

THE
Alliance
OF NGOs ON CRIME PREVENTION
& CRIMINAL JUSTICE



Firearms control: the Biennial Meeting of States

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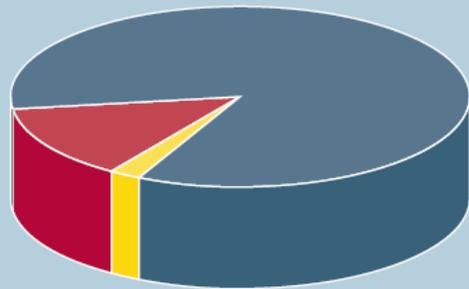
Twin instruments

- On 31 May 2001, the General Assembly adopted the *Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing and Smuggling of Firearms* (the Firearms Protocol) through its resolution 55/255
- On 20 July 2001, the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects adopted the *Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects* (the Programme of Action or PoA)

Participation of civil society

Figure 1 Global firearms ownership estimates, 2017

- Civilians (857 million)
- Law enforcement (22.7 million)
- Military (133 million)



- Civil society actors play a crucial role in advocating for progress in disarmament and arms control.
- The vast majority of small arms is in the hands of civilians, who should actively engage to prevent diversion and misuse
- Arms are not illicit per se. NGO participation is critical to the political process and the implementation of the both the Firearms Protocol and the PoA.
- In line with the SG Disarmament Agenda, both UNODC – as regards the Firearms Protocol – and UNODA – as regards the PoA – support greater integration of experts, industry and civil society representatives in relevant disarmament processes and meetings

BMS7: civil society

- In preparation for BMS7, the International Action Network on Small Arms and Light Weapons (IANSA) has chosen to focus its analysis and advocacy on five key issues:
 1. The need to include ammunition in the PoA;
 2. Implementing and building on the gender outcomes agreed during the 2018 PoA Review Conference (RevCon3);¹
 3. Preventing and combatting diversion (a stated focus area of BMS7);
 4. Marking and tracing of SALW;
 5. Stockpile management: safety, security, and destruction of surplus and excessive accumulation.



BMS7: civil society – how to engage

- 70 NGOs are accredited to attend BMS7
- IANSA (the International Action Network on Small Arms) is the umbrella organization dealing with issues related to the PoA
- The meeting on 28 July from 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. will be dedicated to statements by international and regional organizations, followed by non-governmental organizations and civil society
- NGOs accredited to BMS7 can organize Member State-sponsored virtual/online side events. 12 events are planned. See list at https://meetings.unoda.org/section/poa-bms7-2021_side-events/
- **Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, civil society participation at BMS7 is taking place virtually/online, no in-person attendance**

Thank you



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