North Atlantic Treaty Organization - NATO

Background
The illicit proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) can fuel and prolong armed violence and support illegal activities and the emergence of violent groups. Access to illicit SALW contributes to the development of terrorism, organised crime, human trafficking, gender-based violence and piracy; and the diversion of weapons is closely linked to corruption and poor management practices.

Moreover, in many countries, stockpiles of weapons and ammunition are not always properly managed, allowing illicit access or accidental explosions that affect safety and security of personnel and nearby populations.

NATO is helping to address these issues by encouraging dialogue and cooperation among Allies and partners to seek effective solutions. NATO also supports initiatives led by other international bodies, notably the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects (UN PoA).

Over the past 25 years, NATO has worked with 41 partner countries to tackle illicit trade in SALW. The Alliance’s efforts includes training and education, coordination and information-sharing; integrating SALW into security sector reform projects; providing expertise for lifecycle management as well as physical security and stockpile management.

Partnerships
At the 2018 Brussels Summit, NATO Heads of State and Government committed to work more with partners in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA), including in the area of SALW.

Since then NATO has conducted focused meetings with the Mediterranean Dialogue (MD) partners in order to better identify their needs, discuss opportunities for practical cooperation identify options to strengthen the partnership in support of initiatives in SALW control and the destruction of conventional ammunition surpluses.

Concerning the destruction of ammunition, NATO and its partners continued the destruction of national stocks of conventional ammunition, including 312 tonnes in Jordan, 1186 tonnes in Ukraine, and 53 tonnes in Serbia.

NATO Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and SALW
The NATO/EAPC Ad Hoc Working Group on SALW and Mine Action (EAPC AHWG SALW/MA) was established in 1999 and meets multiple times annually to address SALW control and MA topics. Its activities include:

- Providing a forum in which EAPC members and other organisations can share information on SALW, MA and ammunition projects. These participating organisations include, but are not limited to, the European Union (EU), the NATO Support and Procurement Agency (NSPA), the Organization for Security and Co-
operation in Europe (OSCE), the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) and the United Nations (UN).

- Inviting partners from the MD the Istanbul Cooperation Initiative (ICI), as well as partners across the globe, to share information and identify national and regional approaches, alongside with speakers from non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and research institutes to share their views and recent research with delegations;

- Facilitating the management and creation of the Trust Fund projects. This includes updating delegations on the status of Trust Fund projects and highlighting where more effort or volunteer donations are needed;

- Organising regular international workshops, seminars and conferences on topics particularly pertinent to SALW and mine action.

Training and Education
The NATO School in Oberammergau (NSO) conducts several courses in the fields of arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation, weapons of mass destruction (WMD), SALW and MA. In particular, the NSO runs annually a "SALW and MA Course", which is aimed at mid-level management personnel, and provides students with an overview of the most significant political, practical and regulatory issues needed to deal with SALW and their ammunition as well as MA. The course includes cross-cutting issues, such as gender mainstreaming, capacity-building, defence education, and good governance. The course is open to military and civilian personnel from all NATO partner countries, as well as from relevant international organisations.

Trust Funds
The Trust Fund mechanism may be initiated by a NATO member or partner country to tackle specific, practical issues linked to these areas. They are funded by voluntary contributions from individual NATO Allies, partners and organisations.

Trust Fund projects focus on the destruction of SALW, ammunition and mines, improving their physical security and stockpile management, and also address the consequences of defence reform. Allies and partners fund and execute these projects mainly through NSPA.

Through the Trust Fund projects, Allies and partners have destroyed or cleared:
- 164.4 million rounds of ammunition;
- 16 million cluster sub-munitions;
- 5.65 million anti-personnel landmines
- 2 million hand grenades;
- 626,000 SALW;
- 642,000 pieces of unexploded ordnance (UXO);
- 48,986 tonnes of various munitions;
- 97,300 surface-to-air missiles and rockets;
- 1,635 man-portable air defence systems (MANPADS);
- 3,530 tonnes of chemicals, including rocket fuel oxidiser ("mélange");
- 4,120 hectares cleared.
In addition, over 12,000 former military personnel have received retraining assistance through defence reform Trust Fund projects. This capacity-building programme aims to provide practical tools and tailor-made assistance to Allies and partners with a view to strengthen integrity, transparency and accountability and embed good governance in the defence and security sector. In this regard, it contributes to reduce the risk of corruption in defence institutions.

**Women, Peace and Security (WPS)**
The updated Action Plan for the implementation of the NATO/EAPC Policy on WPS 2021-2025 was endorsed by Defence Ministers in October 2021. The new Plan affirms NATO’s commitment to the consistent integration of gender perspectives across all tasks, mainstreaming gender throughout training and education activities, and boosting partner capacity to foster principles of NATO’s WPS agenda, among other key outcomes.

In the context of the WPS agenda, NATO developed the Guidelines for Gender Mainstreaming in SALW Projects, as well as an associated online training course, which will be available to Allies and partners in 2022. The course seeks to engage policy-makers and personnel involved in SALW activities and improve their ability to integrate gender perspectives across all stages of SALW project management.

Through its three sections, the online course: provides the guiding principles for gender mainstreaming in SALW projects; explains how monitoring and evaluation contributes to the proper management and effective integration of gender perspectives throughout the activities of a SALW project; and identifies key measures to support gender mainstreaming across a range of SALW areas. These include: Weapons Collection; Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR); Destruction of Weapons and Ammunition; Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM); Weapons Identification, Marking, Registering and Tracing; Arms Flows Monitoring and Illicit Trade Prevention; and Security Sector Reform (SSR).

**Building Integrity**
The NATO Building Integrity (BI) Policy, endorsed by the Heads of State and Government at the 2016 Warsaw Summit, provides the political framework for NATO’s work aimed at strengthening good governance in the defence and related security sector. The Alliance has recognised that corruption and poor governance are challenges to security. The Policy applies to NATO as an organisation, Allies and Partners.

The implementation of the BI Policy is supported by an Action Plan. Its second iteration, for the period of 2021-2025, was noted by NATO Defence Ministers at their meeting in February 2021. The NATO BI methodology consists of a BI Self-Assessment and Peer Review Process aimed at providing a baseline analysis of gaps and vulnerabilities to corruption risk and identify good practices. Currently, 22 countries – Allies and partners – have completed or are completing the BI Process.

The BI is a component of several NATO courses, including the one on SALW/MA. Lectures on the mutually reinforcing aspects of Gender and BI, SALW and BI, are delivered as part of the NATO “Defence Leadership in BI” course at NATO School Oberammergau.

Defining the nexus between good governance and SALW constitutes an important focus area for NATO BI work. In 2022, NATO launched a project aimed at developing a handbook for strengthening accountability, good governance and prevention of corruption in the life cycle management of SALW and their ammunition. The Ministry of Defence of Bosnia and Herzegovina expressed readiness to share their lessons learned and good practices in this
area. The project is implemented with expertise provided by the Ammunition Management Advisory Team (AMAT) of the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD).

NATO BI operates on the basis of voluntary financial contributions to the NATO BI Trust Fund, guided by an Advisory Group composed by Norway, Switzerland, United Kingdom and the European Union. The BI Trust Fund benefits from the EU financial contribution of 2 million EUR, following on the agreement signed between NATO and the EU for cooperation in the area of BI and good governance in 2018. NATO BI cooperates also with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the UN Department for Peace Operation - Office of Rule of Law and Security Institutions.

Dear Sir/Madam,

Kindly see the attached communication (22-055nve.pdf) dated 26 January 2022 from the Office for Disarmament Affairs.

DGACM/DD/TPS
AB-1123E
305 East 46th Street, 11th Floor
United Nations

Telephone #: (+1-212) 963-6767
E-mail: correspondence@un.org

-4-
Submission of the report of the Secretary-General on Resolution 76/232 “The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects” – Deadline: 31 March 2022

The Office for Disarmament Affairs presents its compliments to the heads of regional and international organizations and has the honour to refer to resolution A/RES/76/232 entitled “The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects” (www.un.org/disarmament/salw/programme-of-action), adopted by the General Assembly on 24 December 2022.

By operative paragraph 33 of the resolution, the General Assembly:

“Requests the Secretary-General, within existing resources, to seek the views of Member States, international and regional organizations 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 Eighth Biennial Meeting of States”.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs would like to refer to resolutions 52/214 and 53/208 entitled “Pattern of Conferences”, adopted by the General Assembly on 22 December 1997 and 18 December 1998 respectively.

Pursuant to the above-mentioned resolutions, all intergovernmental bodies are kindly requested to restrict the length of their submissions without adversely affecting either the quality of presentation or their content. The word limit for each report issued by the Secretariat, including all submissions, is 10,700 words (20 pages).

The Secretariat encourages Member States to comply with General Assembly resolutions 52/214 and 53/208 in their submissions on disarmament issues to the Secretary General.

The Secretary-General will include the above-mentioned views of Member States, international and regional organizations in his consolidated report on small arms and light weapons, which will be published ahead of the Eighth Biennial Meeting of States, scheduled for 27 June to 1 July 2022 in New York.

In order to facilitate the submission of the views on the issues outlined above, the deadline for submission is 31 March 2022. Member States and international and regional organizations are invited to cooperate to enable the Secretariat to ensure the timely issuance of the reports. All submissions should be sent electronically, in Microsoft Word format. Submissions received in other file formats cannot be processed. Kindly send the electronic version to Ms. Giulia Marrone (marrone@un.org).
Any views received after 31 March 2022 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the original language received. No addenda will be issued.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the heads of regional and international organizations the assurances of its highest consideration.

26 January 2022