Report of the League of Arab States
Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons
International Tracing Instrument
(2022 report covering implementation period of 2020-2021)

I. Organization and focal point

1. Organization name: League of Arab States (LAS)
   a. Address: 1 Tahrir Square, 11642, Cairo, Egypt
   b. Organizational email: N/A
   c. Homepage/ website: http://www.lasportal.org/

2. SALW Focal Point
   a. Name: Mr. Fadi Hanna Achaia
   b. Title: Minister Plenipotentiary, Director
   c. Department: Arms Control & Disarmament Department at the League of States
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3. Applicable region: Arab States Region.

4. Member states in region: 22 members States: Algeria, Bahrain, Comoros, Djibouti, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco, Oman, Palestine, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Somalia, Sudan, Syria, Tunisia, United Arab Emirates, and Yemen.

5. General mandate/ purpose of LAS: The League of Arab States’ main purpose is to strengthen relations and cooperation between Arab member states in order to promote the welfare of all member states and work towards common goals while protecting the independence and sovereignty of each member state. Moreover, LAS serves primarily as a mechanism for political, economic, cultural, humanitarian, health and scientific cooperation among Arab member states, and provides a forum to debate and coordinate policies and positions on matters of common concern.

II. Regional Instruments

6. Regional instruments relevant to the implementation of the PoA

1) a. Title of the instrument(s): LAS Council Resolution 6447 in 14/09/2004
   b. Scope and objective: coordinating a unified Arab position regarding the issue of illicit SALW. Promoting cooperation, coordination, and exchange of information between Arab States.
   c. Mandate of the instrument in relation to LAS: the establishment of a Regional Focal Point within the LAS Secretariat.
   d. Regional action plan under the regional instrument: holding biennial meeting for national Arab Points of Contact dealing with the un SALW PoA. Capacity building for Arab States in combating illicit SALW through training programs and events.
2) a. **Title of the instrument(s):** “The Arab Convention for the Suppression of Terrorism” adopted by the Council of Arab Ministers of the Interior and the Council of Arab Ministers of Justice. Cairo, April 1998

b. **Scope and objective:** Identifying “Terrorism”, “Terrorist offences”, and measures for their prevention and suppression.

c. **Mandate of the instrument in relation to LAS:** The convention is committed to the Charter of the LAS, the Charter of the UN, and all other international convents and instruments to which the contracting states to this Convention are parties. Arab contracting states undertake to prevent the use of their own territories as a base for planning, organizing, executing, attempting or taking part of terrorist crime in any manner.

d. **Regional action plan under the regional instrument:** The convention includes mechanisms for implementing cooperation in different areas such as extradition, judicial delegation, and protection of witnesses and experts. Furthermore, contracting states accept promoting the exchange of information regarding weapons and their ammunition.


b. **Scope and objective:** The Arab Model law serves as a guideline for Arab States for developing, promoting, and updating national laws, legislations and regulations regarding the prohibition of manufacturing, selling, repairing possession, licensing, transportation, importing, and exporting of weapons and ammunitions (including fireworks, firecrackers, telescopes and silencers).

c. **Mandate of the instrument in relation to LAS:** The Model Law is committed to the Charter of the League of Arab States, the Charter of the UN, and all other international convents and instruments to which the contracting states to this Convention are parties.

d. **Regional action plan under the regional instrument:** N/A

**III. UN Programme of Action**

7. **Mandate and roles relevant for the implementation of the PoA:** The LAS has established a Regional Focal Point in its secretariat in 2004. The LAS encourages its member states to submit National reports as mandated by the LAS Council Resolution 6447.

8. **Meetings:**

   a. **Participation in global UNPoA meetings:** LAS attends as observer the UN meetings related to the prevention, combating and eradicating the Illicit Trade in SALW.

   b. **Regular meetings relevant to PoA process organized by the organization:** LAS organizes biennial meetings for its member states national Points of Contact, to discuss developments and review implementation of the PoA on national and regional levels.

      i. **Frequency of the meeting:** Biennial
ii. **Timing of meeting:** before the (BMS).

iii. **Capacity of participants:** all Arab States National Focal Points.

9. **Challenges related to the PoA for member states:** challenges differ from Arab State to another regarding national priorities and needs. However, the lack of resources and the need for capacity building are common challenges for implementation of the PoA.

10. **Goal(s)/ target(s) consistent with the PoA implementation:** LAS goal is to support and elevate LAS member states’ capabilities – each according to its needs and requests- in order to promote combatting the illicit trade of SALW on regional level. Moreover, since LAS is the regional focal point, its goal is to formulate a common Arab position vis-à-vis issues related to the PoA.

### IV. International Assistance

11. **International Assistance**

   a. **Assistance provided to member states during the reporting period:** In addition to the National Focal Points meetings, LAS plays an important role as a liaison between its member states, other states, IGOs and NGOs.

      - Implementing a 3 years joint project (2021-2024) with the EU to support Arab States in combating the Illicit Trade in and Proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

      - Cooperating with the UNODA to raise awareness of LAS officials concerning DDR.

   b. **Needs for international assistance (technical/financial contributions):** the LAS seeks to elevate and promote its officials’ capacity to keep track of latest developments in the different areas of combatting illicit SALW.

   c. **Views for enhancing cooperation and assistance modalities and procedures in the frameworks of the PoA and ITI:** providing publications, studies, researches... in Arabic language, which would facilitate exchange of information, good practices and lessons learned.

### V. Relevant Issues

12. N/A

13. **Contributions to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development:** LAS Regional Focal Point supports the UN 2030 SDG 16.4 Goal.

    a. **SDG-related projects during the reporting period:** In light of the UNPoA, several

    b. **N/A**

14. N/A

15. N/A

### VI. Additional remarks

N/A