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Cross Border Trafficking and the International Tracing Instrument

Cross border illicit trade

Since the 2008 Biennial Meeting of States on the UN PoA, IANSA members have made numerous constructive contributions to preventing and combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons across borders. For example:

- West African network members have been successful in mobilising support and ratification of the ECOWAS small arms and light weapons convention, which has now become legally binding.
- Southern Africa members have collaborated with the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation to design and implement standard operating procedures for the SADC firearms control protocol; as well as develop firearms training material for police in Southern Africa.
- In South-East Asia, Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa, our members have helped governments to develop small arms and light weapons national action plans, as well as revise national small arms control policies and legislation.
- In the Pacific region, and elsewhere, IANSA members have worked closely with States to enhance stockpile security measures in order to prevent diversion.
- In Colombia, Guatemala and elsewhere, IANSA members have assisted States in research, monitoring and analysis of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.
- Our members have collaborated with the Economic Community of Central African States and the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Togo to develop a draft legal instrument on the control of small arms, light weapons and ammunition in Central Africa.
- Furthermore, our members have provided technical advice on arms brokering and its regulation to African government representatives.

IANSA commends the efforts by a number of States and inter-governmental organisations to improve border control through collaborative mechanisms, capacity building and resource mobilisation. For example, IANSA appreciates the G8's reaffirmed commitment to combat illicit manufacturing and trafficking of firearms, and to accelerate this commitment at the upcoming G8 leaders summit in Canada.

However, we note with concern that the transfer of illicit small arms and light weapons continues relatively unhindered in violence-prone regions. IANSA consequently calls on States in these regions to enact legislation to enhance border control mechanisms, augment inter-state collaborative processes,

as well as marshal the necessary resources. Therefore we request donor States to assist under-resourced States in this regard.

IANSAs remains alarmed about continued infringements of UN Security Council arms embargos by certain States and non-state groups. We call on all States to actively comply with all UN arms embargos.

IANSAs acknowledges the increased momentum in global and regional discussions to strengthen the regulation of arms brokering. Yet, it remains apparent that brokers engaging in illicit weapons trafficking can continue to operate with impunity in a number of regions. We therefore call on States, where required, to enact and implement national legislation to effectively regulate arms brokering.

International Tracing Instrument (ITI)

IANSAs emphasises the importance of effectively tracing illicit small arms and light weapons as a means to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade. Hence, we are very supportive of the ITI.

IANSAs commends those States that have submitted reports on their implementation of the ITI to the UN, but urges more States to report on their implementation efforts every two years, as required by the ITI.

We recognise the progress that some States have made on the implementation of the ITI to date. In particular we applaud the acquisition of gun-marking equipment by RECSA in East Africa and also by the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization, for their Member States.

However, we are concerned about the slow pace of implementation of the ITI, and therefore urge States to accelerate their efforts in this regard, especially towards ensuring that the ITI becomes legally binding.

In conclusion, IANSAs calls on States, as a matter of priority to:

- Enact marking, record-keeping and tracing legislation if absent or ineffective;
- Mark all small arms and light weapons held by states and by civilians;
- Maintain accurate and up-to-date records of all small arms and light weapons holdings; and
- Improve communication and information sharing between States on small arms and light weapons tracing, which includes appointing a dedicated point of contact on tracing.

Thank you