

TBILISI PLAN OF ACTION

We Parliamentarians,

Meeting in Tbilisi from 9-10 June 2006, in the context of the Regional Parliamentary Workshop on Small Arms, and Light Weapons;

Welcoming also the Eighth Central Asia and Caucasus Regional Forum on Export Controls held in Tbilisi, Georgia from 16-19 May, 2006;

Aware of the linkage between inadequate State oversight of small arms production and/or ineffectual or inadequate small arms and light weapons export regulation and the fueling of conflicts in other States and Regions;

Aware also of the linkage between Small Arms and Light Weapons, Political instability, insecurity and the hindrance of development;

Confirming our attachment to the principles and objectives contained in the United Nations Charter aimed at safeguarding future generations against the scourge of war and creating the necessary conditions for peace, security and stability in the world;

Hailing the adoption of important legal and political instruments including:

- the United Nations Action Programme aimed at Preventing, Combating and Eliminating illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects;
- the Additional Protocol against Illicit Production and Trade in Firearms, Firearms parts, pieces and munitions, to the United Nations Convention against Organised Transnational Crime;
- The Wassenaar Arrangement Elements for Effective Legislation on Arms Brokering
- The Organization of American States (OAS) Model Regulations on Brokering
- The EU Common Position on the Control of Arms Brokering
- The OSCE Principles on Controlling Brokering

Notes with Appreciation the ongoing important engagement in the area of Small Arms and Light Weapons control in the region and in Neighbouring States by the UNDP and OSCE;

Recognizing the importance of Civil Society and Gender in the area of Small Arms generally and the need to engage on a regular basis with Civil Society in identifying more effective means of controlling Small Arms proliferation;

Convinced of the important role that Parliamentarians from the region and Neighbouring States have to play in the struggle to promote democratic principles and good political governance, respect for human rights and peace, security and justice;

Commending Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) and the Parliament of Georgia in taking the initiative of organizing this Regional Parliamentary Workshop

Expressing its Appreciation to Parliamentarians for Global Action, the Parliament of Georgia, the OSCE Mission to Georgia, UNDP, the Open Society Foundation Georgia, the US Embassy, Tbilisi and SaferWorld in their provision of support for this Parliamentary Workshop

Have agreed to implement the following Plan of Action:

I - AT THE NATIONAL LEVEL

1. Introduce and support legislation addressing arms trafficking originating within and across our respective States, including by establishing and/or improving State approved arms and munitions broker lists, enhancing tighter export controls and introducing more serious penalties for infringements of applicable laws;
2. Conduct advocacy aimed at governments for the setting up of permanent and independent national commissions with sufficient human, material and financial resources to effectively combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons;
3. Initiate, in close collaboration with government agencies and civil society organisations, information, awareness and education campaigns aimed at the general population on the issue of small arms and light weapons;
4. Form parliamentary networks on issues relating to democratic transition and the fight against the proliferation and illicit trade of small arms and light weapons and post-conflict justice;
5. Support the development of a legally-binding, global instrument regulating brokering of small arms & light weapons at the UN Review Conference in New York at the end of June 2006;
6. Support, and encourage our respective Governments to support, the drafting of minimum common standards on international arms transfers at the UN Review

Conference in New York at the end of June 2006, and other related initiatives towards the subsequent development of an international Arms Trade Treaty;

7. Ensure that existing stocks of weapons and ammunition are secured, maintained and regularly inspected to the highest possible standards and seek the assistance of international partners to improve standards where they are in any way a threat to security or public health;

8. Support the destruction of national surpluses of Small Arms and Light Weapons and ammunition while maintaining the highest safety standards;

9. Work to revise and update national legislation on small arms and light weapons to ensure compliance and conformity with the UN Programme of Action;

10. Ensure that those States that have not already done so ratify and enforce the Ottawa Convention on antipersonnel mines;

11. Encourage and support voluntary surrender campaigns for small arms and light weapons;

12. Call for increased overall transparency with respect to national controls over small arms and light weapons, in particular through making provision for greater parliamentary oversight in this area;

13. Encourage governments to strengthen judiciary institutions and create the conditions for their independence;

14. Urge governments to take appropriate action to combat impunity, especially in post-conflict situations;

II - AT THE REGIONAL AND INTERNATIONAL LEVELS

15. Work towards achieving greater cooperation and coordination among Parliamentarians and Governments from the Region and Neighbouring States in achieving the objectives set out in Section I above;

16. Organize regular sub-regional and regional meetings to assess progress in the implementation of the Tbilisi Plan of Action;

17. For that purpose, create a support mechanism for the parliamentary networks.

Done in Tbilisi, June 10, 2006