

PHILIPPINES PLAN OF ACTION

We, Parliamentarians, gathered in Manila, Republic of Philippines for the PGA Asian Parliamentary Workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Proposed Arms Trade Treaty:

Recalling and Noting:

The ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime, adopted in Yangon on 23 June 1999

The UN Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons adopted in July 2001

The Work Programme to Implement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime, adopted in Kuala Lumpur on 17 May 2002, which includes tackling small arms and light weapons (SALW) as part of transnational crime

The United Nations Workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapons held in Beijing from 19 to 21 April 2005

The ASEAN Regional Forum (ARF) Seminar on SALW held in Phnom Penh on 4 and 5 November 2005.

The Asian Workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapons held in advance of the UN Review Conference in Bangkok in May 2006

The UN General Assembly resolution 61/89 adopted on December 7, 2006, endorsing the exploration of the feasibility of an Arms Trade Treaty;

Recognizing that the problem of the continued and inadequately regulated proliferation of illicit trade of small arms and light weapons poses a threat to regional security in Asia and other regions of the world

Recognizing also that proper compliance by all UN Member States with the aforementioned UN Programme of Action can facilitate the achievement of several UN Millennium Development Goals, including Poverty Eradication, Sustainable Development and Gender equality

Mindful of the crucial and central role that Parliamentarians have to play in drafting and seeking the implementation of legislation aimed at ensuring conformity of national legislation with the UN Programme of Action;

Recognizing that the deeper causes for the demand for weapons are extreme poverty, disenfranchisement, lack of access to basic services, absence of structures where legitimate grievance and interests can be channeled

Recognizing further that pursuing ATT is within the larger context of pursuing social justice, human rights, peace processes, conflict resolution, and reducing violence

Noting the need to reexamine the security paradigm that relies much on arms, and give equal importance to the human security paradigm

Mindful of the clear importance of sharing with each other our respective legislative experiences in this area with a view to identifying best practices for all Parliamentarians engaged in or seeking to become engaged in this area

Believing that the overarching aim of any international arms trade framework must be geared toward reduction of regional and international tensions, prevention and resolution of conflict and disputes, building and enhancing confidence, and promoting disarmament as well as social and economic development

Expressing our appreciation to Parliamentarians for Global Action and the Philippines Action Network on Small Arms and Light Weapons for the organization of this important Regional Parliamentary Workshop

Now we, the Parliamentarians participating in this Workshop agree to take a number of practical steps which may include one or more of the following:

Raising questions in our respective Parliaments concerning national compliance with the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, either in plenary session or during the proceedings of relevant Parliament Committees

Convening of Parliamentary Committee meetings to discuss further the issue of national compliance with the UN Programme of Action and with the objective of achieving further progress in this area

Raising the issue of national compliance with the UN Programme of Action bilaterally with relevant senior Government officials and relevant Government Ministries

Advocating for stronger support by our respective governments towards the acceptance of the proposed Arms Trade Treaty, as initiated by the UN General Assembly resolution adopted on December 7, 2006, recognizing that a comprehensive approach is required to address the complex issue of conventional arms transfers

Raising general awareness of this important and urgent issue of international concern by publishing articles in the national press or by giving interviews in national media outlets.

Undertake to continue to share our respective national legislative experiences with each other, bilaterally and collectively, with a view to continually enhancing best legislative practices in this area

Closely work with civil society groups and the private sector in advocating the respective countries' commitment and support for the implementation of the UN-POA on illicit trade of SALW

For countries without clear mechanisms for marking and tracing of arms - *sponsor* legislations that would address these issues

Undertake to keep each other informed on a regular basis of any steps we have taken according to this plan of action

Done in Manila, February 7, 2007

| |
|--|
| With the kind support of The Governments of Canada, Sweden and Denmark |
|--|