



**High Representative's Statement for the Global Week of  
Action against Gun Violence**

By  
***Mr. Kim Won-soo***  
High Representative for Disarmament Affairs



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The theme for this year's observance of the Global Week of Action Against Gun Violence as "*Time to End the Deadly Flood of Guns*", is a timely one. It reflects that, when it comes to the horrific carnage perpetrated by guns, the global community speaks with one voice.

In 2016, the United Nations Programme of Action against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons celebrates its fifteenth anniversary. For one and a half decades, this landmark instrument has formed the core of international efforts to combat the unlawful trade in guns.

During this time, enormous strides have been made to push back the illicit arms trade. National frameworks to control small arms have been developed or enhanced. Weapons have been collected and destroyed. Depots have been made safer. International and regional initiatives have been instigated to build Member States' capacity. There are now multiple regional conventions dealing with small arms.

The Arms Trade Treaty, which entered into force in December 2014 and which includes small arms and ammunition in its scope, complements these initiatives and adds a multilateral dimension. Finally, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Goals, agreed last year by all Member States, now encompasses peace and security as a key component. Importantly, the 2030 Agenda includes a significant reduction of all forms of violence and of illicit arms flows among its targets.

This growing number of global and regional norms to counter illicit guns, reflects the international community's determination to stop the too frequent – yet preventable – destruction they inflict.

However, paper and meetings will not stop innocent men, women and children from suffering gun-inflicted death or gunshot wounds. What is needed is vigorous implementation. During this Week of Action against Gun Violence, I call on all governments to redouble their work to reduce gun violence, and to work with civil society partners and the United Nations to make the lives of all people safer and more secure.