



**Rebecca Peters,**

(English)

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Thank you Mr Chair

Our whole community was affected by the **Air France tragedy** on 1 June this year. We lost 3 of our most energetic members: Dr Pablo Dreyfus from Argentina, who was the research director at Viva Rio in Brazil; his wife Ana Carolina Rodrigues who also worked at Viva Rio, and Dr Ronald Dreyer from the Foreign Ministry of Switzerland. We miss them all very much, especially as we come together here at First Committee.

In the cycle of the UN small arms process, this was an ‘off year’ – there was no UN small arms conference. However, there has been a great deal of activity at global, regional, subregional and national levels. If I can cite one example from each of these:

- **33 States submitted their views** on the links between **armed violence and development**, which has helped produce a strong report from the UN Secretary General. We hope this will strengthen the involvement of the development community in our topic.
- **The EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports** finally became a legally-binding Common Position last December.
- **The Central African Community, ECCAS**, began drafting its sub-regional treaty on small arms.
- **And in Guatemala** the gun law was strengthened in April, with responsibility moving from the Ministry of Defence to the Ministry of Interior. IANSA members in many other countries are campaigning for this same move.

For the global movement against gun violence, this was a year of consolidation. IANSA strengthened its relationship with the **UN Regional Centres for Disarmament** in Lima, Lome and in Kathmandu.

- At the **UN NGO Conference in Mexico**, more than 1300 civil society representatives from around the world announced their support for strong measures to reduce gun violence.
- The IANSA Women's Network launched its global campaign **Disarming Domestic Violence**, making the link between guns and violence in the home.
- The **Global Week of Action** Against Gun Violence becomes more popular every year. This year, about 300 events were organised in over 90 countries, with governments, UN agencies and NGOs working together to raise awareness of measures to reduce gun violence.

**And now we're looking forward, toward the 2010 Biennial Meeting of States**

- As you know, IANSA is the coordinator of civil society participation in the BMS.
- We hope the BMS will be focussed and practical, but will not lose sight of the fundamental reason for the small arms process, which is to strengthen human security. This should not be reduced to a dry discussion between technocrats.
- We would like to see more emphasis on measurability. That means setting some measurable goals and also asking states to consider more measurable results in their reports.
- This week many States have expressed their understandable frustration that small arms were not included as an eighth category in the **UN Register of Conventional Arms**. These States have an opportunity to include information on exports, import and holdings of small arms in their reports to the BMS.
- **Speaking of those reports**, the deadline is very soon – 31 January I believe. This is a very ambitious deadline, and I extend an offer to all delegations – IANSA members are ready to help States with their national reports, if it would be helpful to have a little extra capacity.
- We are hopeful that all Member States will support the omnibus resolution on small arms this year, and participate in the BMS.
- And may I say we are thrilled with the appointment of Ambassador Macedo as Chair, and we look forward to helping him to make the conference a success.