



## The In-Country Training Programme on Gender-Mainstreaming Small Arms Control in Papua New Guinea

### Webinar series

### Report

#### Background

Over the period 23 September to 1 October 2021, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) in partnership with the Office of Prime Minister and National Executive Council (NEC) of Papua New Guinea, conducted a webinar series on gender and small arms control targeting government officials. The series comprised four sessions, held respectively on 23, 24, 30 September and 1 October 2021.

The webinar series was organized in the framework of the In-Country Training Programme (ICTP) on Gender mainstreaming small arms control, which is part of a [global project](#) in support of gender mainstreamed policies, programmes and actions in the fight against small arms and light weapons (SALW) trafficking and misuse, in line with the Women, Peace and Security agenda with funding from the European Union<sup>1</sup>. The event aimed to translate the in-country training – originally planned to be conducted in person in Porth Moresby in January 2021 – in a virtual format, due to the persisting restrictions on travelling.

UNRCPD developed the methodology and the materials that were presented on the main sessions and provided administrative and logistical support throughout the series. The Office of Prime Minister and NEC coordinated the selection and gathering of the national participants, who joined the virtual sessions from the conference room of the Office of Prime Minister and NEC and the Office of the Security Coordination and Assessment (OSCA). Other national participants connected virtually via zoom.

#### Participants

In total, twenty government officials (**10 women, 10 men**) took part in the webinar series representing the following agencies: the Office of Prime Minister and NEC, the Office of the Security Coordination and Assessment (OSCA), the Law and Order Branch, the Special Parliamentary Committee on Gender Based Violence prevention, the Department of Foreign Affairs and International Trade, the Department for Community Development and Religion, the Office for the Development of Women, the Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary – Directorate for Family and Sexual Violence. A representative of the civil society organization *Seeds for Peace*, who is a member of [the International Action Network on Small Arms \(IANSA\)](#) network, attended the four webinars. Opening and closing remarks were provided by the Ambassador of the European Delegation to Papua New Guinea, H.E. Mr Jernej Videtic, the Director General, Social Policy & Governance Department of Prime Minister & NEC, and focal point on the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Mr. Christopher Asa, and the Director of UNRCPD, Dr. Yuriy Kryvonos. Presentations on key issues in focus were delivered by Dr. Yuriy Kryvonos, UNRCPD, Ms. Emma Anere, [UN Women PNG Country Office](#), Mr. Steven Panui, [UNFPA PNG Country Office](#), Mr. Tweedy Malagian, *Seeds For Peace*, Mr. Dragan Bozanic, [UNDP -South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control](#)

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<sup>1</sup> [European Union Council Decision \(CFSP\) 2018/2011 of 17 December 2018](#).

[of Small Arms and Light Weapons \(SEESAC\)](#), Ms. Amelie Namuroy, IANSA, Mr. Alistair Gee, [Centre for Armed Violence Reduction \(CAVR\)](#).

### **Course methodology**

Each webinar consisted of presentations by UNRCPD trainers and invited experts, interactive exercises, question and answer segments, group discussions. Participants took part in online surveys throughout the series which informed the content of specific subjects. Furthermore, participants were given a [digital dossier](#) so that they continue to have access to the webinar's material in their day-to-day activities.

### **Summary of the webinar series**

- The webinar series covered topics on gender and small arms concepts; gender-based violence and links with small arms proliferation and misuse; gender analysis and sex- and age disaggregated data collection; gender-responsive small arms control at the policy, legislation / regulatory and operational levels.
- In-depth presentations covered the following topics:
  - Gender equality, small arms control, and sustainable development: converging agendas and normative framework, at the global and national level.
  - Small arms issues and UNRCPD Activities to Support States in Combating Illicit SALW in the Asia-Pacific Region.
  - Gender based violence, toxic masculinity and small arms proliferation and misuses.
  - Data collection and gender analysis for improved legislation.
  - Gender-responsive small arms control: policy, coordination mechanisms and key stakeholders.
  - Operational small arms control, with a focus on technical assistances for SALW control in Papua New Guinea and entry points for gender-responsiveness.

### **Summary of the main sessions, discussions and survey' results.**

- A great focus was given to the linkage between small arms and gender-based violence (GBV), particularly violence against women (VAW), whose magnitude in Papua New Guinea is alarming. According to UNFPA, 56% of women in the age of 15-49 have experienced physical violence. Most common type of spousal violence is physical violence (54%) followed by emotional violence (51%). Of the total ever-married women age 15-49 interviewed by UNFPA over the period 2016-2018, 23% have reported to have been threatened or attacked with a knife, gun or other weapon in the past 12 months<sup>2</sup>.
- The issue of small arms as enabler of gender-based violence was also discussed from the perspective of social norms underlying the possession and misuse of weapons, such as toxic masculinity. Toxic masculinity was also presented as one of the root causes of persisting conflict and tribal fights in the Highlands, where the increased proliferation of firearms and hand-crafted weapons cause significantly death and injury. The civil society *Seeds For Peace* shared its work in community conflict resolution and trauma counselling in the Highlands, and highlighted the need to develop broader community safety programmes which integrate and explore the linkages between peace building, disarmament education and gender trainings.
- Participants also highlighted the risk of increased armed violence and display of weapons at the national level in the lead up to the General Election 2022. In this regard, UNRCPD advised

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<sup>2</sup> Source: <https://png.unfpa.org/>

to establish a [Gun-Free Zone \(GFZ\)](#) and presented its upcoming project aimed at providing national law-enforcement agencies, local authorities and civil society organizations with practical guidance, knowledge and advice on developing and implementing measures to prevent the occurrence of gun-violence instances in public areas and places of casual gatherings of people.

- On Day 2, participants engaged in a role-play exercise, namely the Chain of Co-Responsibility, highlighting the chain of events and shared responsibilities of different institutions directly and indirectly involved in SALW control and gender-based violence prevention. The exercise led to a discussion on the importance of effective coordination and information sharing to tackle small arms-related violence and implementing national regulation on SALW possession and misuse. The issue was analyzed further on Day 3 in the framework of a second exercise aimed at reviewing the national legislation and regulatory framework on firearms. Particularly, participants analyzed the Firearms Act 1996 from a gender lens and developed a series of recommendations to prevent that firearms are used to commit gender-based violence as well as the illicit possession and loopholes in the gun license system. The recommendations included the integration of background checks to ensure that applicants for a firearm license do not possess criminal records and mental health issues, and that the history or apprehended likelihood of domestic and gender-based violence is assessed. A similar security vetting should be applied to security and defense officers who are authorized to carry and store state-held weapons.
- As part of the discussion on the SALW-related institutions and national coordination mechanisms in Papua New Guinea, participants shared the experience of the Guns Control Committee established in 2005 to investigate and report on the illicit use of small arms and light weapons. The Committee proposed for a National Guns and Violence Reduction Council to oversee, coordinate and direct the implementation of the National Strategy to control SALW and Reduce Violence. There is currently no monitoring mechanism in place, nor a system to ensure that SALW programmes are compliant with gender-related policies. To date, the Guns Control Committee Report is yet to be debated in Parliament. In addition, the Report includes a comprehensive list of recommendations and measures to strengthen SALW control for which international assistance will be needed.
- Following on the presentation by IANSA UN Liaison Officer on civic engagement and the need for the equal, full and effective participation of women in SALW control and the testimony by the national IASNA member (*Seeds for Peace*), participants agreed on the need to increase partnership between the government and the civil society to address the issue of gun violence and small arms proliferation. This partnership could take place in the form of an established platform or dialogue at the institutional level between members of the civil society, government officials and representatives of key secretariats and committees, such as the GBV Secretariat and the GBV Special Parliament Committee, to collect data, share experience and promote joint initiatives at the community level.
- On the final day and as part of the session on operational small arms control, CAVR presented current technical assistances for SALW control in Papua New Guinea and entry points for gender-responsiveness. The presentation covered available tools and programmes to improve the national capacity over small arms control at the operational level, with the focus on the [Arms Tracker](#) initiative, which assist governments in filling most common gaps in arms and ammunition control systems by enabling simple but accurate record-keeping and enforcement of weapon laws. The presentation also touched upon how gender norms drive the demand for small arms in the country. CAVR and UNRCPD explained further how effective small arms and ammunition management helps countries to reduce gun-related crime,

trafficking, (armed) gender-based violence, the risk of armed conflict and to comply with international arms control treaties and agreements, as well as global agendas.

### **Main outcomes of the webinar series**

- The webinar series expanded the participants' understanding of SALW control and its gender dimensions. Particularly, participants deepened their knowledge on the issue of possession and misuse of small arms and their intersection with gender norms and social dynamics, such as toxic masculinity and gender inequalities.
- The webinar series raised awareness of the normative framework of SALW control and its convergences with global agendas in relation to the government's commitments stemming from global instruments and relevant national strategies. (e.g., the [UN Programme of Action on SALW](#), the National Strategy to prevent and respond to GBV 2016-2025, the Spotlight Initiative).
- The webinar series served as a platform for the focal point on the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons to liaise and share experiences with government officials working on relevant fields and other stakeholders for increased coordination in areas of mutual engagement.
- The webinar series familiarized participants with the tools for the implementation of small arms control actions, namely [the Modular Small-arms-control Implementation Compendium \(MOSAIC\)](#).
- The course methodology encouraged the continuous engagement of participants, while support materials such as training modules, power point presentations, webinars' recording, case studies, glossaries for terminology on gender and SALW, were distributed via the digital dossier.
- The webinar series served as a baseline assessment to identify gaps and opportunities with regard to small arms control and gender issues for future assistance in the framework of the ICTP and complementary projects. On Day 4, participants drafted a list of action points to be undertaken under the different functional areas of SALW control, such as Policy and Law, Security and Justice Provision, Supply side control and Demand Reduction. These include:
  - Extensive review and amendment of the Firearms Act 1996.
  - Review of the current legislation on small arms and light weapons and the PNG National Security Policy with the objective to increase synergy with relevant normative frameworks such as:
    - The Lukautim Pikinini Act (Child Welfare Act)
    - The Family Protection Act
    - The National Disability Policy 2015-2025
    - The National Women and Gender Equality Policy 2011-2015
  - Capacity building activities to enhance monitoring mechanisms and the collection and analysis of data disaggregated by sex and age in SALW control.
  - Developing community safety programmes such as the establishment of Gun Free Zones in the lead up to the General Election 2022 and disarmament education initiatives.
  - Developing comprehensive assistance programmes for armed violence victims, integrating components on trauma counselling for survivors and relatives.
  - Technical and legal assistance to strengthen border control and illicit SALW trafficking, in compliance with global instruments.
  - The establishment of a national coordination mechanism on SALW control, building on the experience of past mechanisms, such as the Joint Weapons Disposal Secretariat (JWDS) and the Gun Control Committee, to enhance the collaboration

between the national focal point on the PoA (designated within the Prime Minister Officer) and key government officials, members of parliament and civil society.

- Review of the Report of the Gun Control Committee drafted in 2005 and technical and legal assistance for the implementation of its key recommendations.
- Gender trainings for security and defense forces.

UNRCPD Project Coordinator

Ida Scarpino



## Annex I

### List of Participants

S.N.	Name	Title	Designation	Department/ Office/Agency	Tel. No.	Email
1	Barbranne Bagli	Ms.	Director	Dept. of PM & NEC- Office of the Security Coordination & Assessment (OSCA)	301 9128	<a href="mailto:Barbranne_bagli@pmnec.gov.pg">Barbranne_bagli@pmnec.gov.pg</a>
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7	Melinda Rondoke	Ms.	Senior Political & Social Analyst	Department of PM & NEC		<a href="mailto:melron1978@hotmail.com">melron1978@hotmail.com</a>
8	Lister Puka	Mr.	Senior Security Analyst	Department of PM & NEC		<a href="mailto:lpuka24@gmail.com">lpuka24@gmail.com</a>
9	Frank Mealin	Mr.		GBV Special Parliamentary Committee		<a href="mailto:frankmealine@gmail.com">frankmealine@gmail.com</a>

10	Steven Laiok	Mr.	Department for Community Development & Religion - Human Rights	Department for Community Development & Religion - Human Rights	7E+07	<a href="mailto:slaiok2011@gmail.com">slaiok2011@gmail.com</a>
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16	Caroline Leka	Ms.	Gender Equality & Social Inclusion Officer		(675) 3019272	<a href="mailto:caroline_leka@pmnec.gov.pg">caroline_leka@pmnec.gov.pg</a>
17	Delilah Sandeka	Ms.		Royal Papua New Guinea Constabulary (RPNGC) - Directorate for Family and Sexual Violence	3230051/76502739	<a href="mailto:delilah.sandeka@rpngc.gov.pg">delilah.sandeka@rpngc.gov.pg</a>
18	Christopher Asa	Mr.	Director General	Social Policy & Governance Department of Prime Minister & NEC		<a href="mailto:christopher_asa@pmnec.gov.pg">christopher_asa@pmnec.gov.pg</a>
19	Linda Sataro	Ms.	Director – Community Development	Social Policy & Governance Branch - Department of Prime Minister & NEC		<a href="mailto:linda_sataro@pmnec.gov.pg">linda_sataro@pmnec.gov.pg</a>
20	Charles Sorom	Mr.	Acting Director - Law & Order	Department of Prime Minister & NEC	3019115	<a href="mailto:charles_sorom@pmnec.gov.pg">charles_sorom@pmnec.gov.pg</a>
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## ANNEX II Photos



*Figure 1: Webinar 1- Group photo*



*Figure 2: Webinar 1 - H.E. Mr Jernej Videtic, the Ambassador of the European Delegation to Papua New Guinea, delivering opening remarks during the opening session.*



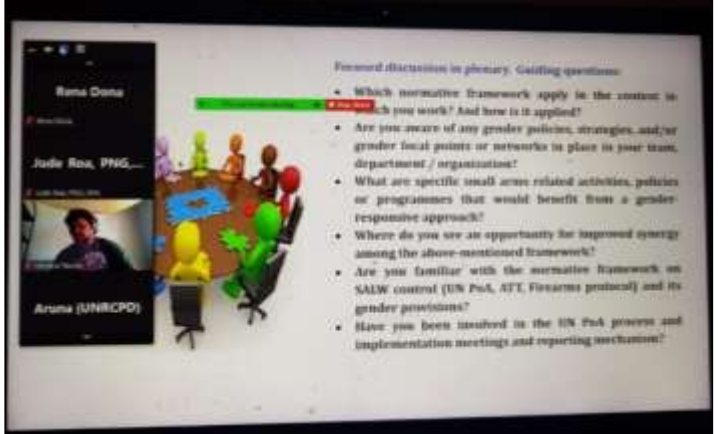
*Figure 3: Webinar 1- Mr. Christopher Asa, the Director General, Social Policy & Governance Department of Prime Minister & NEC, and UN PoA focal point, delivering opening remarks.*





**Figure 4:** Webinar 1 – Dr. Yuriy Kryvonos, Director of UNRCPD, delivering opening remarks.

**Figure 5:** Webinar 1 – Dr. Yuriy Kryvonos, Director of UNRCPD, presenting on SALW control and UNRCPD Activities to Support States in Combating Illicit SALW in the Asia-Pacific Region.



**Figure 6:** Webinar 1- Ms. Emma Anere, UN Women PNG Country Office, presenting the Spotlight Initiative to prevent gender-based violence.

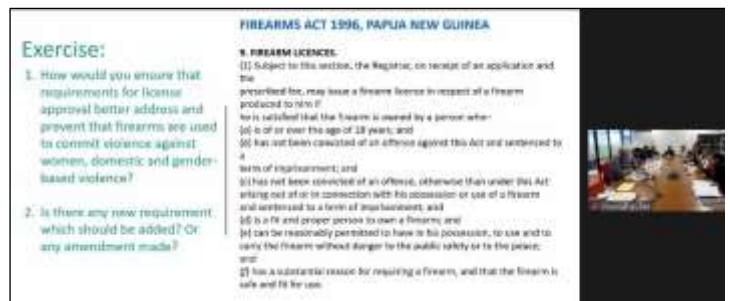
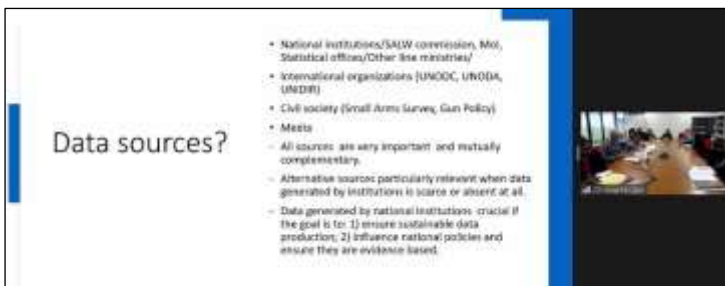
**Figure 7:** Webinar 2 – Participants discussing on relevant normative frameworks on SALW control and gender issues, and entry points for improved synergy.



**Figure 8:** Webinar 2: Participants engaging in the role play exercise: The Chain of Co-Responsibility. The exercise drew on a scenario related to gender-based violence perpetrated with a small arm. Participants were assigned specific roles and asked to read out loud the related statements, and then discuss on the scenario.



**Figure 9:** Webinar 2- Mr. Steven Paniu, UNFPA PNG Country Office, presenting the issue of gender-based violence in Papua New Guinea and available data.



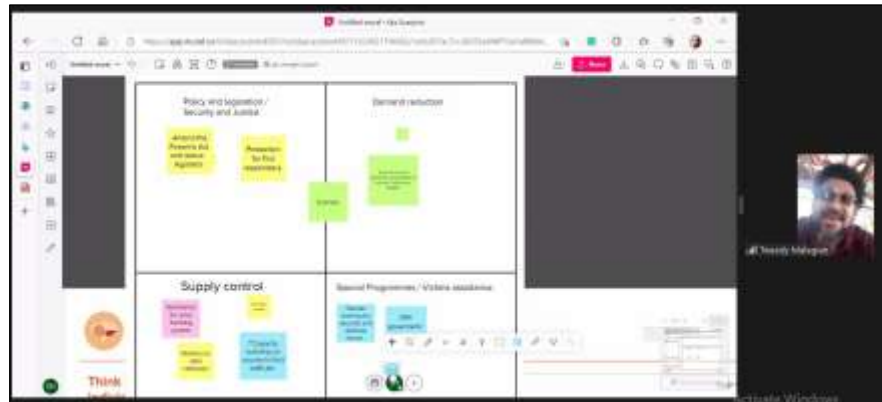
**Figures 10 & 11:** Webinar 3- Mr. Dragan Bozanic, UNDP-SEESAC, presenting on data collection in SALW context and strengthening the legal framework. The presentatin led to a group exercise on how improving the current legislation on firearms from a gender perspective.



**Figure 12:** Webinar 3 - Ms. Amelie Namuroy, IANSA, presenting on Civic engagement in small arms control and the equal, full and effective participation of women.



**Figure 13:** Webinar 4- Mr. Alistair Gee, CAVR, presenting on Current technical assistances for SALW control in Papua New Guinea and entry points for gender-responsiveness.



*Figures 14&15: Webinar 4- Concluding activity. Participants summarized the key messages and recommendations of the webinar series and identified action points for further activities on gender mainstreaming small arms control.*