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**Third United Nations Conference to Review
Progress Made in 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**

New York, 18–29 June 2018

Working paper submitted by Mexico

**Towards coherent, strategic and effective implementation of the
Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit
Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects**

1. The Government of Mexico recognizes the efforts carried out by States aimed at having both international and regional instruments and mechanisms on arms control and regulation. Mexico welcomes the progress made so far in the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, which is the key universal instrument that has guided the international community in this century.
2. Nevertheless, it is necessary to recognize that the treatment of specific aspects of regulation and crime control concerning the transfer of small arms and light weapons has not been proportional to the severity of the issue nor has it been adequate enough to reduce the human suffering caused by these arms. The illicit trade, illegal transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons continue to cause significant loss of life and contribute to armed conflicts and armed violence. Illicit trafficking also brings about more instability and insecurity, undermines the rule of law and facilitates illegal activities by armed groups, terrorist acts and transnational organized crime.
3. In this context, the Third Review Conference is our opportunity to address some issues that are not currently present in the outcome document of the conference and yet are crucial for it to have the desired outcome on the ground, such as the following:
 - Enhancing the scope of the Programme of Action to include ammunition, parts and components and technology related to small arms and light weapons, as well as explosives and improvised explosive devices
 - Establishing shared-responsibility approaches between States to strengthen cross-border controls and management in order to effectively combat the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons across borders



- Strengthening the capacity of States to control and verify the authorized end use and end users of transferred and nationally manufactured small arms and light weapons, and preventing hand-to-hand flows and easy access throughout the complete arms life cycle to eradicate their diversion to unauthorized recipients
 - Improving the transfer control systems of States and national regulations and standards on the use and possession of small arms and light weapons by all recipients, including civilians, to prevent their misuse
 - Strengthening national measures that promote a culture of peace and education on disarmament
 - Developing formal cooperation mechanisms to expeditiously and consistently address diversion alerts and to agree on joint mitigation measures
 - Enhancing international cooperation through the designation of technical focal points to effectively liaise with international organizations and States in order to develop, based on a shared-responsibility approach, cross-cutting responses to related illegal activities in the area of transnational organized crime, including illicit financial flows and terrorist activities
 - Establishing a voluntary peer review mechanism concerning national measures to implement the Programme of Action and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons
 - Establishing a mandate for the Secretary-General to prepare a report containing proposals and recommendations on the need to revitalize the global strategy to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, with special consideration given to routes and elements that facilitate illicit flows and diversion to illicit markets
 - Promoting coherence and effectiveness in the implementation of relevant international instruments and adopting a multidimensional and comprehensive approach for the fulfilment of international commitments to prevent and combat illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons, in accordance with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Relevant instruments include the Arms Trade Treaty, the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, the sustaining peace agenda and regional instruments such as the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials.
4. Therefore, the outcome document of the Third Review Conference should include the elements outlined below.

Final declaration

5. We, the participating States, should:
- Recognize that preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons is an indispensable requirement for peace, security and sustainable development
 - Recognize that sustainable development, peace and security are mutually reinforcing conditions that help save lives. Violence, insecurity, injustice, inequality, corruption, poor governance and illicit financial and arms flows demand immediate and unequivocal answers. All lives should be transformed

for the better as we achieve success in building peaceful, just and inclusive societies that provide equal access to justice and that are based on respect for human rights, on effective rule of law and good governance at all levels and on transparent, effective and accountable institutions

- Reaffirm the outcome document of the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda, entitled “Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”, and target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals, which underlines our commitment to significantly reduce illicit arms flows by 2030
- Commit to work towards the implementation and to build upon the achievements of the 2030 Agenda, the Programme of Action and all relevant instruments, strategies and programmes in a balanced and integrated manner, within and in collaboration with the United Nations system, with a view to realizing the Sustainable Development Goals in order to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons in all its aspects
- Commit to the full implementation of the Programme of Action by aligning our efforts in a coherent and effective manner to achieve peace and security, focusing on maintaining peace and sustainable development agendas by combating the negative effects and consequences of the illicit arms trade
- Resolve to enhance international cooperation for capacity-building at all levels and work together to strengthen national regulatory frameworks at all levels as a means to further increase transparency and accountability to combat the illicit arms trade on the basis of common interest and mutual benefit
- Decide to enhance international cooperation to increase the coordination of information and cooperation on legal activities aimed at promoting the rule of law at the national and international levels in the fulfilment of the 2030 Agenda and target 16.4 of the Goals.

Programme of Action

6. We, the participating States, should:

- Resolve to adopt a comprehensive and holistic approach with respect to the means of integrating the sustainable development dimension of tackling the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons
- Decide to develop practical measures, concrete policies and actions with the aim of fostering coherence between the 2030 Agenda, the Programme of Action and relevant international and regional instruments using an overall strategic approach and enhancing the efficiency of the United Nations system
- Identify synergies and cross-cutting areas of opportunity that can be built upon and make a critical contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 16.4
- Welcome the endorsement of indicator 16.4.2 of the Goals
- Undertake to improve national and global capacity for data collection on the proportion of seized small arms and light weapons that are recorded and traced, in accordance with international standards
- Identify additional indicators within the Programme of Action to provide numerical targets to better inform the measurement of progress made in achieving Goal 16.

Follow-up and review

7. We, the participating States, should:

- Recognize that international cooperation and assistance, including capacity-building and technical, triangular and South-South cooperation, are of critical importance to advancing the implementation of the Programme of Action, the International Tracing Instrument, and target 16.4, and, therefore, decide that this topic should be part of the discussion at the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument review meetings
 - Stress the importance of identifying critical implementation actions to build on the measurement of progress and contributions to the 2030 Agenda and potential challenges to be considered at the Biennial Meetings 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 in 2020, and ensure, to the extent possible, the participation of all actors involved and other stakeholders, particularly representatives of civil society.
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