

**Eighth 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, 27 June – 1 July 2022**

**UN CASA (Coordinating Action on Small Arms) statement**  
**Wednesday, 29 June 2022**

Chairperson,  
Excellencies,  
Distinguished Delegates,

I am very pleased to be present at the Eighth 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.

The United Nations Counter-Terrorism Centre of the UN Office of Counter Terrorism (UNCCT/UNOCT) is honoured to represent **UN Coordinating Action on Small Arms, or UN CASA and deliver the statement on its behalf.**

My office is an active partner of UN CASA and committed to addressing terrorism and organized crime nexus, especially with regards to illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons and their supply to terrorists.

The multi-faceted and diverse issues of illicit small arms not only pertain to the through-life management of small arms and light weapons but also call for different approaches, depending on:

- those who misuse SALW, such as perpetrators;
- those who are negatively affected, such as susceptible groups;
- the types of socio-economic impacts that are caused, such as detrimental consequences; and
- the context, such as different settings or policy frameworks.

The United Nations is increasingly called upon to jointly respond to all these dimensions associated with the misuse and illicit circulation of arms and ammunition, and prevention of armed violence. **To address the need for a coherent and coordinated approach, CASA brings together 24 UN system partners.**

Over the past 2 decades, CASA partners have actively supported Member States. Last month, CASA welcomed the establishment of the Open-ended Working Group (OEWG) on conventional ammunition to elaborate a set of political commitments as a new global framework that will address existing gaps in through-life ammunition management. For BMS8, CASA's previous statement for BMS7 has been updated as follows.

Firstly, CASA partners continued to implement the 2020 decision of the Executive Committee, through creating strong national programmes and ensuring **national ownership** as

the guiding principle on SALW issues. Increased emphasis on national ownership will help identify specific needs and gaps at the national level; support country-level programming and subsequent implementation of development-centered and gender-responsive small arms programmes; and facilitate the active engagement of UN Country Teams with States' national authorities. On a pilot basis, a series of consultations has been initiated in a few UN Country Teams and national authorities.

Secondly, CASA has been most active in pursuing linkages between small arms control and other global and UN agendas through concerted UN efforts. In connection with counter-terrorism, four CASA partners have been participating in the project on addressing the terrorism-arms-crime nexus in Central Asia, in cooperation with such intergovernmental organizations as INTERPOL and the World Customs Organization. The project aims to prevent the illicit supply of weapons to terrorist groups through building national capacities for criminal justice responses. In addition, CASA members within the UN Global Counter-Terrorism Compact are also implementing a project on the technical guidelines for Member States to facilitate their implementation of Security Council resolution 2370 (2017) on preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons. These guidelines were launched in March and some regional activities are envisaged to promote the guidelines.

In the area of transnational organized crime, CASA was briefed on the recommendations adopted by consensus by the 2022 Working Group on Firearms, held in May 2022, and explored potential actions to support the recommendations.

In the context of peacekeeping and peace-building, the project to better integrate arms control guidance into DDR processes has been implemented since 2016. The specific measures for transitional weapons and ammunition management (WAM) are integrated as a DDR tool for broader peace-building and peacekeeping purposes. Ongoing practical activities related to WAM continued to foster national ownership, including through the training and technical advisory for national authorities; maintenance and installation of storage assets and infrastructure; as well as the disposal of unserviceable ammunition. A relevant handbook and standard operating procedures on WAM and DDR processes were published, and have been utilized for training sessions and applied to a scoping mission in Haiti. Furthermore, additional tools such as WAM baseline assessments have been developed and revised in some West African and Central American States. The arms-related Risk Analysis Toolkit was also launched at the end of 2021.

In support of data collection for indicator 16.4.2 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, two CASA partners as the co-custodian agencies collected and analysed the data provided by Member States through the illicit arms flows questionnaire (IAFQ) in support of the Firearms Protocol, and the PoA and ITI national reports. Key findings and analyses were highlighted in the annual storyline on the indicator and reported to the UN SDG authority. Also, at the regional and national levels, CASA partners supported States' efforts for comprehensive data collection in, among others, the Western Balkans and Colombia.

In the realm of human rights, the Human Rights Council's two main resolutions that focus on SALW issues pertain to 'the impact of arms transfers on human rights'; and 'civilian acquisition, possession and the use of firearms by children and youth and the impact on human rights'. The most recent High Commissioner's report on the latter was prepared with contributions from CASA. Not only the relevant reports to the General Assembly, but also those to the Security Council and the Human Rights Council, are consulted among CASA partners.

At the regional level, CASA partners' efforts are highlighted in the Western Balkans and the Caribbean, where relevant roadmaps are adopted and implemented. The UN continued to support the African Union's initiative on Silencing the Guns in Africa, through implementing the Africa Amnesty Month project in Madagascar, Niger and Uganda in 2021 and in Liberia, Tanzania and Togo in 2022.

Regarding the gender aspects, CASA partners to address the gendered impacts of small arms, including through capacity building of regional organization, national authorities and civil society organizations on the collection of disaggregated data and gender analysis, as well as the mainstreaming gender considerations in programme planning and implementation. Moreover, CASA partners continue promoting the full and effective participation, and leadership of women in operational and decision -making processes in the fight against illicit trafficking in SALW. The report on mainstreaming gender in the through-life management of ammunition, was recently developed in close cooperation with the research institute: Small Arms Survey. At the regional level, guidelines for the gender analysis in small arms control have been developed in the Western Balkans.

Finally, CASA provides a consultative and advisory forum for the UN Trust Facility Supporting Coordination on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR); the Saving the Lives Entity (SALIENT); and oversees development and management of the Modular Small-arms-control Implementation Compendium (MOSAIC). CASA continues to advocate for the strengthening of the UN SaferGuard Programme, which oversees development and implementation of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG).

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Speaking in one voice, the UN system coordinated by CASA, stands ready to provide coherent advice and support to Member States, with a view to ensuring the full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and its International Tracing Instrument, as well as of the Firearms Protocol and the Arms Trade Treaty, as one complementary and mutually reinforcing international framework on arms control. In the face of current security challenges, such support will be better formulated in line with the development priorities at the global, regional and national levels and with the guiding principle of national ownership.

Thank you, Mr. Chair.

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