The Programme of Action on small arms lacks a framework to support its implementation.

- Although most governments have designated their National Points of Contact, no information network has been established.
- Although many Member States submit their national reports, no user-friendly online tool exists to make information available.
- Although Member States indicated requests for assistance or willingness to provide funds and expertise, no effective mechanism has been developed to match needs and resources.

The PoA-ISS serves as the secure “one-stop shop” for anyone working on small arms in the UN context.

This easy-to-access system aims to provide the essential set of tools for States, international and regional organizations as well as civil society, helping them to implement the Programme of Action. It brings together all basic documentation (e.g. PoA reporting), value-added information (e.g. best practices, advisory network for national contact points and other stakeholders) and clearing-house functions (e.g. project proposals, contact point lists).

In short, the PoA-ISS forms the web-based foundation under the Programme of Action.
Country Profiles

Country-specific information for all Member States obtained from national reports and research studies. Each country profile consists of:

- National Point of Contact and National Coordination Body
- National Reports on the implementation of the PoA
- National statements delivered at various UN Meetings
- Small arms-related national legislation
- Projects, activities and concrete measures undertaken in the country
- Other relevant information provided by Member States

Best Practices

Contains guidelines, handbooks, guides for policymaking and field manuals that were developed and adopted by international and regional organizations.

Training Modules

Modules developed for training courses as well as other training material from within the UN system and other organizations as well as civil society. These modules may be designed for law enforcement officials, experts, field practitioners and civil society, covering national action plans, legislation, tracing, brokering, stockpile management, and weapons collection and destruction.

Upcoming Sections

Four new sections will be activated: An “International/Regional Organizations” and an “International Tracing Instrument” section, to be followed by a Brokering Controls and an Ammunition section. The dynamic character of the PoA-ISS allows for the addition of new sections whenever needed.
The PoA envisages regional organizations’ actions, including strengthened partnerships to share resources and information; assistance in capacity-building, weapons destruction and DD&R programmes; and facilitation of cooperation with civil society. The PoA further envisages regional action programmes, mechanisms for stockpile management and measures to enhance transparency.

The PoA-ISS aims to serve as the hub of an inter-regional information network. Any sub-regional or regional organization can feature its mandates, instruments, web links, relevant documents, as well as recent projects and activities.
Reviving the Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) is one of my priorities in the field of disarmament for 2008”
Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon

CASA is the small arms coordination mechanism within the UN. Applying the wealth of expertise of its members, CASA is able to frame the small arms issue in all its aspects, making use of development, crime, terrorism, human rights, gender, youth, health and humanitarian insights. Collaborative initiatives under CASA include fact-finding missions, capacity-building projects, workshops and technical assistance to support Member States in the implementation of the Programme of Action, the International Tracing Instrument and the UN Firearms Protocol. Recently, CASA has decided to embark upon developing international standards for small arms control just as the UN system has done with landmines (the International Mine Action Standards) and DD&R (IDDRS). UNODA is the designated focal point of CASA.
There is a need for a mechanism to identify requests for assistance in the field of small arms and communicate such requests to donors.

Responding to this, UNIDIR is developing a practical tool, which helps States identify and articulate requests for assistance, and communicate these to donors and organizations. Also it enables donors and organizations to share information on the assistance they are able to provide.

The PoA-ISS will include this tool in 2009, and build on it with information which UNODA receives from Member States, e.g. in their national reports. Thus, the PoA-ISS is expected to function as a clearing-house of project proposals, whether submitted by Member States, regional organizations or UN entities.

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States agreed to designate a National Point of Contact (NPC) for the PoA, and one on the specific issue of tracing small arms. Moreover, the 2007 Expert Group report on illicit brokering recommended that States establish a contact point on brokering controls.

To catalyze the combined expertise of NPCs, they should be linked in a global network.

With already some 400 registered users comprised of NPCs and UN staff based in country and field offices, as well as staff of other international and regional organizations, the Small Arms Advisory Network (the “Network”) will be the first online community to instantly exchange information, advice, expertise and experiences directly related to the implementation of the PoA.

Added is a Bulletin Board (the “Board”), where users can post relevant inquiries, replies, messages, and documents. An automated mailing system enables real-time information sharing among users.
The PoA-ISS operates a Press Centre, featuring:

- News
- Press releases
- Highlights from events and activities
- Event calendar

Members of the Small Arms Advisory Network and other subscribers receive a newsletter and flash news.

In addition, expert information is shared within the Small Arms Advisory Network, in which user groups can focus on e.g. regional or thematic issues.
Implementation of the Programme of Action

Weapons destruction by the United Nations Operation in Burundi (ONUB), 2004
### Programme of Action Implementation Support System (PoA-ISS)

#### Front Page
- Highlights: Upcoming and recent events

#### Top Menu Bar
- Press Centre
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#### Essentials
- **Programme of Action**: Documents, Meetings, National Reports, National Point of Contact
- **International Tracing Instrument**
- **Firearms Protocol**
- **Brokering Controls**
- **Ammunition**
- **Stockpile Management**
- **International Assistance**: Integration of UNIDIR’s tool for matching needs and resources, CASA tool, Project proposals

#### Special Features
- **Country Profiles**
- **Best Practices**: Guidelines/handbooks for policymaking and field/technical manuals
- **Training Modules**
- **Projects Implemented**
- **Activities**
- **UN Register of Conventional Arms**: Transfer of small arms as indicated in the standardized reporting form
- **UN CASA: Coordinating Action on Small Arms**
- **UN Peacekeeping Missions**
- **International and Regional/Subregional Organizations**

#### Tools
- **E-Library**
- **Small Arms Advisory Network**: Online community to exchange advice and experiences on SALW
- **Event Calendar**
- **Roster/Contacts**: Database of National Points of Contact, CASA Focal Points and a roster of experts
- **Reporting**: Experimental tool for an electronic reporting system
The following sponsors and partners have been supporting the current PoA-ISS project or the CASA Database project, which laid the foundation of the PoA-ISS:

**Sponsors:**

- Czech Republic
- Japan
- Sweden
- Germany
- Republic of Korea
- Switzerland

**International Assistance Section:**

- Australia
- Ireland
- United States
- Canada
- New Zealand

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- United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
- UNDP Bureau for Crisis Prevention and Recovery
- United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
- United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean

Donors can fund implementation of the Programme of Action through Trust Funds managed by UNODA or UNDP.