

**Republic of the Philippines**  
**2008 Integrated National Report**  
**on the Implementation of the International Tracing Instrument**  
**and of the SALW Programme of Action**

**FIRST CHAPTER**

**On the Implementation of the International Instrument  
to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner,  
Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons**

- (i) Whether measures have been undertaken to duly mark all small arms and light weapons (SALW) in the possession of government armed and security forces for their own use;**

The Philippines considers the marking of firearms with a unique identifier as an essential element in preventing their illegal diversion. In a Memorandum issued on August 15, 1997 by the Firearms and Explosives Division of the Philippine National Police (FED-PNP) on "Firearms Description", authorized firearm manufacturers are required to mark their products showing therein their distinctive or unique marks, the firearms model and serial numbers in at least three main parts of the firearms – the receiver, the barrel and the slide. All firearms, including those in the possession of the Philippine National Police (PNP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), private security agencies, local government units (LGUs), government owned and controlled corporations, and other concerned government agencies are likewise distinctively marked.

Furthermore, the Commission on Audit (COA) continues to assess the internal controls and policies adopted by concerned agencies whose main responsibility deals with the maintenance, safekeeping, and custody of government firearms. COA supports a nationwide inventory-taking of firearms to be witnessed by their field auditors in order to arrive at the correct balance and pinpoint accountabilities.

- (ii) Whether manufacturers of SALW in their jurisdictions have developed measures against the removal or alterations of markings;**

Presidential Decree 1866, as amended by Republic Act 8294, and its Implementing Rules and Regulations requires licensed manufacturers of SALW to apply an appropriate and reliable marking system on each weapon as an integral part of the production process. They are required to mark their products showing therein their distinctive or unique marks, the firearms

model and serial numbers in at least three main parts of the firearms -- the receiver, the barrel and the slide.

The system of marking is user-friendly and designed in such a way that it is easily recognizable and readable. Police and customs officials could easily run checks by comparing an individual firearm with its accompanying documentation. It permits them to quickly determine at a glance whether the firearm and accompanying documentation match. Any removal or alterations of markings would be noticeable without any technical aid.

**(iii) Whether measures have been put in place to ensure that accurate and comprehensive records are established for all marked SALW within their territory, in accordance with the relevant paragraphs of the International Tracing Instrument;**

The Philippines maintains a comprehensive and accurate records on the manufacture and holding of SALW under the provision of Executive Order No. 122 dated September 13, 1993 which provides for the surrendering and licensing of loose firearms and establishment of records for all firearms. By virtue of said Executive Order, all confiscated, captured, surrendered and deposited (CCSD) firearms by the local police units and the Armed Forces of the Philippines are turned over to the Storage Branch of the Firearms and Explosives Division of the Philippine National Police (FED-PNP) to be recorded and tagged as to their type, kind, caliber, make and category.

The FED-PNP, being the agency responsible for the administration, enforcement and implementation of firearms laws, rules and regulations in the country is the final repository and sole clearing house of all records, information of firearms and ammunition to include the firearms records of all government agencies, government-owned or controlled corporations and all local government units pursuant to Executive Order 122 and Presidential Decree 1866, as amended by Republic Act 8294. Records are kept and remain in this agency for as long as it is needed (with back-up files stored in compact discs).

To systematically track firearms, and where possible their parts and components, the FED-PNP has upgraded its Firearm Management Information System (FIMS). It allows for the identification and verification of an individual SALW's paths and destinations. At present, all records of firearms and firearms holders are encoded in the FIMS and can be easily traced and updated. Applicants for new firearms license are required to complete a list of mandatory requirements and give information for encoding in the FIMS.

On the other hand, arms production activity relies entirely on voluntary disclosure of information by the companies themselves. If companies feel that disclosing such information will undermine their competitiveness and profitability, they might not do so. Hence, it calls for a legal framework to compel companies to disclose relevant information in the attainment of transparency in arms production and sales.

**(iv) Existing or new regulations and administrative procedures that have been put in place in order to ensure the effective implementation of the International Tracing Instrument;**

☞ The new regulation by Firearms and Explosives Division of the Philippine National Police (FED-PNP) of decentralizing the processing of license applications to the regional level may encourage illegal local gun manufacturers, particularly in the island of Cebu, to come out in the open and legally register their trade. In this case, the proliferation of illicit firearms as defined in paragraph 6 of the International Tracing and Marking Instrument may be drastically reduced.

Locally manufactured guns in the Philippines are called "paltik". They are oftentimes illegally manufactured in clandestine backyard or cottage industries manned by family members purposely to produce firearms for trade and economic alleviations. Law enforcement agencies are exerting all efforts to arrest illegal gun manufacturers for violation of our firearms law.

☞ To ensure the effective implementation of the International Tracing and Marking Instrument, the following existing regulations and administrative procedures are strictly observed by firearms manufacturers:

1. That before the firm is allowed to manufacture firearms, ammunition and major firearm parts for commercial purposes, they should secure a Certificate of Safety from the Division of Industrial Safety, Department of Labor and Employment (DOLE);
2. That the manufacturing process shall be in accordance with the existing laws and regulations and that the movement and storage of manufactured firearms, ammunition and major firearm parts shall be under the direct supervision of the FED-PNP;
3. That all manufactured firearms, ammunition and major firearm parts must have their trade marks of brands for easy identification and shall be deposited with FED-PNP for safekeeping prior to its sale to licensed/authorized dealers only upon approval of the Chief, Philippine National Police;

4. That all importation and/or procurement of principal raw materials and components for the manufacture of firearms, ammunition and major firearm parts must have prior clearance from the Chief, Philippine National Police;
5. That the firm shall render a monthly report to FED-PNP as to the types, calibers and quantities of finished products and sales made during the period as well as the inventory of the products and raw materials on stock;
6. That all personnel of the factory employed in the manufacture of firearms, ammunition and major firearm parts shall be thoroughly screened by the Philippine National Police;
7. That the factory be subjected to inspection by representatives of the Chief, National Police as often as necessary.

**(v) The challenges and assistance needs that States may face in their efforts to implement the International Tracing Instrument. States are also encouraged to provide UNODA updated information on their national marking practices, in accordance with the recommendations contained in paragraph 31 (b) of the International Instrument.**

- ☞ Paragraph 9 of the International Marking and Tracing Instrument requires the marking, recording or destruction of illicit SALW found on the State's territory. In the Philippines, only unserviceable firearms and those that are considered beyond economic repair (BER) by reason of loss of parts/components due to fair wear and tear are programmed for destruction. Serviceable firearms are re-issued to the personnel of the PNP and the AFP pursuant to Section 896 of the Revised Administrative Code (RAC) of the Philippines or the Basic Firearms Law. The International Tracing Instrument must therefore take into account the fact that not all countries have the same political, economic, cultural and social conditions for dealing with the problem of illicit SALW.
- ☞ The proposal to place universal markings on weapons as a means of identifying and detecting illicit trafficking in SALW would be a burden to less developed countries as it implies additional significant costs. Method of marking SALW should therefore remain a national prerogative.
- ☞ To trace and monitor the illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons among States, the Philippines highly consider the International Criminal Police Organization (Interpol) in lieu of establishing an impartial and independent international registry which would be rather costly. Interpol involves 186 member-countries and provides operational data services and database for police.

## SECOND CHAPTER

### On the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

#### (i) Achievements made in the implementation of the PoA

☞ The Philippine government has established and maintained appropriate partnerships with the local firearms industry, private security providers, gun clubs and the civil society, including research institutes, gun control organizations, human rights groups and inter-faith organizations toward an effective and concerted action in stopping gun violence. The Philippine government through the Firearms and Explosives Division of the Philippine National Police (FED-PNP) continuously provides information to the public utilizing the multi-media. Updates on SALW issues are likewise incorporated in all other matters being undertaken by the PNP as part of its community relations service through the "Barangay (Locality) Immersion" Program. Moreover, it conducts conferences with owners of private security agencies, recognized gun clubs, dealers and manufacturers of firearms and explosives and Non-Government Organizations on matters relative to new or updated rules and regulations on firearms and explosives.

☞ The country's basic firearms law refers to Republic Act No. 8294 which was approved on June 6, 1997. It amended Presidential Decree No. 1866, entitled "Codifying the Laws on Illegal/Unlawful Possession, Manufacture, Dealing in, Acquisition or Disposition of Firearms, Ammunition or Explosives or Instruments Used in the Manufacture of Firearms or Explosives, and Imposing Stiffer Penalties for Certain Violations Thereof, and for Relevant Purposes".

Based on our national legislation, the term 'firearms' is used in a stricter sense than the definition given by the PoA itself. Republic Act 8294 is more encompassing since air guns and gun replicas are likewise regulated. Additionally, the Philippine government continues to review the adequacy of its existing laws, regulations, procedures and institutions in the light of the PoA commitments. At present, there are more than ten (10) pending firearms-related bills in Congress which include, among others, the following:

- **SB No. 1615** "An Act to Prohibit Certain Firearms Especially Useful to Terrorists";

- **SB No. 1288** "Penalizing the Selling of Firearms, Ammunition or Explosives or Any Parts or Components Used in the Manufacture of Firearms, Ammunition or Explosives to the Enemies of the State, Imposing Penalties Therefore and for other Purposes";
- **SB No. 1623** "An Act to Provide for Childproof Handguns" ; and
- **SB No. 837** "An Act Defining the Crime of Firearms Smuggling, Providing Penalties therefore and for Other Purposes".

☞ In relation to the conduct of the May 14, 2007 Local and National Elections, the Philippine National Police (PNP) has reported that there was a notable decrease in Election Related Violent Incidents (ERVI's), especially those committed with the use of firearms or explosives during the election period which started from January 14, 2007 until June 13 of the same year. Compared to previous elections, only two hundred thirty three (233) violent incidents were recorded as compared to the two hundred forty nine (249) ERVI's in 2004, and two hundred sixty nine (269) in 2001.

The relatively successful security preparations of the Philippine National Police (PNP) for the 2007 local and national elections resulted to the confiscation of 203 firearms and 28 explosives (9 hand grenades and 19 improvised explosives devise), the arrest of 154 suspects, and the filing of 64 cases in court for violation of election gun ban. The success of the PNP could be attributed to the following:

- Preemptive action of identifying and prioritizing areas of concern or election 'hot spots' through the deployment of adequate law enforcement personnel; and
- Strict implementation of Commission on Election (COMELEC) Resolution 7764-A pertaining to the prohibition on the carrying and transporting of firearms or deadly weapons (gun ban) during the election period by conducting prophylactic patrols, police checkpoints, and maximum police visibility.

☞ A symbolic burning of more than 3,200 firearms was carried out on July 9, 2007 at the Philippine National Police Parade Ground in Camp Crame highlighting the international observance of "Small Arms Destruction Day" by United Nations-member countries. The weapons destroyed include those seized by the Philippine National Police and Armed Forces of the Philippines during encounters with local insurgents and secessionist groups, as well as those recovered from criminal elements and gun law violators. Relatedly, close to 54,000 firearms of various types are due to

be destroyed by the military at its supply units. Said firearms are to be destroyed as part of the military's "demilitarization" of captured, confiscated, surrendered and deposited (CCSD) firearms, which includes AK47, Garand, M14 and M16 rifles.

- ☞ On new regulations and administrative procedures that have been put in place to ensure the effective implementation of the PoA, the "One-Stop-Shop" Processing Center established through a Memorandum of Agreement signed on October 7, 2005 in Baguio City by and among the representatives of the Bureau of Food and Drugs (BFAD), Department of Environment and Natural Resources - Environmental Management Bureau (DENR-EMB), Fertilizer and Pesticide Authority (FPA), the Philippine Drug Enforcement Agency (PDEA), and the Philippine National Police (PNP) is now fully operational. Said Processing Center facilitates the processing of applications for the required permits and licenses for controlled or regulated chemicals, explosives and explosive ingredients, particularly nitrates, chlorates, and nitric acid. "One-Stop-Shop" Processing Center effectively addressed the issue regarding the overlapping authorities of concerned national government agencies over certain chemicals and insures transparency and strict regulation control. It is conveniently located at Camp Crame adjacent to the office of the Firearms and Explosives Division of the Philippine National Police.

- ☞ With the rising number of crimes being committed through the use of loose firearms, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo has signed Executive Order 585 in November, 2007 granting immunity from criminal prosecution to persons who will surrender their loose or unlicensed firearms to the Philippine National Police.

Last year, the Philippine National Police recorded a total of 5,278 crimes involving firearms. Of the 5,278 crimes, 5,228 were committed with the use of unregistered guns. The remaining 50 cases involved licensed firearms.

The gun amnesty program now being enforced by the government may not only curb the proliferation of loose firearms but may generate much-needed funds for the establishment of a ballistics information system, which will help police investigators in the speedy resolution of crimes committed with the use of firearms. The amnesty period will expire on June 13, 2008.

- ☞ On the aspect of human/humanitarian dimension of the PoA, the Philippine human rights situation today is marked by pressing human rights issues, such as the spate of unexplained killings and

disappearances which the United Nations referred to as extrajudicial killings. As one of government's responses, President Gloria Macapagal Arroyo granted the Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines (CHRP) a P25M Contingency Fund to support its nationwide investigatory efforts, monitoring of human rights violations and training programs. The Supreme Court of the Philippines (SC) likewise responded by creating 99 Special Courts nationwide to fast-track the resolution of extrajudicial killing (EJK) cases.

Relatedly, the 13th Congress passed in April 2007 the Human Security Act of 2007 (Republic Act No. 9372) or the anti-terrorism law that provides the Commission prosecutorial powers and more responsibilities. Section 55 defines the role of CHRP: "The Commission on Human Rights of the Philippines shall give the highest priority to the investigation and prosecution of violations of civil and political rights of persons in relation to the implementation of this Act; and for this purpose, the Commission shall have the concurrent jurisdiction to prosecute public officials, law enforcers, and other persons who have violated the civil and political rights of persons suspected of, accused of, or detained for the crime of terrorism or conspiracy to commit terrorism."

**(ii) Challenges and obstacles met in the implementation of the PoA**

The Philippines, being an archipelago, is composed of numerous islands and islets scattered south of Taiwan and North of Borneo and Indonesia, creating a very long and broken coastline. It is therefore very difficult and even very expensive to effectively patrol these coastlines rendering them virtually unguarded and making them vulnerable to arms smuggling. Hence, proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons in the country has become a meta-problem with its adverse implications to the socio-political and economic fiber of the Philippine society. Illegal arms trade has fuelled insurgency, criminality, political warlordism, banditry, and other forms of criminality.

To address these concerns, the Philippine government needs to establish a central repository of all information pertaining to firearms trafficking; conduct a joint research and information exchange aimed at identifying smuggling routes; enact laws that will criminalize firearms smuggling/trafficking; and adopt relevant measures for capacity building. In this context, the Philippine government strongly desires the following specific needs:

- > Training for law enforcement officers in anti-firearms smuggling and trafficking;

- Increasing capacity for effective control of maritime borders;
- Assistance for stockpile management and destruction of obsolete, unserviceable, captured, confiscated, surrendered and deposited firearms;
- Assistance for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) Programmes; and
- Assistance for Public Awareness Programmes.

**(iii) Assistance extended to other countries in the implementation of the POA**

N/A

**(iv) Assistance received from other States and organizations, in the implementation of the POA**

The Crime Laboratory Service of the Philippine National Police (CLS-FNP) through the National Economic Development Authority (NEDA) has submitted to Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) a project proposal on the acquisition of an Integrated Ballistics Identification System (IBIS). IBIS digitally captures the images of bullets and cartridge cases, stores them in a database, performs automatic computer-based comparisons of the images, and ranks them according to the likelihood of match. The equipment estimated cost is P330M.

Previously, JICA formally turned over to the PNP Crime Lab on May 24, 2005 the Automated Fingerprint Identification System (AFIS). To date, the system has a database of over 200,000 records and with more than a million records more being processed for data entry.

Likewise, JICA continues to play an active role in the Mindanao peace process, principally through capacity-building and quick-impact projects.

**(v) Priority issues related to the implementation of the PoA which may be placed on the agenda of the 3<sup>rd</sup> BMS**

Ammunition is a very significant factor and a major issue that should be a subject for further deliberation during the 3<sup>rd</sup> Biennial Meeting of States on July 14-18, 2008 in New York. The rationale behind the control on the sale of ammunition, spare parts and ammunition components is that firearms are useless without the ammunition; "It is the bullet that kills not SALW." In fact, categorizing firearm as a high caliber or a low caliber is a misnomer, since it is the bullet that determines whether a firearm is a high caliber or not. This issue has not been settled during the 2006 SALW Review Conference.

**(vi) Measures undertaken to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons**

The Philippines has no specific legislation on arms brokering. However, similar system is already in place to avert illicit trade in small arms such as Memo Circular 99-009 dated March 16, 1999 which is the "New Policy on Firearms and Ammunition Dealership". It requires Licenses for Indentors and Dealers in firearms, ammunition, and firearm spare parts. Such license authorizes the indentor to import arms for the Philippine National Police (PNP), Armed Forces of the Philippines (AFP), and other government entities. Firearms dealers are also required to apply for a License to Operate Dealership in firearms, ammunition, firearm spare parts and accessories, air gun, ammunition reloading components, and bullet proof vests. Indentors/Firearm dealers in the Philippines operate similarly as brokers.

The present system can hold for the next five years - unless the production quota of firearm manufacturers is increased by the Firearms and Explosives Division of the Philippine National Police (FED-PNP) and approved by the Chief, PNP. At any rate, the country do not usually engage in large shipment of SALW. Normally, large shipment of SALW concerns State-to-State transfers involving the AFP/PNP.

**(vii) Measures undertaken to enhance international cooperation to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit brokering in small arms and light weapons;**

The Philippine government cooperates with the United Nations system to prevent, combat and eradicate illicit brokering in SALW by ensuring the effective implementation of arms embargoes decided by the UN Security Council in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations. Hence, we undertake appropriate measures, in coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs to avoid authorizing exports of small arms where there is a clear risk that the transfer in question will violate sanctions of the UNSC or contravene bilateral/multilateral commitments on non-proliferation of SALW.

The Philippine government likewise shares evidentiary information for law enforcement and prosecution purposes, as the situation occurs, through official government channels on the basis of supporting agreements, such as the Agreement on Information Exchange and Establishment of Communication Procedures signed on May 7, 2002 with the Governments of Malaysia and Indonesia to combat terrorism and other forms of transnational crime.

(viii) **Information on national experiences related to best practices in the implementation of the PoA**

To combat the proliferation and illicit trafficking in small arms, the Philippine government focuses on the following: Storage Safety & Security; Law Enforcement; Information Exchange/Public Awareness; Disposition of Unserviceable or Beyond Economic Repair (BER) Firearms; and Export/Import Control.

- **Storage Safety & Security** is considered as a critical activity by the Firearms and Explosives Division of the Philippine National Police (FED-PNP). FED-PNP strictly enforces its authority and conducts ocular inspections of arms production of authorized manufacturers in accordance with existing regulations, including stocks held by the AFP, PNP and other authorized entities to ensure accountability for all SALW held and issued by the Government.
- **Law Enforcement**. The Philippine government recognizes that to reduce the number of illicit or illegal small arms already in circulation calls for a relentless law enforcement operations which are continuously conducted through the following:
  1. OPLAN (Operation Plan) "PAGLALANSAG" (Disband) which aims to disband Partisan Armed Groups (PAGs);
  2. OPLAN "BAKAL" (Steel) and OPLAN "KAPKAP" (Frisk) which has been intensified due to the election period ;
  3. LOI (Letter of Instruction) "BAWI" (Recall) which is carried out to recover FAs not returned by active, retired or dismissed personnel of the PNP;
  4. "BALIK BARIL" (Return Gun) BUY-BACK PROGRAM which addresses the issues on FAs surrendered by rebel returnees;
  5. The conduct of CCW (Checkpoint, Chokepoint, and Walk-the-Beat) Patrols. These proactive measures are undertaken to curb criminality in the Metropolitan Manila area; and the
  6. GUN BAN POLICY, promulgated under the Omnibus Election Code of the Philippines and is strictly implemented during election period.
- **Information Exchange/Public Awareness Program**. As stated earlier, The Philippine government has established and maintained appropriate partnerships with the civil society comprising policy development/oriented groups, gun control organizations, sports shooting

clubs, research institutes, aid organizations/agencies, human rights groups, victims of heinous crimes, faith-based organizations, research institutes, and community organizations to inculcate the culture of peace among the general population and to better understand the negative impact of armed violence to the most vulnerable sectors of society.

Seminars on transnational organized crime, with emphasis on the illicit trade in small arms were likewise conducted as a continuing public awareness program for law enforcement agencies, local government units (LGUs), and the academe toward an effective reduction of supply and demand for illicit SALW.

- **Disposition of unserviceable or beyond economic repair (BER) firearms.** The Philippine government through the Firearms and Explosives Division of the Philippine National Police (FED-PNP) recently adopted smelting as a mode of final disposal of all unserviceable or beyond economic repair (BER) firearms securely kept at its storage. Small arms smelting is a safe, ecologically-sound and well-proven destruction techniques which renders totally and permanently inoperable the firearms, including their individual components.

As a policy, smelting shall only be undertaken by the FED-PNP under the presence of the Commission on Audit (COA) representatives in accordance with PNP Circular Nr 5 dated December 10, 2005. This is to insure that appropriate security measures are incorporated at all stages from collection, storage, transportation, to destruction of firearms.

Hence, FED only destroys unserviceable firearms or those that are beyond economical repair by reason of loss of parts/components due to fair wear and tear. Serviceable firearms are re-issued to the personnel of the PNP and the AFP pursuant to Section 896 of the Revised Administrative Code (RAC) of the Philippines on the Basic Firearms Law.

- **Export/Import Control**

The Philippine government ensures the effective export/import control by enhancing the use of End User Certificate/Letter of Intent and strictly implementing the export and import licensing or authorization. Authority to Export is only issued by the Chief, PNP upon submission of the following: Purchase Order; License to Operate; and End-User Certificate/Letter of Intent.

The authority to import is granted in the Philippines for commercial purposes, test and evaluation, or those to be undertaken by

government/judiciary entity thru a licensed indenter, or for manufacturer of firearms and ammunition for commercial purposes.

All imported SALW are inspected by the Bureau of Custom (BOC) and the Firearms and Explosives Division of the Philippine National Police (FED-PNP) at the point of entry. After payment of appropriate customs duties, the SALW are then transported to the FED Storage with adequate police escorts where it will remain until the appropriate licenses to possess firearms are processed and approved.

#### **Procedures followed by importers**

- Upon the approval of the Authority to Import, it will be presented by the dealer/indenter to the exporting country.
- The country of origin will issue the export authority and release the firearms to the recipient country.
- Upon arrival at the port of entry, the articles shall be deposited by the consignee with the Collector of Customs/Postmaster who shall issue a receipt thereof.
- The claimant shall then notify the FED-PNP of such deposits, and request the transfer and deposit thereof to the FED PNP enclosing therewith a copy of the corresponding receipt.
- A duly authorized representative of the FED-PNP shall be sent who shall receive under receipt the articles from the Collector of Customs or Postmaster, and who shall deposit the articles with the FED-PNP Storage.
- The articles shall remain deposited at the FED-PNP until the corresponding license or permit shall have been issued.

On export of SALW, authorized firearms manufacturers can only export their products to countries with whom the Philippines maintain diplomatic relations, in accordance with Memo Circular No. 99-009 dated March 16, 1999 of the Philippine National Police. It shall not be allowed when such export will have an adverse effect on Philippine foreign relations with any foreign government. Furthermore, the requirements of the PNP and the AFP for any defense/military items sought to be exported shall have top priority over the export of same.

The minimum State's obligation under international law relating to international arms transfers is contained in Paragraph 11 of Section II of the PoA which requires strict national regulations and procedures on all applications for SALW export authorizations, consistent with the existing

responsibilities of States under international law, and taking into account the "clear risk" that the weapons will be used for internal repression, provoke or prolong armed conflict, or that the arms would be used aggressively against another country.

On the other hand, it would be too difficult for the exporting country to determine the clear and present risk involved in the international transfer of SALW. In the absence of timely and reliable information on the risks involved in the transfer of SALW, State's action may not be based therefore on facts but only on the presumption of arms diversion. The certainty, for instance that SALW would be used to facilitate the commission of violent crimes cannot be easily proved by the exporting country.

As an exporting country, the best that the Philippines can hope for is to exercise due diligence by prohibiting arms transfer to UN-sanctioned States, taking into consideration whatever list the newly created Anti-Terrorism Council (ATC) of the Philippines can provide.

Furthermore, the Philippines is not re-exporting or re-transferring previously imported SALW.

Indeed, significant measures are continuously being undertaken by the Philippine government, through strong institutional building blocks, to deal with the myriad of issues and concerns emanating from the illicit trafficking in SALW - including the root causes of armed violence and demand factors for small arms in the attainment of a sustainable peace and development in the country.

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