



Taking stock of the series of events on gun violence and illicit small arms trafficking from a gender perspective in Asia-Pacific

8 March 2021

5:30 am-7:15 am CET | 10:15 am – 12:00 pm NPT | 11:30 pm -1:15 am EST

Virtual via Cisco Webex

Organized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) in collaboration with the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA)

Funded by the European Union¹



Background

With the aim to promote a systematic, gendered approach to small arms control and foster partnerships between key actors in this field, the Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) conducted a workshop series on “Gun Violence and Illicit Small-Arms Trafficking from a Gender Perspective” in Asia-Pacific over the period of July 2018 – March 2020. The series included three sub-regional workshops for South Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific, and a conclusive regional Seminar for Asia and the Pacific, held in Kathmandu from 4 to 6 March 2020. The four events brought together parliamentarians and women leaders from civil society from 18 countries in Asia and the Pacific, who worked together to develop concrete actions to take forward gender mainstreaming small arms control in their respective national settings. In April 2020 UNRCPD published a [Compendium](#) summarizing discussions, findings and lessons-learned from the workshops, which also serves as a guide for further activities on Gender & Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) at the national and regional level. The series of events was conducted in partnership with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), UN Women, the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons (PFSALW) and the Centre for Arms Violence Reduction (CAVR), with funds from UNSCAR and the European Union.

Stock-taking virtual event

Marking one year since the conclusion of the last event under the series, UNRCPD and IANSA wish to gather the members of parliament and representatives of the civil society who participated in the different

¹ [European Union Council Decision CFSP 2018/2011](#)

workshops, to reflect on the progress made in promoting a gender responsive framework in small arms control and complementary agendas, at the national and regional level. The event will also include a focus on the preparatory work for the Seventh Biennial Meeting of States (BMS7) to Consider the Implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UN PoA), scheduled from 26 to 30 July 2021.²

Key themes and speakers

The event will consist of four main parts, as follows:

- I. Opening session
 - Opening remarks – [The European Union- 5 minutes / **TBC**]
 - Video from HR Izumi Nakamitsu on women’s participation in celebration for Women’s Day [UNRCPD / 5 minutes]
- II. Outcomes of the series of events on Gun Violence and Illicit Small-Arms Trafficking from a Gender Perspective in Asia-Pacific:
 - A summary of the outcomes of the workshops [UNRCPD / IANSA] (10 minutes)
 - Initiatives undertaken by the members of parliament and CSOs at the national level:
 - Testimonies from five speakers among MPs and CSOs (7 minutes each)
 - Open discussion and Q&A session (15 minutes)
- III. The Seventh Biennial Meeting of States (BMS7):
 - Key challenges and opportunities relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument at the national, regional and global levels [UNODA / 10 minutes]
 - A Call to Action to civil society in preparation for BMS7 [IANSA / 10 minutes]
 - Q&A session (10 minutes)
- IV. Conclusions and way forward
 - Summary of the discussion and opportunities for a continuous engagement and collaboration [UNRCPD / 5 minutes]

Promotion of the event

The event will be promoted through UNODA / UNRCPD and IANSA networks. Specific outreach will be undertaken to ensure that the participants of the workshop series on “Gun Violence and Illicit Small-Arms Trafficking from a Gender Perspective” will engage in the event.

² Pursuant to the resolution [A/RES/75/241](#)