



COLOMBO PLAN OF ACTION

Recognizing that armed violence is a scourge that devastates the lives of so many in developing and developed countries alike around the world in many different ways, directly and indirectly, and exacts a heavy toll on frequently scarce national resources

Recognizing also that meaningful and sustainable development in numerous countries around the world is greatly hindered and delayed by poor regulation and control of firearms and weapons, domestically, regionally and internationally

Acknowledging that the root causes of armed violence are many, complex and interrelated and must be addressed systematically and holistically

Acknowledging also that accountability for crimes of armed violence is a critically important factor in deterring the commission of such crimes in the future

Recognizing that cruel, oppressive and corrupt governance is often a catalyst in generating the environment and conditions that create situations of conflict

Mindful that we, as Parliamentarians, have a responsibility to protect, to the best of our abilities, the people of our countries as well as the wider interests of the international community:

Reaffirming the importance of Security Council Resolutions 1325 (2000), 1820 (2008) and the Millennium Development Goals

We undertake to:

- 1) Promptly follow up with relevant government ministries and agencies, so that they are aware of the terrible impact that inadequate regulation and enforcement of firearms legislation has on public safety and the health, education, trade and the security sectors as well as the impact it has on human rights, in particular those of women and children.
- 2) Analyze current national firearms regulation and legislation in our respective countries with a view to bringing them into greater conformity with the United Nations Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and also explore the feasibility of weapon surrender programmes in our respective countries
- 3) Review the effectiveness of the implementation and enforcement of national legislation aimed at curbing armed violence in general and draft or amend legislation and regulations, as needed, to bring about necessary improvements.
- 4) Urge countries that manufacture, sell or supply small arms and light weapons to implement the UN Programme of Action on the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects.

- 5) Working with Civil Society, encourage our colleagues in parliament to sign the Global Parliamentary Declaration on the Arms Trade Treaty and also call upon our governments to participate vigorously in favour of an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and ensure that members of parliament, as key stakeholders, are regularly consulted by the Executive on all policy decisions in this area
- 6) Where appropriate, and in those countries where governments allocate significant budgetary appropriations for overseas development cooperation:
 - a) Highlight the importance of the mainstreaming of security sector reform in international cooperation.
 - b) Urge governments in development aid beneficiary countries to monitor and encourage improvements in protecting the safety and security of civilians in such countries
- 7) Exercise our parliamentary oversight and legislative prerogatives to ensure that proposed government legislation policy, action and budgetary expenditures in connection therewith, aimed at mitigating armed violence is always conducted in a transparent and effective manner, in all our countries.
- 8) Encourage governments in educating and awareness building measures among citizens regarding the importance of peaceful means in bringing about changes and addressing grievances
- 9) Urge all PGA Members to raise awareness of this Plan of Action among their colleagues and their constituents.
- 10) Report, as national groups of PGA and/or individually, to the PGA Secretariat, within 3 months on steps and actions we have taken pursuant to this Plan of Action.

Done in Colombo this 30th day of October 2011