in a 10 February 2016 letter from Chairperson-designate E. Courtenay Rattray.⁹ Informal consultations are being held regularly at the UN headquarters in New York and in Geneva until 2 June 2016, as a means to prepare for the BMS6.¹⁰ There are currently four proposed agenda items for BMS6.¹¹ The first item is examining how the PoA SALW can be implemented nationally, regionally, and globally, as well as in connection with Target 4 of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.¹² The second is the consideration of emerging small arms and light weapons (SALW) technology

¹ UNODA, *Disarmament-Related Events Calendar*, 2015.

² UN PoA-ISS, *Schedule of Meetings 2012–2018*.

³ *Ibid.*

⁴ UN PoA SALW, *Chair’s Summary*, 2015.

⁵ *Ibid.*

⁶ *Ibid.*

⁷ UN PoA SALW, *Report of the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider 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*, 2014.

⁸ UN PoA-ISS, *Schedule of Meetings 2012–2018*.

⁹ Rattray, *Letter from the Chair-person Designate*, 2016.

¹⁰ UNODA, *Sixth Biennial Meeting of States on the Programme of Action*, 2015; Rattray, *Letter from the Chair-person Designate*, 2016.

¹¹ Rattray, *Letter from the Chair-person Designate*, 2016.

¹² *Ibid.*

developments and how they relate to the ITI.¹³ The third item is “international cooperation and assistance” and capacity-building, which focuses on ways to further increase implementation of the PoA SALW and ITI, as well as how to achieve sustainable implementation assistance.¹⁴ Finally, the fourth proposed agenda item is additional measures and considerations for the effective implementation of the PoA SALW and ITI.¹⁵ More specifics of these agenda items and further information as to the agenda of BMS6 will come as Member States contribute to BMS6 preparations and discussions, and ultimately commit themselves to stopping the illicit use of SALW.¹⁶

¹³ Rattray, *Letter from the Chair-Person Designate*, 2015.

¹⁴ *Ibid.*

¹⁵ *Ibid.*

¹⁶ UNODA, *Sixth Biennial Meeting of States on the Programme of Action*, 2015.

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Rattray, E.C. (2016, February 10). *Letter from the Chairperson-designate*. Retrieved 12 February 2016 from: https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2016/01/20151218_Letter_from_Ambassador_Rattray1.pdf

This letter was drafted from the current chairperson designate of the BMS6, and is addressed to all Member States and Observers of the United Nations. The letter provides preliminary information regarding the upcoming BMS6, which is to be held in June this year. Provided in this letter includes proposed agenda items and dates for informal consultations that are to be held in New York and Geneva. The proposed agenda items and working methods contained in this letter help delegates determine what are the key items that are being addressed by Member States at the BMS6. In addition, knowing these proposed items can help guide delegates in addressing issues at the conference.

United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. (2015). *Sixth Biennial Meeting of States on the Programme of Action* [Website]. Retrieved 20 January 2016 from: <http://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/salw/bms6/>

The preparations and informal consultations for BMS6 have begun, and this website is the focal point for the lead up to the meeting. This website run by UNODA provides key information about what type of proceedings will be conducted at BMS6 and how Member States are preparing for the meeting. As BMS6 approaches, this website will serve as a central point for continued updates that will be helpful for delegates to know the direction and issues that Member States seek to address.

United Nations, Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects, Second Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts. (2015). *Chair's Summary*. Retrieved 5 January 2016 from: https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/2015-06-17-Chairs_Summary-MGE2.pdf

MGE2 was the most recent meeting held by states of the PoA SALW. The Chair's Summary outlines and details what Member States discussed at the meeting, which provides an insight into the proceedings. Most important in this summary are the issues that the Member States stress should be discussed at BMS6, including the role of new technology, regional organizations, and more. Delegates should keep in mind these issues and the conclusions from MGE2 to guide them in the simulation of BMS6.

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United Nations, Programme of Action Implementation Support System. (n.d.). *Schedule of Meetings 2012–2018*. Retrieved 9 January 2016 from: http://www.poa-iss.org/RevCon2/Documents/RevCon-DOC/ZERO/2012%2006%2005%20schedule%20of%20meetings_zero%20draft.pdf

United Nations, Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, Fifth Biennial Meeting of States. (2014). *Report of the Fifth Biennial meeting of States to Consider 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 (A/CONF.192/BMS/2014/2). Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/A/CONF.192/BMS/2014/2>

United Nations, Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects, Second Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts. (2015). *Chair's Summary*. Retrieved 5 January 2016 from: https://s3.amazonaws.com/unoda-web/wp-content/uploads/2015/03/2015-06-17-Chairs_Summary-MGE2.pdf

I. Measures to Increase National Reporting of Member States

Recent Developments

With the conclusion of the annual reporting cycle of Member States to the *Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects* (PoA SALW) in December 2015, the success of national reporting to the PoA remains mixed. In May 2015, as an attempt to meet the Programme goals of “transparency in armaments,” the PoA released updated guidelines on reporting practices to the United Nations (UN) Register of Conventional Arms.¹⁷ Titled the “Online Reporting Tool,” the guidelines reduced weapons reports to include only key major conventional weapons, such as large-caliber artillery systems and armored combat vehicles, in addition to detailing procurement and transfers of SALW.¹⁸ As an addition to the revised reporting tool, the UN released a “Note Verbale” on 29 May 2015 to Member States to remind and reestablish the importance of universal participation within the Register, with the noted change of increasing encouragement of “nil reports” submissions by governments who did not receive weapon imports or exports but are committed to transparency.¹⁹ Within this same note, reports were requested to be submitted no later than 24 February 2015, with a reminder sent out on 9 June 2015 for late submissions.²⁰ Despite the deadlines for reports, the submissions were compiled and made available only at the end of 2015.

The release of the September 2015 report by the Secretary-General was utilized to analyze whether these systemic changes were effective.²¹ Despite these reporting requirement updates, reporting remained generally consistent to previous years, with the total number of reporting states over the history of the program remaining at 170, meaning that no new Member States committed to armaments transparency via an arms report submission by the end of 2015.²² The 2015 report addendum of the Secretary-General on the UN Register of Conventional Arms Report details reporting over the past year and whether programmatic changes had had an impact on reporting numbers.²³

Over the 2014-2015 period, of the total of 35 countries who did eventually report to the Register, 12 reporting states were featured within the Secretary-General’s Arms Report as having submitted following the 24 February 2015 deadline.²⁴ Each Member State has the option to submit individual reports in the following areas: “battle tanks, armored combat vehicles, large caliber artillery systems, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships, and missiles and missile launchers,” in addition to small arms.²⁵ In 2015, this resulted in 126 total data entries, 42 of which were “nil” reports, in response to the May 2015 update to the reporting tool.²⁶ This total report number is up by only one reporting Member State and 24 total data entries since the 2013-2014 reporting cycle.²⁷ Only some previously reporting Member States (Argentina, Australia, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Cambodia, China, Grenada, and Republic of Moldova) submitted a report in the 2014-2015 cycle.²⁸ This means that while the total number of reporting Member States has increased, only a handful of them reported in both the prior and most recent reporting cycles,

¹⁷ UNODA, *UN Register of Conventional Arms*, 2015.

¹⁸ UN Register on Conventional Arms, *The Global Reported Arms Trade*, 2015.

¹⁹ UNODA, *Res. 68/43 Transparency in Armaments (ODA/08-2015/TIA)*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *Transparency in Armaments (A/RES/68/43)*, 2013.

²⁰ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Register of Conventional Arms: Report of the Secretary General (A/70/168)*, 2015.

²¹ *Ibid.*

²² UNODA, *UN Register of Conventional Arms*, 2015.

²³ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Register of Conventional Arms: Report of the Secretary General (A/70/168)-Addendum*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *United Nations Register of Conventional Arms: Report of the Secretary General (A/70/168)*, 2015.

²⁴ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Register of Conventional Arms: Report of the Secretary General (A/70/168)*, 2015.

²⁵ *Ibid.*

²⁶ *Ibid.*; UN General Assembly, *United Nations Register of Conventional Arms: Report of the Secretary General (A/70/168)-Addendum*, 2015.

²⁷ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Register of Conventional Arms: Report of the Secretary General (A/70/168)-Addendum*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *United Nations Register of Conventional Arms: Report of the Secretary General (A/70/168)*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *United Nations Register of Conventional Arms: Report of the Secretary General (A/69/124) - Addendum*, 2014; UN General Assembly, *United Nations Register of Conventional Arms: Report of the Secretary General (A/69/124)*, 2014.

²⁸ *Ibid.*

making consistency between reporting Member States tenuous.²⁹ In the 2014-2015 reporting cycle, there was also increased variance in weapon-origin and weapon-exporting countries.³⁰ The “comments on transfer” section of the 2014-2015 report also remained inconsistently utilized by Member States, meaning that tracking the stated weapons within the report would require additional contact with the reporting state.³¹

The triennial review of the Groups of Governmental Experts (GGE) is scheduled to occur in 2016 to report any new developments based on this previous year’s information to the UN General Assembly (GA), and will review these inter-cycle reporting patterns more thoroughly.³² Additionally, as of January 2016 the issues of consistency and involvement on the UN Convention on National Arms under the PoA SALW are consistent with the same obstacles experienced in previous years, as expressed by reports such as the “National Implementation of the United Nations Small Arms Programme of Action, the International Tracing Instrument: An Analysis of Reporting in 2009–10,” and GA resolution 68/43.³³ As well, the agenda documents submitted to the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in August 2015 to guide the 2016 agenda of the *Arms Trade Treaty* broadly discussed the initiation of assessment of Member States’ contributions to arms tracking.³⁴ In addition, they more thoroughly identified competent national reporting authorities, thus some action has already been taken in this area.³⁵

However, despite this progress and despite the May 2015 updates to the reporting instrument, national reporting of Member States remains under-utilized, and the import and export of conventional weapons continues to be inconsistently tracked. The Register has the potential to be highly influential in the creation of future arms policy, particularly in light of the thoroughness of those reports that have been consistently submitted, and increasing Member State accountability for reporting should therefore be a priority.

²⁹ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Register of Conventional Arms: Report of the Secretary General (A/70/168) - Addendum*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *United Nations Register of Conventional Arms: Report of the Secretary General (A/70/168)*, 2015; UN General Assembly, *United Nations Register of Conventional Arms: Report of the Secretary General (A/69/124) - Addendum*, 2014; UN General Assembly, *United Nations Register of Conventional Arms: Report of the Secretary General (A/69/124)*, 2014.

³⁰ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Register of Conventional Arms: Report of the Secretary General (A/69/124)- Addendum*, 2014; UN General Assembly, *United Nations Register of Conventional Arms: Report of the Secretary General (A/69/124)*, 2014.

³¹ UN General Assembly, *United Nations Register of Conventional Arms: Report of the Secretary General (A/70/168)- Addendum*, 2015.

³² UNODA, *UN Register of Conventional Arms*, 2015.

³³ UN General Assembly, *Transparency in Armaments (A/RES/68/43)*, 2013; Parker, *National Implementation of the United Nations Small Arms Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument: An Analysis of Reporting in 2009-2010*, 2010.

³⁴ ATT First Conference of States Parties, *Elements for a Programme of Work in the period up to the second ordinary session*, 2015.

³⁵ *Ibid.*

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International Small Arms Standards. (n.d.). *ISACS Assessment Tool Basic Guide*. Retrieved 8 January 2016 from: <http://www.smallarmsstandards.org/tools/at-basic-guide.pdf>

This technical guide to submitting Member States arms registry tracking information is an example of how registration can affect information collection. As the PoA SALW is a technical committee, information such as this is key to understanding how barriers to submission can influence the quality of the overall registry. Additionally, this document provides information for analyzing registry submission results, which is key to viewing annual progress.

Parker, S. (2010). *National Implementation of the United Nations Small Arms Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument: An Analysis of Reporting in 2009-2010*. Retrieved 8 January 2016 from: <http://www.poa-iss.org/MGE/Documents/Index/SAS-AnalysisofReporting.pdf>

While an older analysis of the International Tracing Instrument, this report still marks the most recent completed assessment of a reporting period, and will likely provide a framework for the upcoming report from the triennial Meeting of Governmental Experts. Aside from summarizing existing interim reports, this document is significant in that it discusses on-going, long-term, and reoccurring challenges with reporting, that are reflected within the 2014-2015 reporting cycle's numbers. Additionally, the report provides a discussion on the methodology of analysis that the PoA SALW will utilize on all reporting periods, which is key to reflecting on the successes and failures of the 2014-2015 cycle.

United Nations, General Assembly, Sixty-eighth session. (2013). *Transparency in Armaments (A/RES/68/43)* [Resolution]. Retrieved 8 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/68/43>

While this resolution was adopted in 2013, it represents the most recent General Assembly resolution relating to transparency in armament reporting. In addition to providing a framework for future reporting work, some of which was adapted in the May 2015 reporting tool update, it also discusses the need for further inclusion of Member States. This resolution continues to provide the framework for current reporting periods and as such, delegates should understand the continuing challenges identified within the resolution in connection to the most recent reporting cycle.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *United Nations Register of Conventional Arms: Report of the Secretary General (A/70/168)*. Retrieved 8 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/A/70/168>

This is the 2015 Report of the Secretary-General on the 2014-2015 reporting period of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, detailing the reports received prior to 24 February 2015 without any report analysis or comparison. This document is key to understanding the number of reports submitted over the most recent reporting period, as well as seeing which Member States continue to report consistently. Additionally, the categories of conventional arms transfers, and military holdings and procurement through national production, detail which types of reporting trend towards transparency, and which continue to prevent obstacles.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *United Nations Register of Conventional Arms: Report of the Secretary General (A/70/168) - Addendum* [Report]. Retrieved 8 January 2016 from: <http://undocs.org/A/70/168/Add.1>

This is the 2015 Addendum Report of the Secretary-General on the 2014-2015 reporting period of the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms, detailing the 12 reports received after to 24 February 2015 without any report analysis or comparison. This addendum details all of the remaining information of the 12 late-reporting countries, with emphasis on chart breakdowns of numbers of each type of conventional weapon. This document is also notable for its tracking of export and import numbers, specifically gaps in comments on transfers from specific Member States.

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United Nations Register on Conventional Arms. (2013). *The Global Reported Arms Trade* [Website]. Retrieved 8 January 2016 from: <http://www.un-register.org/Reporting/login.aspx>

II. Incorporating Gender-Sensitive Approaches in the Implementation of the Programme of Action

Recent Developments

The *Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects* (PoA SALW) has not yet debated gender-sensitive approaches to its implementation. However, the issue was recently debated in the United Nations (UN) Security Council (SC) and as a result there have been many recent developments around overarching themes in gender and women, peace and security at the UN. Most importantly, the SC adopted resolution 2242 (2015) in October 2015 – the anniversary of cornerstone resolution 1325 – and re-emphasized the importance of gender-sensitivity in security and disarmament affairs, including in the implementation of the PoA SALW.³⁶

In December 2015, the SC adopted resolution 2250 (2015), the first ever resolution on “youth, peace and security,” which builds on many of the efforts by the SC to strengthen gender-equality to maintain peace and security.³⁷ The resolution acknowledges that youth are strongly affected by armed conflicts and at risk to be recruited by terrorist organizations.³⁸ The resolution has five key pillars that relate directly to gender and the UN’s goals of mainstreaming gender into its work: participation, protection, prevention, partnerships, and disengagement and reintegration.³⁹ Specifically, resolution 2250 (2015) calls for more inclusion of youth during peace negotiations and peacebuilding processes; urges states to maintain international law during armed conflict, especially the protection of youth and civilians; encourages states to create stronger partnerships to empower youth and prevent the spread of extremism; and finally, stresses the need to develop mechanisms for disengagement, demobilization and reintegration for youth affected by armed violence.⁴⁰ The adoption of SC resolution 2250 (2015) was greatly welcomed by the UN Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN-Women).⁴¹ In a press statement, UN-Women points out the importance of gender-equality for the resilience of societies and highlighted three significant aspects to be considered by policymakers in order to successfully implement the new resolution: leadership, building capacities, and financing.⁴²

In addition to the above new SC resolutions, a recent global study on the achievements of SC resolution 1325 (2000) was recently published that highlights various aspects concerning gender-sensitive approaches in the context of small arms and light weapons (SALW).⁴³ First, the study welcomes the involvement of civil society organizations in unarmed civilian protection to protect civilians, particularly women and children, during armed conflicts through engaging non-military actors in peacekeeping.⁴⁴ The study recommends extending the efforts of unarmed civilians in the fields of small arms control, mine clearance, and other disarmament measures.⁴⁵ Furthermore, the proliferation of SALW is identified as the main cause for the escalation of conflicts and thus directly linked to an increase in violence against women and girls.⁴⁶ As a measure to combat violence against women, the report welcomes the efforts by the PoA SALW, as well as the adoption of the *Arms Trade Treaty* and the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 16: “Promote just, peaceful and inclusive societies.”⁴⁷

³⁶ UN-Women, *Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace: A global study on the Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325*, 2015, p. 1; UN Security Council, *Women and peace and security (S/RES/2242 (2015))*, 2015.

³⁷ UN DPI, *Security Council Unanimously Adopting Resolution 2250 (2015) Urges Member States to Increase Representation of Youth in Decision-Making at all Levels (SC/12149)*, 2015.

³⁸ Ibid.

³⁹ UN Security Council, *Maintenance of international peace and security (S/RES/2250 (2015))*, 2015.

⁴⁰ Ibid.

⁴¹ UN-Women, *Statement by UN Women Executive Director on the Adoption of Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security*, 2015.

⁴² Ibid.

⁴³ UN-Women, *Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace: A global study on the Implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolution 1325*, 2015, p. 1.

⁴⁴ Ibid., p. 153.

⁴⁵ Ibid.

⁴⁶ Ibid., p. 209.

⁴⁷ Ibid., p. 211.

Incorporating much of the above work, in June 2016, the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS6) will take place in New York.⁴⁸ Several consultations to plan the meeting have already been held to draft a provisional agenda, which currently mainly focuses on recent developments in the technology of SALW and their impact on the International Tracing Instrument.⁴⁹ The importance of including women has particularly been stressed by the SC in reference to SALW in resolutions 2117 (2013) and 2200 (2015), but the Member States of the PoA SALW have not yet acted upon these calls, and further, gender-sensitivity is not currently an agenda item of BMS6.⁵⁰

⁴⁸ Reaching Critical Will, *Sixth Biennial Meeting of States on the UNPoA on Small Arms*, 2016.

⁴⁹ Rattray, *Letter dated 18 December 2015 from the Chair-designate of the 6th Biennial Meeting of States to the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons to all Permanent Representatives and all Permanent Observers to the United Nations*, 2015.

⁵⁰ Reaching Critical Will, *Women, weapons, and war: A gendered critique of multilateral instruments*, 2015, p. 15.

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Reaching Critical Will. (2015). *Women, weapons, and war: A gendered critique of multilateral instruments*. Retrieved 25 January 2016 from: <http://www.reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Publications/women-weapons-war.pdf>

This report highlights the importance of women for peacekeeping and peacebuilding processes. In summarizing the actions taken by various United Nations bodies and the international community, it may provide a source of inspiration for delegates. In particular, the final part of the report consists of several recommendations for actions to be taken to strengthen gender-sensitivity in disarmament instruments.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2015). *Preventing Conflict Transforming Justice Security the Peace: A Global Study on the Implementation of Security Council resolution 1325*. Retrieved 6 January 2016 from: <http://wps.unwomen.org/en/global-study/~media/files/un%20women/wps/highlights/unw-global-study-1325-2015.pdf>

This study evaluates the progress made in the past 15 years on the implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 (2000). It highlights the most important aspects of the women, peace and security (WPS) agenda and their execution. Furthermore, this paper contains many great examples and explanations for the methodology used in the discourse on WPS. It provides delegates with a comprehensive overview of the WPS agenda in general and thus might give them an idea as to how this can be realized within the framework of the PoA SALW.

United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. (2015, December 14). *Statement by UN Women Executive Director on the Adoption of Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security* [Press Release]. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from: <http://www.unwomen.org/en/news/stories/2015/12/ed-statement-security-council-resolution-2250>

This statement reviews the resolution on youth, peace, and security. It summarizes the most important clauses, but also makes recommendations for its implementation that could be relevant for delegates. The statement provides excellent analysis into the gender dimensions of the youth, peace and security initiative, which are equally relevant to the work of the PoA SALW.

United Nations, Security Council, 7573rd Meeting (2015). *Maintenance of International Peace and Security (S/RES/2250 (2015))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from: [http://undocs.org/S/RES/2250\(2015\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/2250(2015))

This resolution focusses on the impact of youth on peace and security. As this is the first resolution of this kind, it provides basic definitions that delegates should acquaint themselves with. This document is closely related to the WPS agenda and delegates should follow the development of the decisions made in this resolution. In particular, the connection between youth and SALW should be considered in strengthening implementation of the PoA SALW.

United Nations, Security Council, 7533rd Meeting (2015). *Women, Peace and Security (S/RES/2242 (2015))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from: [http://undocs.org/S/RES/2242\(2015\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/2242(2015))

This is the latest resolution on women, peace and security. It addresses both the issue of violence against women and their involvement in peacekeeping. As stressed in previous resolutions, the Security Council urges the PoA SALW to more strongly integrate women in the process of non-proliferation of SALW. The resolution lays out a foundation for policy-makers to build on that might be adopted in a similar manner within the framework of the PoA SALW.

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United Nations, Security Council, 7573rd Meeting. (2015). *Maintenance of International Peace and Security (S/RES/2250 (2015))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from: [http://undocs.org/S/RES/2250\(2015\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/2250(2015))

United Nations, Security Council, 7533rd Meeting. (2015). *Women, Peace and Security (S/RES/2242 (2015))* [Resolution]. Retrieved 7 January 2016 from: [http://undocs.org/S/RES/2242\(2015\)](http://undocs.org/S/RES/2242(2015))

III. Adapting to Recent Developments in Small Arms and Light Weapons Technology

Recent Developments

The terrorist attack that occurred in Paris, France on 13 November 2015 has increased recent discussion on the illicit flow of small arms and light weapons (SALW) within international dialogue.⁵¹ The weapons used in the attacks, as well as those used in other recent events by non-state actors, such as the attacks on the satirical newspaper Charlie Hebdo, have directed the attention of the international community to the weapons stockpiles and the need to track missing small arms exports.⁵² In response to this discussion, some European Union (EU) states, such as Belgium, known for its comparatively high reported numbers of smuggled illicit arms, have begun to prioritize coordination amongst its linguistically divided regional and federal administrations.⁵³ The EU also established “an EU-wide registration marking system for guns and common EU standards on deactivation” in response to on-going concerns about the weapons used in the Charlie Hebdo attack and the spread of decommissioned weapons from Slovakia.⁵⁴

These events have raised broader questions for states in the European bloc, such as what efforts or tools should be used to reduce the diversion of SALW in terms of marking, tracing, stockpile management and record keeping.⁵⁵ The question was further examined in the 2015 report by Amnesty International “Taking Stock: The Arming of Islamic State,” which details the diversion of millions of weapons supplied in previous and current military operations in Iraq and Afghanistan to terrorists groups currently operating out of the region.⁵⁶ One of the many conclusions of this report focused on the need to track and manage weapons as well as establish and maintain high standards for stockpile management, and implement import marking and record keeping for all arms supplies.⁵⁷

Recent activities at the UN include the adoption of three resolutions related to SALW at the 70th session of the UN General Assembly (GA) on 7 December 2015.⁵⁸ In the GA resolution 70/49, the GA recognized for the first time the new challenges and potential opportunities that will be discussed in depth at the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS6) of the *Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects* (PoA SALW) in regards to new developments in SALW technology.⁵⁹ In GA resolution 70/35, the GA additionally encouraged Member States to strengthen national stockpile management capacities and the prevention of conventional ammunition surplus growth by contacting the “SaferGuard” program.⁶⁰ SaferGuard houses the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines and was recently updated in 2015.⁶¹ Finally, through resolution 70/29, the GA recognized the importance of resources as a valuable tool to assist Member States as they work to curb the illicit flow of SALW.⁶² The issues examined amongst these adopted resolutions will be further explored in the Secretary-General’s report on the recommendations and requests made by the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States, in paragraphs 27 and 38 of its outcome document at the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States in 2016.⁶³

As highlighted by the GA in resolution 70/49, despite the challenges of new SALW technologies that are being developed, there are still opportunities to improve the tracing and marking of weapons that would address the cost of establishing new infrastructure in low-income Member States as well as with the presence of illicit weapons currently in circulation.⁶⁴ Much of these opportunities lay in the work that has been done by regional organizations

⁵¹ Arapi, *The Balkan route to Western Europe for Yugoslavia guns*, 2015.

⁵² Freeman, *Inside the ‘Ant Trade’ – how Europe’s terrorists get their guns*, 2015.

⁵³ Oliver & Robinson, *Paris attacks: Belgium’s arms bazaar*, 2015.

⁵⁴ Vasovic & Baczynska, *Gaffer tape and 500 euros: running guns to the heart of Europe*, 2015.

⁵⁵ Oliver & Robinson, *Paris attacks: Belgium’s arms bazaar*, 2015.

⁵⁶ Cohen, *Amnesty report: ISIS armed with US weapons*, 2015.

⁵⁷ Amnesty International, *Taking Stock: The Arming of Islamic State*, 2015.

⁵⁸ UN DPI, *On Recommendation of First Committee, General Assembly Adopts More than 50 drafts, including New One on ‘Ethical Imperatives’ for Nuclear Disarmament*, 2015.

⁵⁹ UN General Assembly, *The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects (A/RES/70/49)*, 2015.

⁶⁰ UN General Assembly, *Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus (A/RES/70/35)*, 2015.

⁶¹ Ibid.

⁶² UN General Assembly, *Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them (A/RES/70/29)*, 2015.

⁶³ UN General Assembly, *The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects (A/RES/70/49)*, 2015.

⁶⁴ Bonn International Center for Conversion, *Smart Technology in SALW Control: Civilian Protection, the UN-PoA and Transfer Control (SmartCon)*, 2013.

to assist Member States interested in using advanced technologies while developing harmonized regional approaches seen by the UN Regional Centres of Peace and Disarmament.

The UN Regional Centre on Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) has been the host of many recent workshops throughout the Asia Pacific region. On 25 and 26 November 2015, the UNRCPD organized with the government of the Philippines to discuss technical challenges and needs and available tools for assistance.⁶⁵ The UNRCPD also hosted workshops in June 2015, presenting on the Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) system as well as marking, electronic recordkeeping, and tracing of SALW for government officials of Bangladesh and of the Maldives.⁶⁶

In October 2015, the UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) carried out a training course with the Government of Belize to increase knowledge on topics, such as serial number restoration that will generate intelligence to identify sources and routes used for illicit arms trafficking.⁶⁷ Such capacity to use technology at the national level coupled with the information sharing and technology at the international level, like INTERPOL's Ballistic Information Network (iBIN) and its Illicit Arms Records and tracing Management System (iARMS), creates effective and efficient means to trace illicit SALWs.⁶⁸

Thus, regional cooperation, information sharing, and technology remains a key recent factor in addressing the illicit flow of SALW. Noting these recent events, delegates should not only be taking new emerging technologies within the scope of SALW into consideration, but also technologies that enhance the effectiveness of national marking, record-keeping, stockpiling, tracing, international assistance, regional cooperation, and capacity-building.

⁶⁵ UNODA, *Workshop on Building Capacity in SALW Control Through the United Nations Programme of Action*, 2015.

⁶⁶ UNRCPD, *Newsletter*, 2015.

⁶⁷ UNODA, *UNLIREC Provided Assistance on Firearms Forensic Ballistics to Belize*, 2015.

⁶⁸ Gagliardi, *Interpol Symposium Takes Aim at Regional Gun Crime Intelligence Sharing, 2015*; Interpol, *Interpol Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System (iARMS)*, 2015.

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Amnesty International. (2015). *Taking Stock: The Arming of Islamic State*. Retrieved 31 December 2015 from: https://www.es.amnesty.org/uploads/media/Taking_Stock_The_arming_of_IS.pdf.pdf

This Amnesty International report highlights how weapons that are supplied in countries like Afghanistan, Iraq, and Syria become diverted to various terrorist organizations. The report is a valuable look into the precise routes that legal arms sales take into becoming sold and bought on the black market. Delegates should take this as a case study from a neutral external organization of how illicit arms come into circulation and begin to think about how countries in conflict as well as suppliers of arms can introduce and maintain tracking and stockpiling systems.

Bonn International Center for Conversion. (2013). *Smart Technology in SALW Control: Civilian Protection, the UN-PoA and Transfer Control (SmartCon)*. Retrieved 31 December 2015 from:

https://www.bicc.de/uploads/tx_bicctools/BICC_Brief_49.pdf

This document touches upon important research and developments within the field of weapons and technology. This brief explains the impact of new technologies within various contexts such as the political, economic, technical, legislative, and conflict contexts. It notably includes a chapter dedicated to “smart weapon technology in the context of developing and post-conflict countries” that can prove useful when thinking about ways of preventing the diversion of SALW.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Assistance to States for curbing the illicit traffic in small arms and light weapons and collecting them (A/RES/70/29)* [Resolution]. Adopted on report of the First Committee (A/70/460). Retrieved 31 December 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/29>

This recently adopted resolution on “assistance to states for curbing the illicit traffic in SALW and collecting them” speaks to the growing concern of the lack of resources for countries facing the threat of small arms. The resolution highlights regional organizations and efforts in the assistance of preventing and harmonizing approaches to effectively combat the spread of small arms. Delegates should consider assistance of states when developing strategies involving technological improvements in the tracing and securing of small arms.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects (A/RES/70/49)* [Resolution]. Adopted on the report of the First Committee (A/70/460). Retrieved 31 December 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/49>

This resolution speaks more generally about the illicit trade of SALW. However, it also highlights the challenges and potential opportunities of new technologies directed at the manufacturing and the tracing of small arms. Delegates should consult the sections entitled ‘Way Forward’ in the report adopted at the Fifth Biennial Meeting of States’ of the PoA SALW as mentioned in this resolution. Furthermore, there are recommendations proposed in this resolution that will likely be discussed at the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States, making it a crucial resource for delegates to review.

United Nations, General Assembly, Seventieth session. (2015). *Problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus (A/RES/70/35)* [Resolution]. Adopted on report of the First Committee (A/70/460). Retrieved 31 December 2015 from: <http://undocs.org/A/RES/70/35>

This resolution touches upon another important issue that is another factor of how a large proportion of weapons are circulated into the illicit market. The resolution discusses “problems arising from the accumulation of convention ammunition stockpiles in surplus” and addresses the issue that is the focus of the recently released report by Amnesty International. This issue continues to be pervasive especially in regions that are in conflict. Delegates should also consider ways in which states can develop mechanisms to secure and reduce stockpiles.

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