Statement by The International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) to the First Committee of the United Nation’s General Assembly
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Delivered by Michele Polliacof, UN Liaison Officer, IANSA

The International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) has worked closely with governments, intergovernmental organisations and other civil society groups to implement the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects since its establishment in 2001. The key contributions of IANSA members in relation to the Programme of Action in 2010 were as follows:

- Globally, IANSA members implemented public awareness campaigns around measures to reduce small arms proliferation, misuse and violence.
- The IANSA Women’s Network pursued an international campaign titled ‘Disarm Domestic Violence’, which advocated for the prevention of access to firearms by perpetrators of domestic violence.
- In time for this year’s BMS, IANSA, in collaboration with the Regional Disarmament Branch of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs updated the ‘Guidelines for Mainstreaming Gender for the Effective Implementation of the PoA’.
- In all regions IANSA members have assisted governments with small arms, light weapons and ammunition stockpile management, as well as destruction.
- In South-East Asia, Latin America and sub-Saharan Africa, IANSA members assisted governments to develop small arms and light weapons national action plans, as well as revise national arms control policies and legislation.
- West African network members were successful in mobilising support and ratification of the ECOWAS small arms and light weapons convention, which has now become legally binding.
- Our members have collaborated with the Economic Community of Central African States and the UN Regional Centre for Peace Disarmament in Togo to develop a draft legal instrument on the control of small arms, light weapons and ammunition in Central Africa (which is referred to as the Kinshasa Convention).
- 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 Brazil, IANSA members were central to the Brazilian government establishing policy for a permanent small arms disarmament campaign.
- 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.

In addition, IANSA acknowledges the contribution of the Regional Disarmament Branch in supporting and strengthening the efforts by civil society groups to prevent and combat gun violence. The regional disarmament centres have strengthened relations with governments and civil society by providing exactly the kind of leadership, practical support, technical assistance and capacity building that helps to bridge the gap between the global agreement and local implementation.

These efforts include: a train-the-trainers programme on combating illicit small arms trafficking by the UNLiREC; The Regional Centre and the OAS which provided technical
assistance on small arms destruction; and the marking of state-held small arms and improved stockpile management in the Great Lakes region and the Horn of Africa, coordinated by RECSA.

IANSA welcomes the initiative to develop a set of International Small Arms Control Standards by UN CASA.

IANSA acknowledges UNDP support to States of the former Yugoslavia and the former Soviet Union with arms destruction, stockpile management and support for the strengthening of legislation.

IANSA commends the efforts by many States and inter-governmental organisations to implement the Programme of Action over the past nine years. IANSA is supportive of the 2010 UN General Assembly small arms and light weapons omnibus resolution, as it is a positive example of States’ continued commitment to actively implement the PoA, including the provision of financial assistance for the implementation of the UN PoA.

IANSA is encouraged by the commitment of States to hold an Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts and a Review Conference on the implementation of the Programme of Action in May 2011 and July 2012 respectively. In this regard, IANSA welcomes existing initiatives to consult with relevant civil society groups on the process and content of these meetings. As we move toward the 2011 and 2012 meetings, we need more effort to connect the global and the local.

IANSA congratulates the Government of New Zealand on its appointment as Chair-designate for the 2011 Open-ended Meeting of Governmental Experts and applauds efforts to engage in consultation with member states and civil society to establish a workable and effective agenda that focuses on two thematic areas. The Network is encouraged by this development, as we feel, based on past experiences, that it will allow for sufficient time for States to devise detailed, realistic and appropriate recommendations to address the problems related to these themes.

Nonetheless, IANSA urges States not to neglect the other provisions outlined in the Programme of Action, particularly, the establishment and implementation of comprehensive national controls to effectively combat the proliferation and misuse of illicit small arms and light weapons.

Given the difficulties encountered at the 2006 Review Conference, IANSA requests, as emphasised in the report of the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States, that States elect a Chair for the 2012 Review Conference as early as possible, as well as undertake the necessary consultations and agenda development well in advance. This will ultimately contribute to the success of this Review Conference and further significant implementation of the Programme of Action. In addition, IANSA calls on States to use the Review Conference to strengthen the follow-on mechanism of the Programme of Action.

Over the coming two years we will emphasise our monitoring role of the PoA and other agreements to reduce armed violence. We will be monitoring not only the implementation by states, but also the suitability of the PoA itself. And we will push for the 2012 Review Conference to actually involve a review, to make the PoA stronger and more applicable to the reality of armed violence.