



PARLIAMENTARY FORUM  
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

**“Connecting the Dots: Enhancing implementation of the UN PoA and the Women, Peace & Security and 2030 Agendas – through increased parliamentary engagement and action in international processes”**

Summary - Recommendations on parliamentary actions for the enhanced implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UN PoA), the Women, Peace and Security and 2030 Agendas

Seventh Biennial Meeting of States (BMS 7)

Side-event hosted by the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons (PFSALW) taking place on July 29 2021<sup>1</sup>.

Two regional webinars, one in [Southeast Asia](#) in cooperation with the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly (AIPA) and one in Africa have been held this year to identify recommendations for parliamentary action towards enhancing the implementation of key arms control instruments addressing the prevention and reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)- related violence; the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UN PoA), the Women, Peace and Security Agenda (WPS) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2030 Agenda). The webinars are part of the run-up and preparation for the UN PoA BMS 7, and forms part of PFSALW’s ongoing “Connecting the Dots” project funded by UNSCAR, building on results of PFSALW’s previous “Connecting the Dots” projects for 2017-2018 in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) and Southeast Asia (SEA).

Vital areas for parliamentary action related to the three key roles of a parliamentarian were identified in the [Global Parliamentary Action Plan](#) from 2018. This Plan is an aggregated, global version based on the respective plan adopted by parliamentarians at the regional seminars, based on the discussions during the aforementioned “Connecting the Dots” project. The Plan plays a key part in the achievement of the objectives of the projects; to increase parliamentary engagement, participation and action in the implementation of the United Nations Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) on WPS in combination with advancing the implementation of the UN PoA and the 2030 Agenda.

The three key parliamentary roles are:

1. **Legislation** is needed to ensure universalisation, domestication and implementation of the instruments. This includes drafting legislation, as well as the legislative procedures to discuss, evaluate and pass bills that allow the ratification of treaties.
2. **Oversight** is required to ensure that legislative decisions made regarding the instruments are implemented; it is necessary for holding governments accountable and to secure cooperation between relevant agencies during the implementation of said instruments.
3. **Awareness raising** ensures the implementation of key instruments at different levels by creating political will and public understanding. This mainly takes place between parliamentarians and the constituents but can also be directed towards parliamentary colleagues on the national and international level.

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<sup>1</sup> The side event is realised in cooperation with the ASEAN Inter-Parliamentary Assembly and with the generous support of the Swedish Ministry for Foreign Affairs as a sponsor.

Based on the [Parliamentary Action Plan for Southeast Asia approved in 2018](#), and the key parliamentary roles stated above, the main additional recommendations for parliamentary actions concluded at the [regional webinar for Southeast Asia](#) on March 16 2021 are as follows:

**Legislation:**

- Ensure adequate funding for projects implementing relevant SALW control measures to reflect governments' commitment to the instruments.
- Cooperate to close national and regional arms control loopholes that allows for the illicit transfer of SALW.
- Implement wide cooperation measures with civil society, security forces and other relevant actors to enable the inclusive legislation necessary for the prevention of the multifaceted challenges presented by illicit SALW.

**Oversight:**

- Improve data collection systems to allow for the collection of gender and age disaggregated data as well as data on illicit trafficking of SALW to ensure enhanced oversight and by extension more effective legislation.
- Ensure civilian authorities' oversight of security forces by strengthening accountability and implementing stricter measures to prevent SALW diversion from government supplies.
- Enhance the operational capabilities of security forces in the recovery, accounting and inventory of SALW.

**Awareness raising:**

- Amplify the voices of underrepresented groups, including women, and increase public awareness on the negative societal effects of SALW-related violence through cooperation with key stakeholders, to ensure more inclusive and informed SALW control legislation.
- Implement capacity building efforts and training related to human rights and gender-based approaches towards SALW control within the state apparatus.
- Make use of inter-parliamentary networks to exchange perspectives, initiate international cooperation and to coordinate future SALW control actions.

Based on the [Parliamentary Action Plan for Africa approved in 2019](#), the additions to recommendations for parliamentary actions concluded at the regional webinar for Africa on June 24 2021 are as follows:

**Legislation:**

- More rigid laws to prevent and reduce the uncontrolled proliferation of SALW across the region as illicit arms' trafficking across borders is an important common problem.
- Adopt a broad range of legislative measures addressing all relevant aspects related to the uncontrolled flow of SALW, including terrorism, wildlife trafficking, natural resources and uncontrolled production and transportation of SALW.
- Ensure that parliamentarians have access to legal expertise to enhance the capacity to adopt adequate legislation related to armed violence prevention.

**Oversight:**

- Ensure that the gender equality perspective is considered in the implementation of policies and that women are given equal opportunities to contribute to the implementation given their vital roles in peace and security processes.

- Enhanced coordination and support among parliamentarians across borders in the task of overseeing regional compliance and implementation of international instruments related to SALW control.
- Improve the transition mechanisms when a new parliament and government enter into force, to ensure that the previously accumulated knowledge on status of treaties and plans for future ratification/implementation of instruments is passed on.

**Awareness raising:**

- Increase public awareness on the negative societal effects of SALW and preventive measures, including in remote communities with low literacy rate.
- Spread knowledge of the important actions taken by all relevant stakeholders to make use of the synergy effects between the different efforts through inclusive communication channels such as multi-stake holder consultations.
- Raise awareness among parliamentarians and government representatives on the serious consequences of SALW-related violence and additional measures the actors can take to improve the situation and to strengthen the political will.