NINTH BIENNIAL MEETING OF STATES

PROGRAMME OF ACTION ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

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United Nations

BMS9

"Controlling Small Arms and Light Weapons Towards a Safer and More Sustainable Future"

"Special strategies to prevent and restrict the use of small arms and light weapons in accordance with international mechanisms and national obligations"

Major General
Mansour Ali Sultan
The Iraqi National Focal Point for Small Arms and Light Weapons
Ministry of Interior

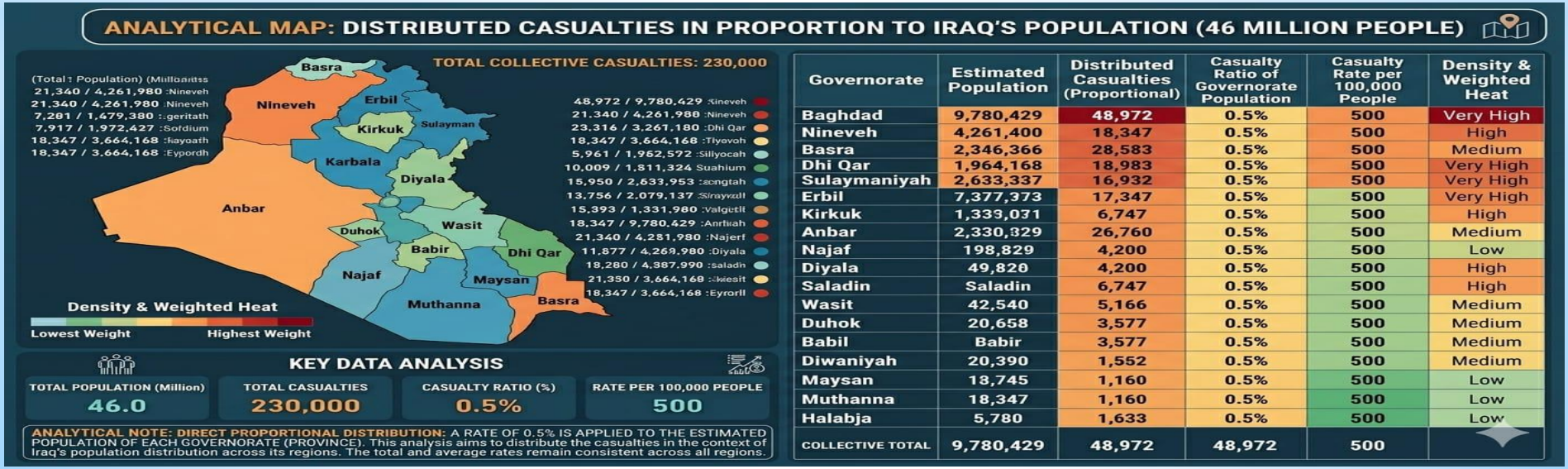
Introduction :

The Reality of Uncontrolled Proliferation in Iraq

- **Scale of the Crisis:** An estimated **millions pieces of small arms and light weapons** circulate outside of state control.
- **The Impact:** This proliferation poses an ongoing security and social threat, endangering civilian lives and hindering economic growth and foreign investment.
- **National Vision:** Iraq adopts a comprehensive framework to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (**SDGs**), currently integrated into the **National Development Plan (2024–2028)**.

Key Manifestations of the Threat:

- **Tribal Disputes:** Local disputes frequently escalate into armed clashes using small arms and light weapons (**such as machine guns and mortars**), causing civilian casualties and damaging vital infrastructure.
- **Organized Crime:** These weapons are heavily utilized in extortion, targeted assassinations, and armed robberies.
- **Terrorism and Insurgency:** Remnants of terrorist cells exploit these weapons to undermine public peace and national security.
  - **Human Toll (Up to 2025):** This violence has tragically claimed more than **230,000 martyrs** and left over **400,000 injured**.



Governorate	Estimated Population	Distributed Casualties (Proportional)	Casualty Ratio of Governorate Population	Casualty Rate per 100,000 People	Density & Weighted Heat
Baghdad	9,780,429	48,972	0.5%	500	Very High
Nineveh	4,261,400	18,347	0.5%	500	High
Basra	2,346,366	28,583	0.5%	500	Medium
Dhi Qar	1,964,168	18,983	0.5%	500	Very High
Sulaymaniyah	2,633,337	16,932	0.5%	500	Very High
Erbil	7,377,373	17,347	0.5%	500	Very High
Kirkuk	1,333,031	6,747	0.5%	500	High
Anbar	2,330,329	26,760	0.5%	500	Medium
Najaf	198,829	4,200	0.5%	500	Low
Diyala	49,820	4,200	0.5%	500	High
Saladin	Saladin	6,747	0.5%	500	High
Wasit	42,540	5,166	0.5%	500	Medium
Duhok	20,658	3,577	0.5%	500	Medium
Babil	Babir	3,577	0.5%	500	Medium
Diwaniyah	20,390	1,552	0.5%	500	Medium
Maysan	13,745	1,160	0.5%	500	Low
Muthanna	18,347	1,160	0.5%	500	Low
Halabja	5,780	1,633	0.5%	500	Low
COLLECTIVE TOTAL	9,780,429	48,972	48,972	500	

International Mechanisms and National Commitments

Towards a Prosperous Iraq Free of Violence

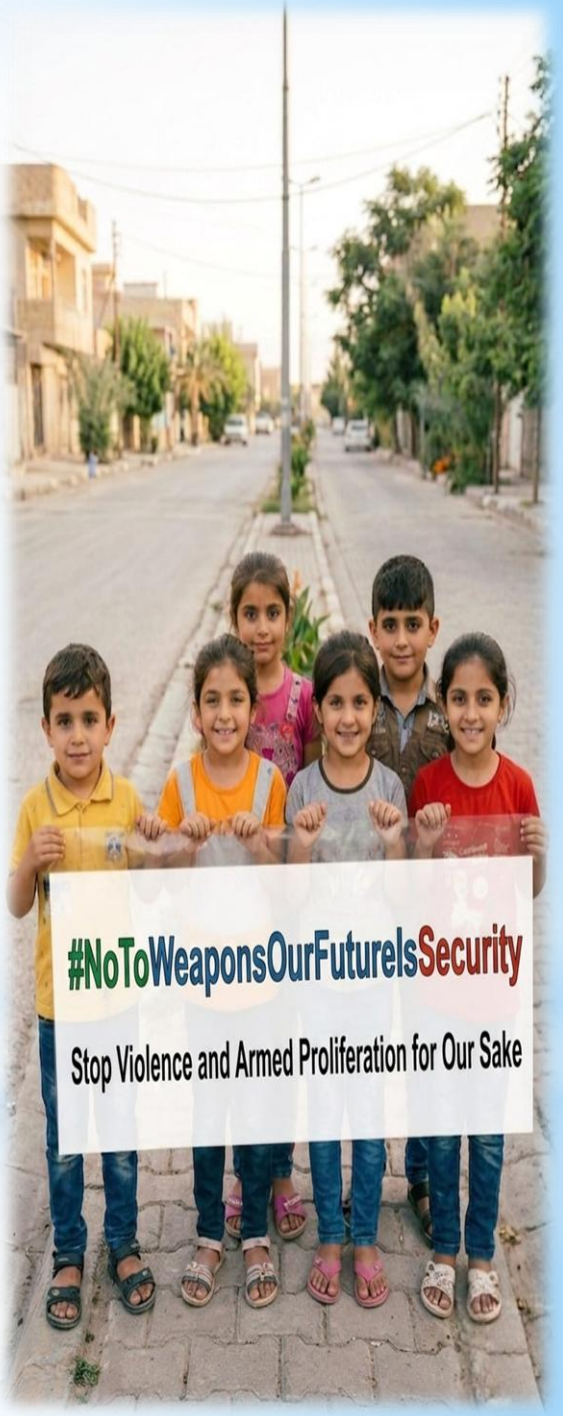
1. International Frameworks and Foundations:

- **UN Programmed of Action (PoA - 2001):** Serves as the primary foundation for Iraq's national policy on weapon control and regulation, which was launched in December 2023 for a 10-year duration.
- **International Tracing Instrument (ITI):** Adopted by the UN General Assembly to enable states to ensure the reliable and timely tracing of illicit small arms. Iraq is among the countries committed to submitting its national reports, the latest of which was in 2026.

2. Strategic National Measures:

The Iraqi National Weapons Bank: A centralized database established to catalog all weapons belonging to the Army, Police, private security companies, as well as seized and confiscated firearms. This database is updated on a monthly basis.

- **Phase One (Civilian Weapon Registration):**
  - Free registration of weapons kept in residential homes via an online portal across all Iraqi governorates.
  - More than **850 registration offices** have been established within police stations nationwide to facilitate civilian access.
  - **Current Progress:** Over **350,000 citizens** have successfully registered their weapons as of the end of **May 2026**.




REPEATED ARMS
statistics of Chilbans' Regustration Requests
Repeated Arms Inventory
Repeated Confiscated Arms
Repeated Lost Arms
Repeated Civil Ministries Arms
ARMS STATISTICS
General statistics
Lost Arms that were confiscated
Lost Arms found with Civil Ministries
Lost Arms found with Security Companies
Lost Arms found with Citizens at check points
GOVERNMENT WEAPONS REGISTRY
IRAQI NATIONAL ARMS BANK
COMPREHENSIVE SEARCH
Search Input Box
CHANGE PASSWORD
خروج
EXIT
فتح إكسل
Erms Inventory
Confiscated Erms
Lost Arms
Milibary Protition Commission
Civil Ministries Arms
Security Companies Arms
Citibens Arms Regiustation
Sahwa (Awakening) Arms
IDS and Licenses
Police Martyrs Fund
Reviewers Handguns
Coalition Forces Handguns


مراحل تسجيل أسلحة المواطنين
STAGES OF CITIZEN WEAPONS REGISTRATION
1
CITIZEN
CITIZEN
2
DIRECTORATE OF WEAPON CONTROL AND REGULATION
3
POLICE
POLICE COMMAND
REGISTRATION
REGISTRATION OFFICES
CRIMINAL
CRIMINAL EVIDENCE
CRIMINAL
CRIMINAL RECORD
INTELLIGENCE OFFICE
4
DIRECTORATE OF WEAPON CONTROL AND REGULATION
CRIMINAL RECORDS
CRM READ
FORM VERIFICATION
5
CITIZEN
CITIZEN
FACTORS THAT MOTIVATED CITIZENS TO REGISTER WEAPONS
1. TRUST 1
2. MEDIA AND AWARENESS 2 CAMPAIGNS
3. COMMUNICATION WITH CITIZENS 3
4. EDUCATIONAL CAMPAIGNS 4
5. INSPECTIONS, WEAPON CONTROL, AND LAW ENFORCEMENT

Marking, Record-Keeping, and Stockpile Management

- **Marking:**
  - The Permanent National Committee for Weapons Regulation and Restriction to State Control has initiated a national marking system unique to each entity to ensure efficient weapon tracing.
- **Record-Keeping:**
  - Maintained through the Iraqi National Weapons Bank, which currently holds a balance of approximately **6 million weapons** (including state-owned, civilian-registered, and seized weapons). This system streamlines local and international tracing and enhances ballistics and crime detection.
- **Stockpile Management:**
  - Securing weapon stockpiles is critical to preventing the theft of government arms. The National Committee has formed dedicated sub-committees tasked with inspecting armories and storage facilities under strict standards and criteria.



Emerging Technological Threats in the Military Domain

Modern Technological Challenges:

- **Artificial Intelligence and Advanced Manufacturing:** The rapid leap in AI regarding advanced manufacturing and design modification has introduced novel threats regarding how these weapons enter Iraq.
- **3D Printing Technology:** This tech is being leveraged to manufacture weapon parts or components for Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs). It is currently classified as an emerging threat; no widespread proliferation or direct seizures of 3D-printed weapons have been recorded yet.

Implementation of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG)Recommendations:

- **Import Restrictions:** Restricting the import of raw materials used in advanced weapon manufacturing, and addressing technical challenges related to the use of **polymers** and non-metallic materials in weapon frames, which make serial numbers highly difficult to alter or erase.
- **Proactive Policies:** Implementing strict, preventive policies to curb and monitor the use of dual-use materials.
- **Ammunition Marking:** Working on the coding and marking of imported ammunition to prevent diversion and illicit leakage.



International Cooperation and Capacity Building facilities under strict standards and criteria

- **The Importance of Global Partnerships:** International cooperation is a cornerstone for implementing global instruments and successfully executing Iraq's national weapon control policies.



- **Key Milestones in International Support:**
  - **UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC):** Their visit to Iraq in (**March 2022**) and meeting with the Permanent National Committee played a vital role in evaluating performance and aligning Iraqi legislation with international instruments, which successfully led to drafting the current national policy.
  - **Strategic Partnerships:** Active and ongoing cooperation with **NATO**, the **World Customs Organization (WCO)**, **INTERPOL**, and the **Small Arms Survey** (through the League of Arab States) to build our national capacities.
- **Future Outlook:** We look forward to increasing the number of Iraqi trainees in these programs to further strengthen our institutional and technical capabilities.



Acknowledgments & Closing:

Disarmament is a necessity for development and peace, and a shared responsibility of all member states of the United Nations General Assembly .

We would like to extend our deepest gratitude and appreciation to:
United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs UNODA, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime – UNODC and Small Arms Survey.

Thank you, Mr. President, and my fellow representatives of the member states.
I apologize for the length of my speech .

Let us all act with clear minds and a living conscience so that weapons remain in the hands of the law and the prestige of the state remains paramount .

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