UN PoA – BMS 5
Working Paper by Switzerland

1. Consideration of the implementation of the Programme of Action in all its aspects at the national, regional and global levels

- Switzerland suggests building on achievements from previous relevant conferences such as the BMS 3, BMS 4, the 2010 MGE, and the 2012 Review Conference.
- Switzerland welcomes the adoption of the UN Security Council Resolution 2117 (UN SCR 2117) which is the first UN SCR on SALW and provides importance to all activities related to the control of small arms and light weapons.
- Switzerland welcomes the launch of the voluntary International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) as well as the development of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG).
- The negative impact of small arms and light weapons on peace support agents and humanitarian workers is increasing. At the same time, it hampers the quest for political solutions. It should therefore be addressed by all stakeholders acting within the UN PoA and the ITI framework.
- Switzerland welcomes the integration of weapons and ammunition management in the MINUSMA mandate (UN SCR 2100) and suggests to further integrate this issue and UN PoA related activities in Peace operations.
- Women and men should both play a role in all domains of the security sector in general and small arms control in particular. There is scope to further increase the role of women, as stipulated in UN Security Council Resolution 1325 and its following resolutions as well as the GA Resolution on women, disarmament and non-proliferation and arms control.
- Men, women, boys and girls and elderly persons victims of armed violence have specific assistance needs. These need be taken into account.
- Regional organisations should be encouraged to continue their leading role in UN PoA and ITI implementation, especially in areas of regional cooperation and information exchange.
- Switzerland acknowledges the important role Civil Society Organisations play in the implementation of the UN PoA and the ITI.

a) Stockpile management, including physical security measures of small arms and light weapons

- Besides the establishment of proper national physical security and stockpile management (PSSM) of small arms and light weapons, Switzerland recommends that member states explore life-cycle management as a whole. This approach includes the implementation of structures and procedures enabling member states to perform PSSM sustainably and systematically.
- Insufficient and/or inadequate life-cycle management procedures pose serious security risks such as SALW diversion and in the case of ammunition accidental explosions of depots. The implementation of a proper life-cycle management hence reduces the likelihood of the occurrence of disastrous events and the related human, economic and reputational consequences, supports the establishment of good governance in a core area of the armed and security sector and supports armed and security forces in implementing their duties more effectively.
- Switzerland suggests to further enhance regional cooperation for surplus destructions and disposal as well as surveillance of stockpiles. Good examples of regional cooperation can be found in South Eastern Europe where chemical testing of ammunition from one country is conducted in a neighbouring state. The establishment of regional centres of excellence may lead to significant increase in expertise, cost reduction through scale economies and necessary confidence-building among neighbouring states.
2. Consideration of the implementation of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons

- While the ITI seems to have a recognised effect on the illicit transfer of crime-related SALW, its effect on conflict-related transfers remains underexplored. Accordingly, Switzerland recommends exploring ways in which member states, international organisations and regional organisations can contribute to enhance the level of application of the ITI in conflict-related transfers.
- According to UN Security Council Resolution 2117, Switzerland recommends to consider the role that peace operations and other relevant missions have in the implementation of the ITI.
- For a good and effective implementation of the ITI, import marking is a fundamental part and should be strictly applied by all member states.
- Switzerland welcomes the forthcoming UN Secretary General Report on the implication of recent developments in Small Arms and Light Weapons manufacturing, technology and design for effective marking, record-keeping and tracing.
- Switzerland invites all member States to respond timely to requests from arms embargoes monitoring groups. Further, Switzerland would like to inquire how the UN PoA and the ITI can assist the implementation of arms embargoes monitoring groups.
- Switzerland acknowledges the important role Civil Society Organisations play in the implementation of UN PoA and the ITI.

3. International cooperation and assistance for full and effective implementation of the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument

- Switzerland welcomes the establishment of the UN Trust Fund Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR) and has provided financial support. Switzerland emphasises that UNSCAR provides supports to projects focusing on UN PoA and ITI implementation as much as on the ATT.
- Switzerland believes that exchange on knowledge, expertise and lessons learned should be enhanced at bilateral (North-South / South-South) and multilateral level (triangular cooperation, through international and regional organisations).
- Switzerland welcomes the existence of exchange platforms such as the Un PoA – ISS and encourages their use by a member states. These exchange platforms contribute to a sustainable process in UN PoA and ITI implementation.
- Switzerland welcomes the development of the voluntary ISACS and the IATG and requests member states to explore ways to ensure their implementation in UN-led cooperation and assistance projects.

a) Capacity building
- According to UN Security Council Resolution 2117, Switzerland believes that trans-border customs cooperation should be enhanced at regional levels.
- UN Regional Centers on Peace and Disarmament play an important role in capacity building at regional level. Switzerland encourages their continued activities.
- . In view of the raising needs and challenges in the implementation of the PoA and ITI, Switzerland calls upon all relevant actors to strive for a coherent, coordinated and complementary approach. UN member states, including their armed and security forces, the UN system, other international organisations, research institutes, as well as civil society organisations, mindful of their respective mandates and competencies, should enhance their co-operation and co-ordination to ensure a maximum of efficiency and effectiveness in their activities.
- Switzerland acknowledges the importance of PSSM capacity building cooperation and assistance programmes and encourages member states to explore the possibility to approach the issue in a sustainable and comprehensive manner, which in addition to the hardware based view of PSSM
also aims at the comprehensive life-cycle management of SALW including the development of structures and procedures and which integrates marking and record-keeping aspects.

**b) Transfer of technology and equipment**
- In the framework of the UN PoA and the ITI, Switzerland considers the transfer of technology and equipment to encompass only activities related to the prevention, combat and eradication of the illicit trade in SALW within cooperation and assistance programmes.
- Switzerland encourages member state to exercise due diligence in the transfer of technology and equipment. This includes the provision of technology and equipment which is in adequacy with local structures and procedures as well as the application of accompanying measures such as capacity building for the involved personnel and maintenance of the transferred equipment.

**4. Other issues and topics of relevance to the implementation of the Programme of Action**
- Switzerland suggests to explore ways to improve the links between the UN PoA/ITI and existing regional SALW action plans as well as with other regimes covering UN PoA/ITI related topics (e.g. global and regional instruments related to non-proliferation, prohibition of the use of specific weapons categories, arms trade, PSSM etc.).
- Switzerland acknowledges that SALW, ammunition and components are differentiated at the negotiation table. Implementing agents of cooperation and assistance programmes, however, observe that stockpiles are frequently mixed and usually involve also other dangerous goods. Considering this field reality and the need for a comprehensive approach, Switzerland is keen on exploring ways to address ammunition and components under the implementation aspect of the UN PoA and proposes to discuss this issue in the framework of a Meeting of Governmental Experts of the UN PoA.