I. **Organization and focal point**

1. **Organization name:** International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL)
   
   a. **Address:** 200 Quai Charles de Gaulle, 69006 Lyon, France
   b. **Organizational email:** iarms@interpol.int
   c. **Homepage (relevant website):** www.interpol.int

2. **SALW Focal Point**
   
   a. **(Name)** Line Haidar
   b. **Title** Ms.
   c. **Section/Department** Firearms Programme
   d. **Email** L.haidar@interpol.int
   e. **Telephone** +33 6 11 87 51 81

3. **Applicable (sub)region** N/A

4. **Member States in the (sub)region** 195 member countries

5. **General mandate / purpose of the organization**

   As the leading international police organization, INTERPOL is best placed to connect law enforcement for a safer world. Through enhanced cooperation and innovation on police and security matters, INTERPOL facilitates the widest possible communication and mutual assistance between all criminal law enforcement authorities throughout our 195 member countries. Via operational support and capacity building, INTERPOL provides cutting-edge solutions to global challenges in policing and security.

II. **Regional Instruments**

6. **Regional instrument(s) relevant for the implementation of the Programme of Action (if applicable)**

According to **Resolution 9/2 (2018) of the Conference of the Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime**, Member States committed to provide one another with the broadest possible cooperation in tracing firearms and in investigating and prosecuting their illicit manufacturing and trafficking, including by responding in a timely and effective manner to international cooperation requests relating to tracing and criminal investigations, and in this regard, to consider making use of tracing or facilitation mechanisms, including the INTERPOL illicit Arms Records and tracing Management System (iARMS).

**The EU Strategy Against Illicit Firearms, Small Arms and Light Weapons and their Ammunition**, adopted by the Council at its 3652nd meeting held on 19 November 2018, proposes a number of action areas that underscore the importance of in their strategy. Under this strategy, the EU outlines a number of actions for its implementation including the use of INTERPOL Policing Capability of iARMS.

During the **24th INTERPOL Americas Regional Conference** held on 10-12 July 2018, participating States committed to enhancing the use of iARMS and other the Policing Capabilities offered by the INTERPOL
Firearms Programme in order to address the cycle of violence posed by firearms. The American region has also been a forerunner in addressing the issue of illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, with the adoption of the **Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Material (CIFTA)** in 1997. Despite decades of intensive efforts to curb illicit firearms trafficking and misuse, the continent continues to rank highest in terms of firearms related violence.

Considering the detriment to security and economic development posed by the proliferation of firearms in the region, in March 2020, Caribbean States gathered in Nassau, The Bahamas, to discuss a **Roadmap on priority actions to combat the illicit proliferation of firearms and ammunition across the Caribbean in a sustainable manner by 2030 (Caribbean Firearms Roadmap)**. The ultimate mission of the Roadmap is to make the Caribbean safer by implementing consistent strategies with international norms and Caribbean context, in order to control, eradicate, prevent and prosecute the illicit possession, proliferation and misuse of firearms and ammunition. INTERPOL support Caribbean States to effectively and sustainably achieve the goals envisaged by the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap through national and regional workshops, capacity building courses, operational support and strategy. The use of the INTERPOL Firearms Programme Policing Capabilities is explicitly included as an indicator of achievement under Goal 3 of the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap.

Additionally, iARMS supports the implementation of the **Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Convention on Small Arms, Light Weapons, their ammunition and other associated material** while equally contributing to the implementation of the **African Union's Silencing the Gun initiative** as well as the **Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials in the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Region** through projects dedicated to capacity building activities and operational support.

### III. UN Programme of Action

7. **Mandates and roles relevant for the implementation of the Programme of Action:**
   a) International cooperation and data sharing between 195 member countries, including through the iARMS database of illicit firearms
   b) Operational and investigative law enforcement support
   c) Training and capacity building
   d) Criminal intelligence analysis
   e) SALW identification, record-keeping, marking, tracing
   f) Standard operating procedures and protocols based on best practices
   g) Inter-agency cooperation, including with:
      - European Union
      - European Multidisciplinary Platform Against Criminal Threats (EMPACT)
      - European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Training (CEPOL)
      - Organization of American States (OAS)
      - World Customs Organization (WCO)
      - the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)
      - the UN Developmental Programme (UNDP)
      - the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)
      - Europol
      - Frontex
      - Conflict Armament Research (CAR)
      - Small Arms Survey (SAS)
- The South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC)
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)

8. Meetings
   a. participation in global UN PoA meetings
      INTERPOL participated in BMS6 and BMS7.
   
   b. regular meetings relevant to PoA process organized by your organization
      i. frequency and timing of meeting(s) The INTERPOL Firearms Programme promotes the use of the International Tracing Instrument in its capacity building trainings held year-round.
      ii. timing of meetings aligned with the UN PoA process N/A
      iii. capacity of participants (e.g. national focal points / national points of contact) National focal points in all member countries, some with more developed capacity than others due to enhanced cooperation under dedicated projects.

9. Challenges related to implementation of the PoA for States of your (sub)region
   a) Lack of infrastructure in member countries (offices, equipment, access to INTERPOL databases);
   b) Lack of harmonized and standardized national procedures in regards to SALW trafficking and firearms-related crime investigations;
   c) Lack of sufficient knowledge and use of INTERPOL Policing Capabilities assisting SALW trafficking investigations;
   d) Lack of technical capacity to conduct international SALW investigations.
   e) Lack of coordination between different law enforcement agencies at the national and international level regarding SALW investigations;
   f) Lack of national specialized firearms focal points responsible for the collection, analysis and sharing of intelligence on SALW trafficking and firearms-related crimes

10. Targets/goals/roadmaps for States of your (sub)region and/or your organization, which are consistent with PoA implementation.
    a) Increased awareness of the SALW issue and its international responses, and the adoption of adequate policy and operational frameworks in line with relevant international and regional instruments;
    b) Enhanced capacity of law enforcement agencies to detect, prevent and investigate SALW trafficking and firearms-related crimes;
    c) Improved criminal justice system capacity to prosecute SALW trafficking and related offences;
    d) Enhanced law enforcement inter-agency cooperation and information exchanged at national and international levels through iARMS, IFRT, and IBIN
    e) Effective international cooperation and sharing of information and good practices among the community of firearms and organized crime practitioners on the prevention and combat of SALW trafficking and related crimes, through regular exchanges of knowledge and experience;
f) Effective monitoring of illicit trafficking flows through enhanced data collection and analysis on SALW and related matters.

g) Collection of firearms marking practices and to complement the INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table to facilitate firearms identification

IV. International assistance

11. International assistance (including regional assistance)
   a. assistance provided to member states during the reporting period

The International Tracing Instrument (ITI) specifically mentions INTERPOL and encourages States to cooperate with INTERPOL to support its effective implementation. The use of iARMS database also supports the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) by providing a unique centralized system that facilitates record keeping and international cooperation and enables exchange of information on the transnational movement of illicit firearms.

INTERPOL, with the financial support of the European Union (EU) through the Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP), launched in 2013 the INTERPOL illicit Arms Records and tracing Management System (iARMS). iARMS allows records-keeping and querying of illicit firearms (stolen, lost and suspected to be trafficked/smuggled) as well as the submission of international trace requests. The surge in the use of all functionalities of the database evidences the added value of the tool to law enforcement around the world in investigations against illicit firearms trafficking. During the six (6) years of its existence, countries have uploaded more than 1.5 million records of illicit firearms and have queried the database more than 1,000,000 times.

As the only global database of illicit firearms, iARMS is uniquely placed to support the firearms focal points located in the 195 INTERPOL National Central Bureaus in all 195 member countries in promoting and implementing the Sustainable Development Goal (SGD) 16.4, which links development to peace and security. The indicator “Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments” can successfully be assessed through reports exclusively available in the iARMS database through automatically generated reports. It is therefore essential that the effective and efficient use of iARMS is promoted through trainings and intelligence-led law enforcement operations. Not only would this enhance the capacity of beneficiary countries to comply with their international obligations, but it would also substantially contribute to curbing illicit flows and promoting global security.

The crucial role of iARMS project in contributing to countries’ law enforcement capacities is evidenced by the outstanding results of the intelligence-led operations codenamed Trigger, which have exposed the international character of firearms trafficking. Six (6) Trigger operations have been conducted since 2016: in the Balkans, Europe, Africa, Middle East and North Africa, Central America, and South America. Operations by law enforcement agencies are key to identify when and where the firearm was diverted into illegal possession and to link it to other crime scenes around the world as well as to bring countries together to share information about firearms crime and criminals, and work together.
b. Needs for international assistance – technical/financial contributions

c. views 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 Eighth Biennial Meeting of States” (para 119, BMS7 outcome document; para 33, A/RES/76/232)

- International organizations, including INTERPOL, are encouraged to enhance capacity building training and technical assistance to further Member State capabilities in identifying, tracing and investigating SALW
- Member States are encouraged to enhance information exchange with INTERPOL, in accordance with national jurisdiction, on SALW in all its aspects, including illicit trafficking routes, modus operandi, and seized weapons
- Member States are encouraged to populate the INTERPOL’s iARMS database with stolen, lost firearms as well as suspected to be trafficked and smuggled.
- Member States are encouraged to query iARMS and to trace all recovered firearms so as to identify the point which the firearm was diverted to the illegal market
- Member States are encouraged to adopt the INTERPOL Firearms Protocol so as to standardize recovery protocols and to maximize intelligence collection and analysis.
- Member States are encouraged to link their national record-keeping systems and databases with iARMS in order to allow for better intelligence collection and centralization of data on firearms for the purposes of analysis
- Member States are encouraged to share marking practices with INTERPOL so as to complement and update the INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table with view to facilitate firearms identification globally.
• Member States are encouraged to enhance their operational cooperation and cooperation on SALW–related crimes and other criminal matters through INTERPOL’s intelligence-led international operations and policing capabilities
• Member States are encouraged to enhance inter-agency cooperation and to promote strong links between the different components of the criminal justice system (law enforcement, forensics, prosecution);

V. Relevant issues

12. Gender-specific considerations
   a. policies/guidance documents for gender-specific actions by your organization
   b. gender-focused initiatives/projects implemented during the reporting period
   c. gender-mainstreaming of SALW projects implemented during the reporting period

INTERPOL is committed to promoting gender equality, in accordance with its Framework for Gender Mainstreaming. This effort is reflected both in the human resource component and along the implementation of its activities, as women are encouraged to participate in all stages.

13. Contributions to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
   a. SDG-related initiatives/projects implemented during the reporting period
   b. regional indicator(s), if applicable

14. Information on marking practices for modular and polymer weapons by member states, if available

Following the adoption of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (UNPoA) in 2001, the United Nations delegated the collection of national practices on firearms markings to the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA). In 2016, the Sixth 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, which met in New York from 6-10 June 2016, it was recommended that INTERPOL, due to its strategic placement and capability, should collect from States information on their national marking practices in view to complement the IFRT, which currently contains thousands of images and references of firearms to help law enforcement officers around the world in firearms identification.

Due to lack of funding, no dedicated actions have been pursued to promote marking on modular and polymer weapons, however, marking practices and their importance for identification are addressed during the course of all activities.

15. Ongoing challenges associated with the diversion of small arms at the regional level, if available
   a. diversion related to international transfers
   b. diversion of state-owned weapons related to stockpile management
     • Lack of stockpile management equipment
     • Lack of stockpile management technical capacity
Date: 13/05/2022

An MS-Word or PDF version of your completed 2022 report should be sent via e-mail to conventionalarms-unoda@un.org by 31 May 2022.