The cross-cutting issue of small arms and light weapons requires a coherent, cross-sectional response: from improving warehouses, destroying surpluses, and training police, to strengthening legislation, rolling out community safety programmes, and providing alternative livelihoods for former gang members.

The United Nations is establishing a dedicated funding facility to ensure sustained financing for coordinated, integrated small arms control measures in countries most affected by armed violence. It is a long-overdue, comprehensive approach to a worldwide scourge, that must be curbed to protect and foster development.

Rationale

Over the past decade, the colossal problem of the diversion, illicit ownership and misuse of small arms has seen sound progress in global policy-setting. Now, governments and the UN system must follow through.

➢ The Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) designated small arms control measures as falling under official development assistance (2005).

➢ The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development includes a commitment on significantly – and measurably – reducing illicit arms flows.

The existing UNSCAR fund (UN Trust Facility Supporting Conventional Arms Regulation) adds great value on short-term, quick-impact measures to improve small arms control. Its success has prompted a call for an ambitious parallel facility that would allow a country to tackle the various dimensions of the problem sustainably through multi-year programming, including institutional, legal, educational, development and law-enforcement approaches.

Towards sustained, coherent funding

As part of his new Disarmament Agenda, the Secretary-General will establish a sustained, coherent funding facility, open to UN system partners and non-UN stakeholders, which would support comprehensive approaches to small arms regulation and control.

The fund would thus be a solid, innovative, participatory application of the increasingly accepted idea that arms regulation and development must be approached in an integrated manner.

The Global Fund to Eradicate Illicit Small Arms will be set up as a window in the UN Peacebuilding Fund (PBF). Making use of a successful existing mechanism supports the Secretary-General’s efforts to further streamline and consolidate the organization.

Paradigm shift

The dedicated PBF window would support a paradigm shift enabling affected States to tackle small arms issues through integrated, multi-dimensional programmes and as part of
**wider development plans**, in contrast with the traditional project-based approaches.

**National authorities** will need to broaden their small-arms-related approaches to inter-sectoral consultations on development plans. **Donors** will need to increasingly recognize the value of placing their assistance to combating illicit small arms in the framework of official development assistance.

### Transformative impact

The Fund would aim to address all relevant dimensions of the illicit small-arms problem. Practical arms control measures such as weapons collection and destruction would be reinforced with adequate legal and policy frameworks, institutional arrangements (e.g., national commissions, national action plans), proper stockpile management, safer humanitarian space, education and awareness-raising, law-enforcement measures and capacity building, data and evidence collection and analysis. Responses will also aim to change cultural attitudes and perceptions regarding small arms, including with regard to the ever-present gender dimension of the issue.

### Modalities

- The fund will initially focus on a number of countries that are eager to address their challenges in the field of illicit small arms in a holistic way. Depending on donor interest, the Fund may be expanded.

- Ownership by host countries will be sought during every stage of programming: from design to implementation to monitoring and evaluation. Financial and/or technical contributions from host countries are expected as an indication of commitment and ownership.

- To maximize development effectiveness and UN coordination through the efficient, accountable and transparent design and administration of innovative, pooled financing mechanisms, the fund would in principle be administered by the Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) under a collaborative arrangement with the Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), with financial-administration support by the UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office (MPTFO).

- Governance of the fund is expected to be based on a collective arrangement involving donor States and institutions, recipient countries and the existing United Nations inter-agency mechanism on small arms, ammunition and the arms trade (CASA). At the country level, implementation oversight and coordination may involve UN entities on the ground. Where relevant, UNODA regional centres would contribute expertise including on management and oversight.

- Contributors to the Fund can be national governments, multilateral organizations, private-sector entities, international and local NGOs, and private individuals.

### Benefits

- A cross-cutting trust facility, effectively supporting affected States through a multi-year approach to coherently and sustainably implement small arms control measures.

- Focused implementation of the key SDG target to “significantly reduce illicit arms flows”, filling the current scarcity of development-relevant work on this target.

- Sustained attention only to countries most eager to improve their small arms situation.

- High levels of ownership in recipient States.

- Low overhead costs.

- More coordination, better insight in developments and trends, less duplication and overlap.

- Collection of data and lessons that could inform small arms regulation efforts in other countries.

### Implementing partners

United Nations entities as well as select regional organizations and qualified civil society organizations would be eligible to be implementing partners.

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1 CASA comprises 23 UN entities: CTED, DESA, DPA, DPI, DPKO, ICAO, OCHA, OHCHR, OSAPG, OSRSG/CAAC, OSRSG/VAC, OSAA, UNDP, UNEP, UN-