International Tracing Instrument
Overview – The problem

➢ **Tracing:** search for **last legitimate owner:** point of diversion!

➢ **Mark** weapon upon **production, import**

➢ Ensure adequate **record-keeping**

➢ **Mark existing stocks**
Overview – Genesis

➢ Programme of Action (2001)
  • To undertake a United Nations study for examining the feasibility of developing an international instrument to enable States to identify and trace in a timely and reliable manner illicit small arms and light weapons

➢ Open-Ended Working Group to negotiate the ITI (2003)

➢ ITI adopted by the General Assembly (2005)

➢ ITI meetings, ITI national reports: not separate from PoA meetings
Overview – Key provisions (1)

➢ General objectives

• Enable **tracing** of illicit SALW
• Facilitate international **cooperation** and **assistance**
• Enhance and **complement** bilateral and regional **agreements**
Overview – Key provisions (2)

➢ Marking
  • Choice of method is national prerogative
  • Must be visible, readable, durable, recoverable
  • Manufacture: Unique marking, with mandatory information
  • Import: To the extent possible
  • Illicit SALW found: uniquely marked, recorded; or destroyed

➢ Record-keeping
  • Indefinite, to the extent possible
    o Manufacturing records: at least 30 years
    o All other records, including imports and exports: at least 20 years

➢ Cooperation in tracing
  • Keep information confidential
  • Provide sufficient information
  • Respond within reasonable amount of time
  • Explain restricted response
Overview – Key provisions (3)

➢ Implementation

- Adopt appropriate national regulations
- Designate national points of contact
- Render international assistance
- Cooperate with United Nations and INTERPOL
- Biennial national report
National reports: Requests for ITI assistance

- **73** national reports have been submitted as of 18 March

- **29** request international assistance: Top thematic areas:
  - Stockpile management / destruction
  - International tracing
  - Marking, Record-keeping
New trends in technology

- **SG report** on recent developments in SALW manufacturing, technology and design and implications for the implementation of the ITI (2014)

  - Materials
  - Concept designs
  - Methods of production
  - New technology applications
Manufacture: materials

- Plastics / polymers replace metal
  - Marking: no stamping
  - Durability of markings
Concept design

➢ Modularity

• Can change caliber: a fundamental characteristic for identification
• ITI: unique marking on essential component (frame, receiver)
• ITI encourages marking of other parts (barrel, slide, cylinder)
Methods of production

➢ 3D printing

• Currently too expensive
• Price will go down
• Control measures
New technology applications (1)

➢ Micro-stamping

• Opportunity: difficult to detect for those who wish to erase it
• Challenge: ITI requires markings to be clearly visible
New technology applications (2)

➢ Identification, data collection technology
  • Barcodes
  • Radio-frequency identification
  • Biometrics (fingerprint)
  ▪ Challenges:
    o ITI requires marks to be readable, recognizable, durable
    o Limited use for identification across borders

➢ Global Positioning System for tracking
  • Could complement the ITI
Recommendations

➢ Value of harmonized regional approaches
➢ Enhancing dialogue with industry
➢ Negotiate a supplement to the ITI, such as an annex
  • Currently agreed schedule of meetings may guide such discussions

RevCon3 may wish to consider taking a decision to advance collective action by States on this issue