



***Regional South and South East Asia Parliamentary Workshop Promoting Engagement of Women
Parliamentarians in Addressing the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons***

Funded by

United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation



Kindly Hosted by

Parliament of Malaysia

29-30 January 2020



PARLIAMENT OF MALAYSIA

KUALA LUMPUR PLAN OF ACTION

Recalling the issuance of the Colombo Declaration (2001), in response to the cross-regional challenges of small arms proliferation impacting South Asia, which among other aspects, emphasized the need for tracing, clarified the matter of right to self-determination, distinguished between licit and illicit use, and accounted for gender dimensions

Recalling further the beneficial role of The South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), particularly the SAARC Regional Convention on Suppression of Terrorism and its Additional Protocol, and the value of improving its relevant mechanisms – given that SAARC’s advocacy for sub-regional cooperation measures, including regional information exchange to detect and prevent arms trafficking, is a valuable resource for implementation of the UN Programme of Action Addressing the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (UN PoA)

Concerned by the increase of small arms and light weapons (SALW) smuggling activity in the South and Southeast region, particularly of a cross-border nature, and the violent associated consequences

Recognizing the Kuala Lumpur Declaration in Combating Transnational Crime (2015) and its focus on arms smuggling, and The ASEAN Plan of Action in Combating Transnational Crime (2016-2025) calling for strengthened regional cooperation and capacity to combat such crimes

Mindful that many illegal guns apprehended in the South and Southeast Asia region originate from outside of the South and Southeast Asia region

Mindful also of the gendered nature of SALW and the disproportionate impact, both direct and indirect, on women and girls – particularly in the context of misuse of SALW, domestic violence and social and economic consequences of armed conflict

Recognizing the continued need to increase understanding of the gender-specific impacts of the illicit trade in SALW, and more effectively promote national awareness in this regard

Recalling the importance of implementing the UN PoA, and annual national level reporting

Recalling further the Outcome Document from the Third Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action from June 2018, which highlights the important necessity of engaging women decision-makers more fully in addressing the illicit trade in SALW

Acknowledging the need to mainstream gender dimensions into UN PoA implementation

Recognizing the importance of equal participation and full involvement of women in all efforts to maintain and promote peace and security, as set out in UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (2000)

Recognizing further the importance of States recommitting themselves to the Women, Peace and Security agenda, including by creating safe environments for women leaders, peacebuilders, human rights defenders and political actors, as set out in UN Security Council Resolution 2493 (2019)

Aware of the complex socio-economic reasons that can also lead to acts of armed violence and the importance of taking a holistic, cross-cutting approach in seeking to address this challenge

Welcoming the recent accession to the Arms Trade Treaty by The Maldives and expressing the hope that more UN Member States in Asia will also take this important step in the near future

Acknowledging the immense value in exchanging national experiences, lessons learned and best practices on the mainstreaming of gender dimensions into policies and programmes

We, Parliamentarians from Malaysia, Maldives and Pakistan:

1. **Call on** all countries engaged in the export of arms to the South and Southeast Asia region to take immediate, urgent steps to better regulate such exports, with due consideration for gender dimensions in policy design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and decision-making processes

2. **Call also on** all countries outside the South and Southeast region from where arms are sent to private citizens and companies in the South and Southeast Asia region, to take necessary steps to better regulate and control transactions

3. **Decide** to explore taking one or more of the following steps in our respective countries to seek to mitigate the devastating impact of the illicit trade in SALW:

- **Encourage** our respective Governments to submit regular National Reports to the United Nations on the Implementation of the UN PoA
- **Encourage further** our respective Governments to adequately report on matters of gender in UN PoA National Reports
- **Review** existing border enforcement policies and legislation to ensure their adequacy in addressing the significant issue of cross-border arms smuggling
- **Review also** existing firearms legislation to ensure its adequacy in preventing the illicit proliferation of SALW, particularly through criminalizing acts of illicit possession and use
- **Seek to** ensure that national legislation addressing the illicit trade in SALW reflects also the necessity to counter corruption and conflicts of interest as well as protection from retaliation for whistleblowers who expose corruption or conflicts of interest in connection with this illicit trade
- **Encourage** female legislators in our respective parliaments to become more involved in addressing national security issues, including by joining relevant parliamentary committees
- **Encourage further** Governments in the South and Southeast region to develop and implement gender-sensitive small arms control in line with international commitments adopted at PoA meetings
- **Encourage further** National Human Rights Commissions and Institutions in the South and Southeast Asia region to report on national human rights violations caused by the illicit trade in SALW, with appropriate focus on the disproportionate impact faced by vulnerable sections of the population including women and children
- **Advance efforts** to increase gender-specific SALW data collection and analysis, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 16 which promotes peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development
- **Promote awareness** of the importance of engaging more female decision-makers in this area through engagement with constituents, civil society, academia and all other relevant stakeholders, and by utilizing appropriate media outlets and social media channels
- **Undertake**, as a group, to remain in contact with each other, individually and/or collectively, in order to share relevant new developments and information on initiatives we have taken
- **Agree** to seek to keep PGA informed of any and all initiatives that we may be in a position to take to address the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in the next 6 months

Done this 30th of January, 2020