Programme of Action on SALW
International Tracing Instrument
Trends, Challenges and Opportunities

Data from 2024 National Reports

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Programme of Action

States requested the UN to “collate and circulate data and information provided by States on a voluntary basis and including national reports, on implementation by those States of the Programme of Action.”

International Tracing Instrument

“States will report on a biennial basis to the Secretary-General on their implementation of this instrument [...].”

UN General Assembly resolution on SALW (A/RES/78/46) encourages those States in a position to do so to use the reporting template made available by the Office for Disarmament Affairs.
Overview: Thematic Issues

Based on information provided through 2024 national reports (2022-2023)

- National reporting
- National coordination agency, national point of contact
- National targets
- Diversion – international transfer and national stockpiles
- Stockpile management and destruction
- Collection of weapons
- Marking and record-keeping
- International tracing and handling of tracing requests
- International assistance
- Gender considerations
- Recommendations
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National Reporting

➢ Trends
  • 178 States: 2002 - 2024 total
  • 120 States: 2018; 94 States in 2022
  • 96 States: 2024
  • Declines in Eastern Europeans and LAC
  • Asia-Pacific, LAC remain low (less than 40%)

➢ Challenges
  • Reporting fatigue / Administrative burden
  • Lack of capacity / lack of national coordination
  • Decline in submissions undermines data comparability.
  • Voluntary template (4 reports did not use template → not comparable in database)
Opportunities - Benefits of reporting

- **Measures progress** and **gaps** in the PoA and ITI implementation (incl. country profiles; baselines; good practices; trends/challenges/opportunities)
- **Confidence-building** measure: Information exchange, transparency
- **Communicates** needs for **international assistance**: ensures **national ownership**
- **Contributes** to **Data collection** for SDG Target 16.4 Indicator 16.4.2 “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”
- **Reaffirms** States’ **commitment** to the PoA process (**political will**)
- **Builds** States’ **capacities** (national coordination)
- **Harmonizes** global/regional reporting (**OSCE, Kinshasa Conv., RECSA**)
National Targets

➢ Trends
  • 30 national targets established (i.e. high in Africa)
  • Gradual increase from 2020
  • MOSAIC 04.10: Designing and implementing NAP

➢ Challenges
  • Institutional capacity for programming/implementation
  • Lack of baseline, assessment and planning
  • Projection of available resources (national budget or assistance)

➢ Opportunities
  • Measurable targets within set timeframe (e.g. 3-year plan)
  • Integrate national targets into CCAs / development frameworks
  • Establish national targets:
    o [after NAP] in accordance with NAP; or
    o [before NAP] as the initial step for NAP
  • Align national targets/NAP with regional roadmaps
Diversion - national stockpiles / international transfers

➢ Trends

• Increase in diversion data collection (Africa, EEG, WEOG)
  • Total 36 States collect information on diversion incidents from international transfers – 31% increase from 2022
  • Total 37 States collect information on diversion incidents from national stockpiles – 9% increase from 2022
  • Marking / record-keeping pre-requisite for diversion prevention

➢ Challenges

• Many States still unable to collect diversion data
• Diversion data – still confidential / sensitive information
• Lost, stolen, smuggled SALW

➢ Opportunities

• Information Exchange – PoA Database (incidents / numbers)
• Identification of diversion points / routes
Stockpile Management and Destruction

➢ Trends
   • 35 States destroyed weapons
   • Stable annual destruction at very high level, 500,000
   • Destruction increasingly undertaken as a measure to
     • terminate weapons’ life-cycle
     • obsolete / surplus / unserviceable / collected SA
     • Destruction—The best way to prevent future diversion

➢ Challenges
   • Consistently high demand for assistance
   • High costs and technical requirements
   • Complete/irreversible/verifiable destruction

➢ Opportunities
   • WAM-DDR, Africa Amnesty Month, UNSCAR projects

* 2023 data is in the process of aggregation/compilation.
Collection of SALW

Trends (2020-2022)
- 2020-2022: 1.5 million weapons collected (by 57 MS) consistently at a high level (500,000 yearly)
- 50%+ collected weapons are recorded and/or destroyed

Challenges
- Difficulty in collecting, collating and validating various national data

Opportunities
- SALW data collection contributes reporting on SDG target 16.4
- ODA/UNODC national/regional seminars for data collection

* 2023 data is in the process of aggregation/compilation.
SALW Collection 2020-2022: Tracing

Data for SDG Indicator 16.4.2

➢ **Trends** (2020-2022)
  - Percentage of traced weapons among collected weapons remains low

➢ **Challenges**
  - Procedures for tracing requests should be established (nationally, internationally)

➢ **Opportunities**
  - Established tracing procedure will increase effective and efficient tracing
  - Identification of diversion points / routes

Percentage of Traced Weapons among Collected Weapons

- **2020**: 12.4%
- **2021**: 5%
- **2022**: 6%
Handling of Tracing Requests:

➢ **Trends (2020-2022)**
  - High response rate - still to be improved toward 100%
    - 70-85%
  - High matching rate in requested cases - efficient tracing
    - 2022: Requested 423/634 (67%)
    - 2023: Requested 663/785 (84%)

➢ **Challenges**
  - Collection of tracing data - only 21 countries reported handling data
  - Low matching rate in received cases – available data is limited
    - 2022: Received 71/352 (20%)
    - 2023: Received 27/285 (9%)

➢ **Opportunities**
  - More data is needed over years to assess progress and annual/regional trends

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New questions from 2024 reporting
Marking / Record-keeping

➢ **Trends** (2022)
  - **Increasing** - State-owned weapons are marked (i.e. LAC)
    - from 71 (2022) to 81 (2024)
  - Growing number of States capable of marking
    - major achievement of international assistance
  - **Increasing** – States considering developments in SALW manu./tech./design
    - from 27 (2022) to 34 (2024)

➢ **Challenges**
  - 65% States unable to consider development in technology
    - marking of modular and polymer weapons; 3D printing
  - Craft manufacture of small arms – no marking / no record

➢ **Opportunities**
  - Establish good practices on marking of modular and polymer weapons
  - Marking with the use of lasers, QR codes or chemical taggants.

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**Marking / Record-keeping**

**2024: 81 States marking state-owned SALW)**

Marking of State-owned Weapons by region

- Total 71 in 2022
- Total 81 in 2024

- Africa (54)
- Asia-Pacific (54)
- E. Europe (23)
- LAC (33)
- W. Europe (29)

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**Considering developments in SALW manufacturing/technology/design**

- 2022
- 2024
Trends (2022-2023: 96 reporting States)

Increasing (between 2022/2024)
- 75 states: tracing procedures in place
- 64 states: cooperating with INTERPOL
- 37 states: technologies for tracing

Challenges
- Highest needs for assistance
- Marking/record-keeping prerequisites
- Capacity to respond to tracing requests

Opportunities
- Establish framework for regional cooperation
- Develop an information platform
International Assistance – 42% of States need assistance (% of submitted reports)

➢ Trends

➢ **Increase** in States requesting international assistance
  ➢ From 32 (2022) to **50** (2024) (**52%**)
➢ High demand: Tracing, Marking-recordkeeping, stockpile management, and destruction

➢ Challenges
  • Lack of a structured procedure

➢ Opportunities
  • Integration of SALW assistance into national development frameworks
  • Utilization of UNSCAR / SALIENT
  • National ownership
International Assistance by theme and country

https://smallarms.un-arm.org/international-assistance

PoA Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons

Countries that request international assistance

- Albania
- Argentina
- Bangladesh
- Benin
- Bolivia (Plurinational State of)
- Bosnia and Herzegovina

Assistance-seeking country: Bosnia and Herzegovina

Assistance need: Standards and procedures on stockpile management

Source: National report submitted in 2022

Description of needs:

“A financial one to settle the excess ammunition, mines and explosive devices; organisation of professional trainings for the BIH Armed Forces pertaining to weapons, ammunition, mines and unexploded ordnances.”

A project proposal has been developed. View project proposal
Gender Considerations

➢ Trends
  • Remarkable advancement since 2018
  • Gender considerations taken into account: Increased from 40% in 2018 to 74% in 2024
  • Further efforts are needed in sex-disaggregated data collection: Decreased from 32% in 2022 to 29% in 2024

➢ Challenges
  • Compilation of national data

➢ Opportunities
  • Establish gender responsive programming, policy-setting and decision-making in national SA control
  • Contribution to SDGs 5 and 16
  • Coordination with national WPS focal point
Reporting from international/regional Organizations

➢ **Trends:** Decreased in reporting
  - 9 in 2022 (ECLAC, ECOWAS, INTERPOL, LAS, OAS, OSCE, RECSA, SEESAC, WCO)
  - 3 in 2024
    - OAS: Complementarities between PoA and CIFTA; activities, challenges, **international assistance in 19 LAC countries** in PSSM, destruction, gender
    - OSCE: Complementarities between PoA and OSCE Document on SALW; reporting, national focal points; **20 projects implemented in 2022-2023** (list attached); gender, SDG contribution
    - RECSA: Complementarities between PoA and the Nairobi Protocol; activities – meetings and projects; gender

➢ **Challenges**
  - Low turnouts, contact with focal points

➢ **Opportunities**
  - International/Regional organizations’ support and contribution to PoA/ITI implementation are recognized and credited, if reported to PoA process meetings/conferences
  - Align national efforts to regional initiatives, programmes, roadmaps: Caribbean, Central America, Southeastern and Eastern Europe, Southeast/South Asia
  - Regional funding/assistance mechanisms: OSCE, OAS, AU, RECSA, ECOWAS, ECCAS, SADC, SEESAC
Recommendations

1. Increase national reporting levels to enhance understanding of implementation challenges, gaps; monitor progress towards achieving SDG Indicator 16.4.2 and communicate national requests for assistance;
   • Maintenance of online reporting should be clearly mandated in RevCon4 outcome - severely affected by UN regular budget cut
   • Various information sharing through PoA reporting should be clearly mentioned in RevCon4 outcome

2. Continue efforts for National Targets setting (specific, measurable, time-bound), which is advancing.

3. Make better use of diversion data: Diversion-related data collection is improving but still remains at a low level.

4. Invest more in stockpile management; marking, record-keeping and tracing;

5. Continue efforts for the high-level of annual weapons destructions

6. Discuss and exchange info on, particularly:
   • ITI to help the tracing challenges posed by new technologies; and
   • Incidents / numbers of diversion through the PoA reporting database

7. Gear up international assistance towards holistic and more impactful programs in affected countries, including through dedicated funding mechanisms, in particular, such areas as tracing, marking-recordkeeping, stockpile management, and destruction (i.e. a structured procedure)

8. Integrate small arms control into national development frameworks, including CCAs, in line with the guiding principle of national ownership;

9. Seek synergies with relevant global and regional instruments / roadmaps, i.e. harmonization of global/regional reporting

10. After significant progress, keep the momentum for further gender considerations to strengthen further contributions to SDGs.
Annex: Good practices
Documents attached to national reports

• Views on the implementation of the PoA/ITI, including lessons-learned and good practices:
  • Burundi, China, Czechia

• Progress made in the implementation of PoA/ITI:
  • Australia, Bangladesh, Burundi, Guatemala, Kyrgyzstan, Mali, Malta, Switzerland

• National Action Plan:
  • Benin, Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Guinea, Haiti, Laos, Mali, Mexico, Serbia

• National Targets:
  • Guinea

• National Legislation:
  • China, Bangladesh, Benin, Ethiopia, Laos, Lesotho, Mauritius, Nepal

• Projects implemented and financial contributions provided/received:
  • Burundi, DRC, Germany, Guinea, Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Madagascar, Mauritius, Sweden

• Project proposal:
  • DRC

• Gender policy and programme:
  • Kyrgyzstan, Laos, Serbia, Switzerland
Any questions:

conventionalarms-unoda@un.org
Annex: PoA Reporting Database

➢ [https://smallarms.un-arm.org](https://smallarms.un-arm.org)

- Country profiles – ‘one-stop shop’ for country-specific data
- To feed small arms-related data from PoA online reporting, UNROCA, UN COMTRADE, OECD-DAC databases
  - Statistics - quantitative assessment with auto-generated graphs, charts and tables
- To enhance measurability of PoA/ITI implementation: status & progress by country, by region and by year
  - International assistance – visual presentation of national needs
- To match assistance needs with resources by thematic issue and by requesting country
  - Databases – 1156 National reports and 125 National Points of Contact
  - SDG section – Target 16.4 and indicator 16.4.2
- To present disaggregated quantitative data on collected weapons and relevant measures taken in 2020 and 2021
  - Diversion – international transfers and national stockpiles: Incidents and number of SALW diverted by country
  - International and Regional Organizations

➢ Inquiries / passwords for online reporting [conventionalarms-unoda@un.org](mailto:conventionalarms-unoda@un.org)