



Concept note for an online training on national reporting on the UN Programme of Action (UN PoA) in preparation for the Seventh Biennial Meeting of States (BMS7)

Concept note

Background

The Programme of Action (PoA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, adopted in 2001 by the General Assembly, established a normative framework and provided for a set of measures aimed to ensure reliable national control of small arms and light weapons (SALW). In 2005 Member States also adopted the International Tracing Instrument (ITI), by which they committed themselves to establishing a robust SALW marking and record system.

In 2018, at the [Third Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the PoA \(Third Review Conference, RevCon3\)](#) and ITI, Member States reiterated that the full and effective implementation of both instruments is essential for sustaining peace, furthering reconciliation and security, protecting lives and promoting sustainable development.

Despite the considerable progress made in achieving goals of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument over last decades, the problem of illicit SALW and respective ammunition remains very critical as millions of these weaponries are in illegal circulation. Illegal arms flows are a result of diversion pose risks and challenges to States' security and requires effective measures in response, built on national capacities to implement them.

The seventh Biennial Meeting of States and national reporting

The Biennial Meetings of States is mandated to consider the implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument. With the adoption of resolution [75/241](#), the UN General Assembly decided to convene the seventh Biennial Meeting of States (BMS7) from 26 to 30 July 2021 to “consider key challenges and opportunities relating to their implementation at the national, regional and global levels for the purposes of preventing and combating the diversion and the illicit international transfer of SALW to unauthorized recipients.”

In the context of the UN PoA and its ITI, States have agreed to submit national reports on their implementation efforts to the United Nations biennially¹. At the Third Review Conference, Member States agreed to redouble efforts to report on a biennial basis on measures taken to implement the Programme of Action, to encourage transparency and information exchange, and to consider building the capacity of national small arms coordination mechanisms, including with respect to data collection, reporting, measurement and analysis. National reports showcase

¹ <https://smallarms.un-arm.org/national-reports>

the progress made on the implementation of both instruments, build confidence, promote transparency and identify trends, challenges, needs and opportunities for international assistance and cooperation. Reports also support the data collection for indicator 16.4.2 relating to the Sustainable Development Goal 16 and its target 16.4.

Following the agreement reached at the Third Review Conference in 2018, Member States are encouraged to also report on the integration of gender relevant considerations in their SALW-related activities, programmes and policies as well as on the collection of disaggregated data.

Ahead of the forthcoming BMS7, resolution 75/241 encourages States to submit their national reports on the implementation of the Programme of Action and its ITI and to make increasing use of their reports as a tool for communicating assistance needs by utilizing the online reporting template made available by the United Nations.

An analysis of implementation trends, challenges and opportunities based on national reports will be presented by the UN Secretariat at BMS7, taking into account the reports submitted. The extended deadline for the submission of the 2020 national report, which covers the implementation period of 1 January 2018 to 31 December 2019, has been set for 31 May 2021 to allow Member States to submit their information in preparation for BMS7.²

Goals of the online training

As part of a regional project in support of gender mainstreamed policies, programmes and actions in the fight against small arms trafficking and misuse, funded by the European Union³, which supports, inter-alia, the implementation of the outcome of the Third Review Conference and the preparations for BMS7, the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) is organizing an online training in support of those countries that are yet to submit their national reports. The ultimate objective of the webinar series is to assist Member States in translating commitments and practical measures undertaken in the framework of the Programme of Action and the ITI into practice. The webinar will:

- Provide guidance for respective national authorities in compiling national reports.
- Raise awareness of the importance of data collection as well as the need for States to mainstream gender dimensions in their reporting and implementation efforts.
- Assisting national focal points or other designated officials in drafting their national reports based on the online template.
- Raising awareness of the purpose of reporting and ensuring that national authorities understand that the timely submission of their national report is an important national contribution to BMS7.

Target audience

Under the Programme of Action, States, bearing in mind the different situations, capacities and priorities of States and regions, committed to establishing or designating, as appropriate, a national point of contact to act as liaison between States on matters relating to the implementation of the Programme of Action. The online training will target national focal point (s) on the implementation of the UN Programme of Action of the invited countries. In the absence of formally nominated focal point (s) on the UN PoA, the invited government will be requested to nominate one or more relevant government official (s) to attend the event and coordinate on national reporting.

The online training is open to States in Asia and the Pacific that did not yet submit their 2020 national reports (in alphabetical order):

1. Afghanistan (last reported in 2018)

² The United Nations will continue to receive and post submitted 2020 national reports until BMS7.

³ European Union Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/2011 of 17 December 2018.

2. Bangladesh (last reported in 2010)
3. Brunei (never reported)
4. Cambodia (last reported in 2018)
5. Fiji (last reported in 2016)
6. Indonesia (last reported in 2010)
7. Kirgizstan (last reported in 2018)
8. Lao PDR (never reported)
9. Nepal (never reported)
10. New Zealand (last reported in 2018)
11. Pakistan (last reported in 2016)
12. Palau (never reported)
13. Papua New Guinea (last reported in 2012)
14. Philippines (last reported in 2018)
15. Samoa (last reported in 2016)
16. Singapore (last reported in 2018)
17. Solomon Island (last reported in 2004)
18. Sri Lanka (last reported in 2008)
19. Tajikistan (last reported in 2003)
20. Timor-Leste (last reported in 2018)
21. Turkmenistan (last reported in 2016)
22. Tuvalu (never reported)
23. Vanuatu (last reported in 2016)
24. Vietnam (last reported in 2006)

Date

The online training will take place on **28 May 2021** via cisco webex from **9:45 am to 11:15 am Kathmandu time**.

The time in the respective countries will be communicated in the individual invitation letter to the government.

Agenda

Time	Session
<i>10 minutes before the starting time</i>	Participants connecting to Cisco Webex
<i>20 minutes</i>	<p><u>Introductory session</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduction to the online training <i>Ida Scarpino, UNRCPD</i> • The UN Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument: national reporting and the Seventh Biennial Meeting of States (BMS7) <i>Dr. Yuriy Kryvonos, Director, UNRCPD</i> • Q&A
<i>60 minutes</i>	<p><u>National reports on the UN Programme of Action</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The reporting template: section-by-section review and data collection <i>Takashi Mashiko, Political Affairs Officer, Conventional Arms Branch, UNODA</i>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of a model report and focused discussion with the participants on the practical completion of the report and its submission online. <i>UNRCPD</i>
<i>10 minutes</i>	<p><u>Closing session</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Summary of the training and way forward <i>Dr. Yuriy Kryvonos, UNRCPD</i>

Administrative Arrangements and Division of Labour

UNRCPD:

- Provides participants with necessary instructions/guidance on how they can join the online training.
- Identifies the trainers.
- Prepares and sends to the respective countries background documents in preparation for the online training.
- Ensures follow-up with the respective countries on the submission of the online report on the UN Programme of Action by the deadline and/ or by the Seventh Biennial Meeting of States (BMS7).

GOVERNMENT OF THE INVITED COUNTRIES:

- Identifies and nominates the participant(s) for the online training and shares names and contacts with UNRCPD.
- Ensures the participation of the designate candidate (s) in the online training.
- Ensures the submission of the online report on the UN Programme of Action by the deadline and/ or by BMS7, under the guidance of UNRCPD.

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