MINISTRY FOR EUROPE AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS

Paris, 14 February 2018

Excellency,

I have the pleasure to write to you in my capacity as President-designate of the Third Review Conference (RevCon3) 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, scheduled to take place in New York, from 18 to 29 June 2018.

Further to my letter of 19 January 2018 by which I circulated draft elements for an outcome document of RevCon3, I am pleased to invite you to informal consultations on Wednesday, 21 February, at 3:00 P.M., in Conference Room 12. The purpose of the consultations is to exchange views on the outline of elements (attached) and on any other relevant procedural or substantive matters ahead of the 19-23 March Preparatory Committee (PrepCom) meeting.

I look forward to working with all delegations towards a successful RevCon3 and would like to take this opportunity to once again encourage States to submit working papers that would contribute to enriching discussions at the Conference.

Please note that all relevant information pertaining to RevCon3 and its PrepCom will be posted on www.un.org/disarmament/revcon3.

Please accept, Excellency, the renewed assurances of my highest consideration.

Jean-Claude BRUNET
Ambassador-at-large
President-designate of the Third Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons
Excellence,


Je me réjouis de continuer à travailler, de concert avec toutes les délégations, à une Conférence d’examen fructueuse en juin prochain, et je souhaite encourager de nouveaux tous les États à soumettre des documents de travail afin d’alimenter les discussions de la RevCon.

Veuillez noter également que toutes les informations pertinentes au sujet de la RevCon3 et de son PrepCom seront disponibles sur le site www.un.org/disarmament/revcon3.

Je vous prie d’accepter, Excellence, l’assurance renouvelée de ma très haute considération.

Ambassadeur Jean-Claude BRUNET
Président-désigné de la Troisième Conférence d’Examen
1. 2018 DECLARATION

A political declaration reaffirming UN Member States’ commitment to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, especially in view of recent developments, will be negotiated for adoption at the Programme of Action’s Third Review Conference.

2. PROGRAMME OF ACTION IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2018-2024

Potential list of elements for the implementation plan, without prejudice to other elements States may wish to add.

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

   a. Coordination and synergies

      i. Implementation at the national level

         • Strengthening national laws, regulations and administrative procedures, national coordination mechanisms, national points of contact, national action plans, national border controls and other relevant national programmes in support of PoA implementation, including with respect to SALW manufacture (including illicit craft production), illicit conversion, and international transfer;

         • Reinforcing national coordination mechanisms, including with civil society;

         • Adopting and implementing national action plans;

         • Designating national points of contact and exchanging up-to-date point of contact information;

         • Identifying opportunities for strengthening the measurement of progress in the national implementation of the PoA, including within the SDG framework;

      ii. Role of regional and subregional organizations

         • Adoption of complementary instruments, programmes and plans of action at the regional and subregional levels;

         • Reinforcing coordination amongst relevant regional and subregional organizations and frameworks;

         • Reinforcing coordination between relevant regional and subregional organizations and frameworks, on the one hand, and States and global organizations, on the other;

         • Enhancing synergies with relevant regional and subregional instruments in strengthening the implementation of the PoA and ITI;
• Designating SALW points of contact within relevant regional and subregional organizations;

• Regional/subregional coordination between law enforcement agencies and customs, including the exchange of relevant information at the regional and subregional level;

• Contributions of UN regional centers for peace and disarmament to the implementation of the PoA;

iii. Role of relevant international organizations including the UN offices, INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization

• Synergies and coordination between relevant UN offices;

• Coordination with relevant UN offices, INTERPOL, the World Customs Organization, the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank in strengthening implementation of the PoA;

• Encouraging regular dialogue between relevant international organizations, in particular with INTERPOL and WCO;

iv. Synergies with relevant global instruments, including those related to counter-terrorism and transnational organized crime

• Encouraging synergies in the implementation of the PoA with other relevant international instruments and frameworks, including the Arms Trade Treaty, the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime and its Firearms Protocol, and instruments related to counter-terrorism.

b. Preventing SALW diversion

i. Stockpile management and security

• Pursuing efforts to improve the physical security and management of SALW stockpiles;

• Ensuring ammunition stockpile safety and security;

ii. Unauthorized end-users

• Implementing and reinforcing regulations and control systems enabling effective control over SALW transfers, taking into account the provisions of the PoA and other relevant instruments;

• Using, authenticating/verifying and, as needed, strengthening end-user certificates and end-user certification processes in reducing the risk of diversion to unauthorized end-users;

• Ensuring the secure transportation and delivery of international SALW transfers;

• Supporting the role of law enforcement authorities, in particular customs authorities, and reinforcing their capacity to intercept illicit SALW shipments;
iii. Conflict and post-conflict situations, including DDR and SSR programmes

- Implementing international standards and good practices, related to the PoA and ITI, in DDR and SSR programmes;
- Specific measures for the prevention of diversion in conflict and post-conflict situations;

iv. Arms embargoes

- Supporting the full implementation of arms embargos through the implementation of the PoA;
- Cooperation and information exchange with sanctions committees and UN groups of experts monitoring the implementation of sanctions regimes;
- Collection and sharing of information relating to the diversion of SALW.

c. Preventing the illicit manufacturing and conversion of SALW

i. Best practices to ensure irreversible deactivation

- Best practices to ensure the irreversible deactivation of SALW, including technical and registration/record-keeping requirements, also in relation to the destruction of surplus;

ii. Preventing the illicit conversion of SALW

- Ensuring adequate record-keeping for SALW and the authorization of officials or individuals who carry out conversion or destruction operations;
- Common understandings regarding the convertibility of blank-firing or replica SALW to functional SALW;

iii. Preventing illicit manufacturing of SALW

- Implementing a strict regulatory framework with regards to SALW manufacture;
- Criminalizing the illicit manufacture of firearms;
- Ensuring the seizure and destruction of illicitly manufactured SALW.

d. Assessing/responding to the opportunities and challenges of new developments in SALW-related technology, including in the area of manufacture

- Impacts of new developments in technology on manufacture, design, marking, storage and trade, including modular weapons, microchipping and microstamping;
- Cooperation with the private sector on the development of technologies to improve marking, tracing and the safe and secure storage of SALW;
- Additive manufacturing (3D printing);
- New trends in the illicit trade, including the use of the internet and trade on the dark net;
• Cooperation between States and with the private sector (including cooperation between law enforcement agencies, the exchange of good practices and experiences in combating the illicit online trade and the use of new technologies in strengthening stockpile management and security).

e. Encouraging transparency and information exchange

• Strengthening synergies between PoA/ITI reporting and reporting for the SDGs;
• Strengthening the collection, analysis and use of SALW-related data;
• Strengthening the collection of gender-disaggregated data;
• Encouraging the clear identification of needs for cooperation and assistance in national reports; matching them with available resources and programmes;
• Reporting by regional and subregional organizations on actions that support implementation of the PoA.

2. Addressing the adverse consequences of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on development

a. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular Goal 16

• Acknowledging the negative impact of the illicit trade in SALW on development, including the achievement of Goal 16 and other SDGs;
• Enhancing the contribution of the PoA and ITI to the achievement of Goal 16 and target 16.4;
• Enhancing the contribution of the PoA and ITI to the achievement of other SDGs;
• Integrating the implementation of the PoA and ITI in national development plans;
• Strengthening synergies between reporting, measurement and analysis for the PoA and ITI and reporting, measurement and analysis for the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the global, regional, and national levels.

b. Gender, including UNSC resolution 1325 and the impacts of the illicit trade in SALW on women, men, girls and boys

• Taking account of the differing impacts of the illicit SALW trade on women, men, girls and boys in strengthening implementation of the PoA;
• Promoting the meaningful participation and representation of women in policymaking, planning and implementation processes related to the Programme of Action;
• Recognizing that gender mainstreaming strengthens the quality and sustainability of small arms control;
• Drawing on processes relating to women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control, such as those based on General Assembly resolution 65/69 and Security Council resolution 1325 (2000), in strengthening implementation of the PoA;
• Funding advocacy, education, training and research on gender-related activities and outputs;

• Strengthening small arms-related policies and programmes through the collection of gender-disaggregated data and increased funding.

c. Promotion of the rule of law and of a culture of peace in combating the illicit trade in SALW: specific applications

3. Promoting effective international cooperation and assistance in the fight against the illicit trade in SALW

a. Encouraging international cooperation in combating the illicit trade in SALW

• Highlighting the role of civil society organizations, including NGOs, research organizations, academics, citizens, consumer associations and industry, in the implementation of the PoA;

• Strengthening cooperation with civil society, including the exchange of experiences, expertise, and good practices on topics relating to the implementation of the PoA;

• Strengthening partnerships and cooperation at all levels, including coordination between donors, international legal assistance and operational cooperation.

b. Promoting effective international assistance in the fight against the illicit trade in SALW

i. Technical and financial assistance, including capacity-building

• Ensuring national ownership and the building of sustainable national capacities in assistance projects relating to the PoA;

ii. Coordination

• Ensuring coordination between donors, donors and recipients and across government;

• Ensuring complementarity between assistance provided in support of PoA implementation and assistance provided in support of other relevant instruments;

• Strengthening information exchange, including experiences on completed assistance projects and on existing and new coordination mechanisms;

iii. Ensuring continued and sustainable financial and technical assistance in support of the PoA and ITI, also in light of related SDG commitments

• Enhancing synergies between projects designed to support implementation of the PoA and ITI and projects related to the SDGs;

4. Other topics
3. INTERNATIONAL TRACING INSTRUMENT IMPLEMENTATION PLAN 2018-2024

Potential list of elements for the implementation plan, without prejudice to other elements States may wish to add.

1. **Marking**
   - National legislation and administrative procedures;
   - Good practices for post-manufacture marking;
   - Potential contributions of the private sector.

2. **Record-keeping**
   - National legislation and administrative procedures;
   - Inter-agency coordination.

3. **Tracing**
   - National legislation and administrative procedures;
   - The accurate identification of SALW for tracing purposes;
   - Inter-agency coordination;
   - The exchange and use of tracing information;
   - Tracing in conflict and post-conflict situations;
   - Good practices of the private sector.

4. **Encouraging international cooperation**
   - Other relevant instruments;
   - Cooperation with relevant organizations at the global, regional and subregional levels, including INTERPOL and the WCO;
   - Strengthening the exchange of information on national marking practices and national points of contact;
   - Enhanced dialogue with the private sector.

5. **Promoting effective international assistance**
   - Technical and financial assistance, including technology and equipment;
   - Establishing/strengthening mechanisms for the provision of assistance;
   - Enhancing the identification of needs and the matching of needs and resources.

6. **Encouraging transparency and information exchange**
   - Collection of SDG-relevant data (Indicator 16.4.2);
• Exchange of tracing information in order to prevent diversion and strengthen SALW control.

7. Implications for the International Tracing Instrument of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design

• Using new forms of marking to strengthen ITI implementation (microchips, micromarking, etc.);
• Ensuring the durable marking of polymer-frame SALW in line with the ITI;
• Modular weapons (implications for marking and record-keeping; ways of ensuring traceability);
• Cooperation between States and with the private sector (including the exchange of national experiences in tracing illicit SALW and the development by industry of technologies to improve SALW marking, record-keeping and tracing in light of the new challenges).

8. Other topics

4. FOLLOW-UP TO THE THIRD REVIEW CONFERENCE OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION

Following past practice, this annex will include a schedule of meetings for the period leading from the Third to the Fourth Review Conference. States may wish to consider reinforcing the programme outlined below, which envisages two biennial meetings, two open-ended meetings of governmental experts, an informal open-ended working group and one review conference in a six-year cycle, subject to the availability of financial resources.

The following could be proposed:

2019 – Informal, open-ended working group – length, location and focus topic to be determined.

2020 – Biennial Meeting of States, 5 days, New York.

2021 – Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts – focus topic to be determined.

2022 – Biennial Meeting of States, 5 days, New York.

2023 – Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts – focus topic to be determined.

2024 – Fourth Review Conference, 10 days, New York.
The following questions are put forward by the Presidency to facilitate discussion among Member States participating in the preparatory process for RevCon3 of the PoA. The elements that are listed in this document do not preclude States from raising any other elements they consider relevant. The questions are not meant to form part of the RevCon3 outcome document.

1. What do you consider to be the three main global priorities in combating illicit small arms and light weapons (SALW) in the PoA meeting cycle leading to the fourth Review Conference? Is there any aspect of the illicit trade in SALW that you believe should be given greater attention or be addressed in greater detail?

2. How could PoA meetings better contribute to achieving tangible results in implementing the PoA on the ground?

3. How could the PoA be strengthened so that it more effectively prevents and combats the diversion of SALW to illicit markets, illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients?

4. What can be done to strengthen the implementation of the PoA in conflict and post-conflict situations?

5. How can the illicit trade in ammunition be better taken into account within the framework of the PoA?

6. Can you propose, for consideration within the PoA framework, good practices for preventing the illicit manufacture and/or conversion of SALW?

7. How can the adverse impacts of the illicit trade in SALW on development be better addressed? What additional steps should States take in the framework of the PoA and ITI to strengthen the contribution of these instruments to the 2030 Agenda, in particular to Goal 16? What further action is needed to take account of the gender aspects of the fight against the illicit trade in SALW?

8. How could the contributions of regional and subregional organizations to the fight against the illicit trade in SALW be strengthened or better reflected in existing small arms-related work?

9. What international instruments, other than the PoA and ITI, do you consider relevant to the fight against the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects? In what issue areas would synergies between them and the PoA/ITI be most productive?

10. What needs to be done to address the challenges posed by recent technological developments in SALW, such as the production of polymer frame small arms, modular weapons design and the application of 3D printing technology to small arms manufacture? How can States employ new SALW-related technologies to strengthen their implementation of the PoA and ITI?

11. What specific measures or steps would strengthen implementation of the ITI? How can the accurate identification of small arms and light weapons for purposes of tracing be strengthened?

12. How can international cooperation be strengthened in tackling the illicit trade in SALW? What can be done to strengthen the implementation of the PoA and ITI through the provision of training, equipment and the transfer of technology? What can be done to ensure the adequacy, effectiveness and sustainability of assistance, including financial and technical assistance, for the implementation of the PoA and ITI?