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**Seventh Biennial Meeting 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**

New York, 26–30 July 2021

**DRAFT 3**

The provisionally agreed agenda for BMS7 provides guidance for the draft outcome.<sup>1</sup>

**Outcome of the Seventh Biennial Meeting 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**

1. In the context of the Seventh Biennial Meeting 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, States considered key challenges and opportunities relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Instrument at the national, regional and global levels for the purposes of preventing and combating the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients.
2. States highlight that 2021 marks the 20th anniversary since the adoption of the Programme of Action and recognize the important contribution the instrument has made to the dialogue and concerted actions of States to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.
3. States reaffirm the respect for and commitment to the principles set out in the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and their continued relevance and vital importance as global frameworks to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.
4. States reiterate the need for the full and effective implementation of all the provisions of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument as well as the provisions contained in the outcome documents of previous Biennial Meetings of States, Review Conferences and relevant General Assembly resolutions.

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<sup>1</sup> <https://meetings.unoda.org/meeting/poa-bms7-2021>

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5. States reaffirm their respect for and commitment to the obligations under international law and the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, including its eighth to eleventh preambular paragraphs.
  6. States reiterate that Governments bear primary the responsibility for preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects and underline the importance of States to assume strong national ownership in the full and effective implementation of all their relevant international obligations, in accordance with the sovereignty of States.
  7. States note that to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, including preventing and combating the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients, concerted efforts at the national, regional and global levels are required.
  8. States recognize that national-level efforts should ensure multi-sectoral and inter-departmental collaboration across relevant entities.
  9. States underscore, in particular, the valuable efforts undertaken at the regional and subregional levels in support of national efforts for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument.
  10. States recognize the need for strengthened participation of women in all decision-making and implementation processes relating to the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and reaffirm the importance of mainstreaming gender considerations into their implementation efforts to address the differential impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys.
  11. States underscore the important role which civil society plays in supporting States' efforts for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and recognize the positive contributions youth can bring in this regard.
  12. States continue to stress that the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument remains uneven and that challenges and obstacles still stand in the way of their full and effective implementation and underline the need for enhanced and effective international cooperation and assistance.
  13. States recognize the importance of preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade of small arms and light weapons in efforts to prevent and combat domestic and transnational organized crime, terrorism, drug and human trafficking, money laundering, and the illegal exploitation of natural resources.
  14. States further recognize that the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and its International Tracing Instrument support conflict prevention, crisis management and peacebuilding policies and programmes which involve all relevant parties, including victims and survivors impacted by armed violence.
  15. States acknowledge that the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing instruments is vital for sustainable peace, security, socioeconomic development and the protection of lives, in line with the Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament.
  16. States further acknowledge the importance of addressing the root causes of armed conflict and armed violence in combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.
  17. States express grave concern that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, their excessive accumulation and uncontrolled proliferation continue to undermine the rule of law, respect for international humanitarian law and international human rights, and to impede the provision of humanitarian assistance.
  18. States recognize that recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, such as modular weapons and the use of new materials such as polymers, have implications for the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and should be addressed in a timely manner.

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19. States recall paragraph 38 of the International Tracing Instrument and take note of the dedicated, informal consultations on opportunities and challenges posed by recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacture, technology and design, convened on 25 June 2021, pursuant to the report of the Third Review Conference, that stressed the importance of consultations on this topic with a view to facilitating consensus.

20. States note that diversion risks exist at each stage of the life cycle of a weapon, including manufacture, before and during transfer, post-delivery storage in stockpiles and end-use or disposal.

21. States further note that diversion to the illicit market includes illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients, inter alia cross-border trafficking without appropriate authorization, unauthorized State retransfer or the violation of arms embargoes imposed by the Security Council.

22. States recognize the need for continued dialogue and concerted action at the national, regional and international levels on the implementation of adequate small arms and light weapons control measures to prevent the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients.

23. States also recognize the ongoing, governmental expert process established by General Assembly resolution 72/55, which was adopted by consensus, mandated to address problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus, taking into account discussions in open, informal consultations held throughout 2018 and 2019.

**A. Consideration of 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, at the national level, the regional level, and the global level, including considerations to preventing and combating the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients**

Bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions, States resolve to undertake the following measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacture and trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, as well as their diversion and illicit international transfer to unauthorized recipients:

**1. At the national level**

24. To put in place, where they do not exist, adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to exercise effective national control over the whole life cycle of small arms and light weapons and their parts and components, including their manufacture, within their areas of jurisdiction, including over the export, import, transit, trans-shipment or retransfer of such weapons.

25. To enforce and apply adequate national controls to the entire life cycle of small arms and light weapons, in accordance with national legal frameworks, to minimize the risk of diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients.

26. To establish, in accordance with national legal frameworks, as a criminal offence the illicit manufacture of small arms and light weapons, including illicit manufacturing under expired licenses and the illicit upgrading of weapons without appropriate licenses, and to effectively enforce applicable laws, regulations and administrative procedures.

27. To strictly comply with all applicable obligations related to the international transfer of small arms and light weapons and to put in place, where they do not exist, and apply measures that would reduce diversion risks to illicit markets, including to terrorists and other unauthorized recipients, inter alia export risk assessments, end-user and/or end-use certification and post-shipment verifications.

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28. To make every effort to address the issue of unauthorized re-export in relevant small arms and light weapons transfer agreements, including by stipulating the parameters for the timing of re-exports and the need to consult the original exporting State before the retransfer of those weapons.
  29. To ensure that adequate steps, based on risk assessments, are taken during export, import and transit of small arms and light weapons to secure their transport, including by air and sea, with a view to preventing their diversion and illicit trade.
  30. To deny the supply of small arms and light weapons where there is an overriding risk that they could be used to commit or facilitate serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.
  31. To take effective measures to prevent and combat the illicit brokering of small arms and light weapons.
  32. In accordance with the provisions of the Programme of Action, to redouble national efforts to provide for the safe, secure, comprehensive and effective management of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons held by government to prevent and combat the diversion of those weapons.
  33. To ensure that adequate marking, record-keeping, inventory management and accounting control measures are in place, in accordance with national laws and regulations, to enable States to identify the diversion of small arms and light weapons from their stockpiles and the implementation of appropriate measures when losses are detected.
  34. To continue to regularly assess national stockpiles held by armed forces, police, or any other body authorized to hold small arms and light weapons for surpluses and to responsibly dispose of stocks that no longer meet operational needs, preferably through destruction, and to ensure the safe, secure, comprehensive and effective management of such stocks until disposal.
  35. To acknowledge that States that apply provisions of the Programme of Action to small arms and light weapons ammunition can integrate applicable policies and practices into their small arms and light weapons control efforts with a view to strengthening the implementation of the Programme of Action across all sectors.
  36. To strengthen national organizational capabilities and to allocate adequate resources to mitigate diversion risks, bearing in mind the importance of a whole-of-government approach which involves all relevant branches of government, including police and judiciary, customs, and arms export and import licensing authorities.
  37. To support long-term, standardized, systematic and disaggregated data collection and analysis, including small arms surveys, to identify trafficking routes and patterns, diversion points and other methods of concealing weapons for the purpose of trafficking to inform evidence based, effective policy making and programming to prevent and combat the diversion and illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients.
  38. To enhance coordination and cooperation to identify and act against groups and individuals involved in the illegal manufacture, trade, stockpiling, transfer, possession, as well as financing for acquisition, of the illicit small arms and light weapons, in particular illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients.
  39. To enhance national inter-agency information exchange systems to prevent the diversion of small arms and light weapons, including but not limited to national small arms and light weapons registries and licensing authorities, customs, border control, law enforcement and criminal justice services which enhance operational efficiency.

***Addressing emerging challenges related to the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons***

40. To apply relevant national laws, regulations and administrative procedures to replica, blank-firing or toy guns to prevent the illicit conversion into functional weapons.
41. To share national experiences in addressing the problem of illicitly converted small arms and light weapons with a view to developing common understandings of the kinds of items that may be easily and illicitly

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converted, including replica and blank-firing small arms and light weapons, and consider specific and appropriate responses to the challenges that they pose.

42. To ensure that relevant national laws, regulations and administrative procedures applicable to the small arms trade apply to transactions conducted through the Internet.

43. To apply existing provisions of the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument to weapons manufactured using 3D printing (additive manufacturing), including unmarked privately manufactured ghost guns, and other similar models that use novel technologies.

44. To combat the illicit manufacture of small arms related new technologies, including additive manufacturing technologies, inter alia by strengthening the protection of intellectual property rights relating to small arms and light weapons and national capacities to enforce them.

45. To take effective measures to prevent and combat the illicit online trade in small arms and light weapons taking place within the areas of jurisdiction of concerned States, including measures to ensure effective control, consistent with domestic law, over their export, import and transit.

46. To put in place, where they do not exist, national laws, regulations and administrative procedures and practical measures to detect postal shipments which include illicitly trafficked and/or disassembled weapons.

47. To undertake, to the greatest extent possible the destruction of surplus weapons, which should be undertaken and verified by authorized entities only.

48. To ensure, if weapons are deactivated, that standards as close as possible to destruction are applied and that weapons have been rendered permanently inoperable; and exchange information, tools and existing standards in this regard, with a view to identifying good practices, including certificates of irreversible deactivations which can supplement existing records and the requirement that deactivation is undertaken and verified by authorized entities only.

### ***Strengthening measurability and implementation of the Programme of Action***

49. To seriously consider the establishment of voluntary national and regional targets in support of the Programme of Action, with a view to strengthening national and regional ownership and the measurability of implementation progress.

50. To encourage the development and implementation of national action plans, capacity building programmes and/or other national policies which address all stages of the life-cycle of a weapon, in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action, and which enable States to define national priorities and targets, and to coordinate the implementation of strategies, stakeholder involvement and resources allocation.

51. To ensure the inclusion of sex-disaggregated data on small arms and light weapons and their differentiated impact on victims when States establish voluntary national and regional targets.

52. To make full use of national reports to assess progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action, to build confidence and promote transparency, as well as to identify needs and opportunities for international cooperation and assistance.

53. To identify and take advantage of complementarities in the national implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and other relevant sub-regional, regional and global instruments to which a State is a Party, including on national reporting.

54. To strengthen the cooperation with civil society, including women's civil society organizations, youth, victims of armed violence, parliamentarians, industry and the private sector for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and International Tracing Instrument.

## **2. At the regional level**

55. To encourage the adoption of regional and sub-regional instruments, roadmaps, mechanisms, targets and good practices to complement the global process and support the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument at the national level.

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56. To reinforce coordination between relevant regional and subregional organizations and mechanisms, on the one hand, and States and international organizations, on the other.

57. To reinforce subregional, regional and cross-regional cooperation, coordination and information-sharing mechanisms, including the sharing of good practices and peer-to-peer exchanges, with a view to preventing and combating the diversion of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients across borders.

58. To promote standardized data collection within regions to strengthen the comparability of data and to enhance exchange of information between law enforcement agencies, customs, and export and import licensing authorities and with transit states across regions, including through regional roadmaps.

### **3. At the global level**

#### ***Programme of Action in the context of conflict and post-conflict settings***

59. To ensure the safe, secure and effective management of all small arms and light weapon stockpiles in conflict and post-conflict situations from the time weapons are imported into such contexts.

60. To prevent diversion and accidental explosions by safeguarding national stockpiles through their safe, secure and efficient management, including record-keeping, regular inventories, secure transportation, surplus/obsolete disposal and the implementation of appropriate control measures when losses are detected to reduce the risk of diversion.

61. To encourage and enable States emerging from conflict, in cooperation with other States, multilateral organizations and civil society, to build sustainable capacity which enables national authorities to fully and effectively implement the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

62. To reduce the illicit flows of small arms and light weapons through weapons recovery and voluntary surrender programmes.

63. To encourage the consideration of provisions related to preventing and combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in the relevant mandates of United Nations and regional peace support operations, in particular the collection, identification, recording, tracing and destruction of illicit small arms and light weapons and support to national capacity building efforts to prevent and combat the diversion of and illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

64. To strengthen national capacities to fully comply with arms embargoes decided by the United Nations Security Council in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations, inter alia, by supporting the work of UN panels of experts that monitor arms embargoes.

#### ***Armed violence and the broader peace, security, and sustainable development nexus***

65. To ensure that the national, regional and global implementation of the Programme of Action is integrated into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including all relevant Goals and targets, in particular Goal 16 on peace, justice and inclusive institutions, and efforts undertaken as part of the Decade for Action.

66. To highlight progress made under indicator 16.4.2. of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, in order to minimize administrative reporting burdens.

67. To address the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons through national development strategies and frameworks, where they exist.

68. To encourage coordination between national authorities responsible for planning, implementation, collecting data and reporting on illicit small arms and light weapons policies and programmes with, inter alia, those entities responsible for sustainable development.

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69. To ensure the equal, full and effective participation of women, including in leadership roles and as agents of change, in all policy, planning and implementation processes, mechanisms and fora and at all levels related to the implementation of the Programme of Action, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the Women, Peace and Security agenda as well as General Assembly Resolution 65/69 on women, disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control.

70. To encourage coordination between national authorities and the harmonization of national action plans and other national policies on small arms and light weapons and the implementation of Security Council resolution 1325 (2000) respectively, taking into account the importance of the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action to the achievement of all four pillars of the women, peace and security agenda – prevention, protection, participation and relief and recovery.

71. To take account of the differing impacts of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys by conducting disaggregated data collection by sex, age and disability and utilizing analysis mechanisms to inform evidence-based gender-responsive policy-making and programming with a view to strengthening the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action at all levels.

72. To exchange national experiences, lessons learned and good practices on the mainstreaming of gender dimensions into policies and programmes designed to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

73. To encourage States in a position to do so to increase funding for relevant policies and programmes, advocacy, education, training and research that take account of the differing impacts of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on women, men, girls and boys.

74. To recognize the link between the implementation of the Programme of Action and the prevention of gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence with a view to preventing the use of small arms and light weapons in such contexts.

75. To report gender-relevant information and initiatives as part of the national reports submitted on the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

76. To take account of the disproportionate impact of the illicit trade on small arms and light weapons on women, children and youth and to develop, where they do not exist, or strengthen response mechanisms in line with international standards.

**B. Consideration of the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, including an exchange of views on the implications of the developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, taking into account all views and proposals of Member States, as well as relevant deliberations during previous meetings and relevant GA resolutions adopted by consensus.**

Bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions, States resolve to undertake the following measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacture and trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, as well as their diversion and illicit international transfer to unauthorized recipients:

77. To recognize the importance of developing or establishing strict national regulatory frameworks for the marking, recording and tracing of small arms and light weapons, in line with the International Tracing Instrument, including to prevent and combat the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients.

78. To reinforce efforts to mark, record and trace small arms and light weapons in accordance with the provisions of the International Tracing Instrument and to maintain, develop or establish effective national legal frameworks for this purpose.

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79. To redouble efforts to submit national reports on the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument and to take advantage of them to support data collection for relevant indicators, in particular 16.4.2, relating to the Sustainable Development Goals.

80. To ensure that the national, regional and global implementation of the International Tracing Instrument is integrated into the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including all relevant Goals and targets, in particular Goal 16 on peace, justice and inclusive institutions, and efforts undertaken as part of the Decade for Action.

81. To ensure retrievability of all relevant data to enhance the traceability and response time for tracing requests.

82. To consult records within the State where the small arm or light weapon was found and/or consult with the State of manufacture of that weapon when tracing illicit small arms and light weapons.

83. To reinforce the judicial and law enforcement cooperation between States on tracing requests to facilitate criminal investigations and criminal justice response.

84. To assist States to build sustainable national capacity for weapons identification and tracing with a view to enhance the submission and responses of tracing requests and covering issues such as the interpretation of markings and the determination of the likely traceability of a weapon.

85. To encourage the consideration of provisions related to the International Tracing Instrument in the mandates of United Nations and regional peace support operations, in particular marking, recording-keeping and tracing of small arms and light weapons.

***Recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, in particular polymer and modular weapons, and ways of addressing them***

86. To reinforce efforts to implement the commitments on marking, record-keeping and tracing contained in the International Tracing Instrument regardless of the materials, design or methods used in the manufacture of small arms and light weapons.

87. To recognize the existing technological divide between States and the differing impacts recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design have.

88. To consider recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design in the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and to strengthen normative frameworks, where needed, and cooperation between law enforcement agencies so as to prevent unauthorized recipients, including criminals and terrorists, from acquiring small arms and light weapons.

89. To continue exchanging views on recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, in particular polymer and modular weapons, and on ways of addressing them, through the establishment of an open-ended technical expert group that is tasked to develop action-oriented and consensually-agreed next steps on a way forward for consideration by the Fourth Review Conference.

90. The open-ended technical expert group is tasked to, inter alia:

- a. Consider durable and cost-effective marking options in light of recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, in particular polymer weapons.
- b. Assess marking, record-keeping and tracing requirements for modular weapons to ensure adequate identification, record-keeping and tracing in line with the International Tracing Instrument.
- c. Consider the implications of polymer weapons and 3D printed weapons on customs and border control, bearing in mind existing equipment and procedures.

91. To consider including national experiences on recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design in the biennial national reports submitted on the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument.



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92. To request the Secretariat, within existing resources, to develop a good practice document on marking practices for modular and polymer weapons taking into account the views of all Member States and the role of manufacturers, exporting and importing States.

93. To strengthen cooperation with the private sector and industry for the development of technologies that improve the marking, record-keeping, tracing and safe, secure and effective storage of small arms and light weapons.

94. To take advantage, as appropriate and where available, of opportunities presented by recent technologies such as data matrix codes, radio frequency identification, and biometrics to strengthen the identification and record-keeping of small arms and light weapons.

**C. Consideration of international cooperation and assistance, including capacity-building, for the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, and including the proposals on the establishment of a dedicated fellowship training programme on small arms and light weapons as well as national, regional and global target-setting, where applicable**

Bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions, States resolve to undertake the following measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacture and trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, as well as their diversion and illicit international transfer to unauthorized recipients:

95. To note the need for adequate, measurable, sustainable, and timely international cooperation and assistance to ensure the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

96. To reinforce efforts to strengthen adequate, effective and sustainable international cooperation and assistance measures, including improved funding arrangements, technology transfer and adequate training and support programmes, as well as strong national ownership, in order to accelerate the attainment of the objectives of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument.

97. To reinforce the common understanding that international cooperation and assistance should be coherent and sustainable throughout the entire life-cycle of small arms and light weapons.

98. To ensure that international cooperation and assistance are underpinned by national ownership, involve national authorities in the planning, implementation and evaluation, and support government structures, processes, capabilities and normative frameworks, while taking into account the needs and priorities of the recipient State.

99. To increase the measurability of the impact of international cooperation and assistance in small arms and light weapons control.

***International cooperation to prevent and combat the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients***

100. To explore ways to ensure and further strengthen comprehensive international cooperation.

101. To deepen cooperation with organizations such as INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization to prevent and combat the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients, including to enable international investigations and prosecutions within the areas of jurisdiction of concerned States.

102. To continue to strengthen, in accordance with the International Tracing Instrument, the exchange and use of information on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, as well as on diversion to illicit markets, including, as relevant, through the voluntary use of web-based databases, such as those of INTERPOL (the

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INTERPOL Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System and the INTERPOL Ballistic Information Network) and other relevant information exchange mechanisms.

103. To make use of bilateral and multilateral cooperation to exchange information and experiences, including existing challenges, to expose and cut off illicit arms trafficking channels and to improve the capacity for risk assessments in arms export control processes.

104. To encourage States in a position to do so, to share information and experiences on measures taken in response to cases of unauthorized re-export and non-compliance with end-user certificates.

105. To work with judicial and law enforcement, including in manufacturing, exporting and importing States, through bilateral, regional or international cooperation to identify and address diversion points into the illicit market.

***International assistance to strengthen the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument through assistance, including preventing and combating the diversion and the illicit international transfer of small arms and light weapons to unauthorized recipients***

106. To explore ways to ensure and further strengthen comprehensive international assistance related to all aspects of the life cycle management of small arms and light weapons.

107. To encourage States in a position to do so, to share expertise, provide financial support, transfer knowledge, resources, equipment and technology, and build institutional capacities to prevent diversion, in particular, loss and theft, and accidental explosions by safeguarding national stockpiles through their safe, secure and efficient management,

108. To incorporate marking, recordkeeping, and tracing consistent with the International Tracing Instrument and trainings, capacity building and assistance programmes.

109. To build expertise through capacity building and training to ensure that national authorities can benefit from opportunities and address challenges related to new technologies.

110. To establish or strengthen subregional, regional and cross-regional cooperation, coordination and information-sharing mechanisms in order to enhance the effectiveness of assistance programmes, strengthen the matching of needs with resources, improve dialogue between donors and recipients, avoid duplications and maximize complementarities.

111. To encourage States in a position to do so, in collaboration with requesting States, to build sustainable capacity on the identification of weapons and other issues related to recent developments in small arms and light weapons manufacturing, technology and design, in particular polymer and modular weapons, and ways of addressing them.

112. To encourage States in a position to do so, to embed technology transfers in broader cooperation frameworks aiming at building sustainable capacities for the life cycle management of small arms and light weapons, through the establishment of appropriate normative frameworks, dedicated structures and processes and including adequate training, equipment, personnel, financial and infrastructure management, in line with international standards.

113. To seriously consider establishing voluntary national and regional targets in support of the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, with a view to ensuring that national and regional ownership and priorities underpin resource mobilization, assistance requests and the assistance programmes.

114. To request the Secretariat to present options, for consideration by Member States at the Eight Biennial Meeting of States, for the establishment of a dedicated fellowship training programme on small arms and light weapons in order to strengthen technical knowledge and expertise in areas related to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, particularly in developing.

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115. To encourage States in a position to do so to contribute to the Secretary-General's Saving Lives Entity (SALIENT), within the peacebuilding fund, dedicated to providing sustainable, cross-sectional, multi-year programming focused on eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in settings of conflict and pervasive crime.

116. To request the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States, international and regional organisations and other stakeholders for enhancing international cooperation and assistance modalities and procedures in the framework of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, taking into account good practice and lessons learned, and to present recommendations for consideration by Member States at the Eight Biennial Meeting of States.

#### **D. Exchange of views on BMS8**

117. To recall the decision, pursuant to the schedule of meetings for the period from 2018 to 2024 agreed upon at the third Review Conference, to convene a one-week biennial meeting of States in 2022 and the fourth 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 in 2024, to be preceded by a preparatory committee meeting in early 2024 of not more than five days.

#### **E. Other issues and topics of relevance for the effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument**