FORUM: Disarmament Commission

QUESTION OF: Measures to Suppress Transnational Illicit Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons Destabilizing Fragile Sovereign States

MAIN-SUBMITTER: The Republic of Colombia

CO-SUBMITTERS: Federative Republic of Brazil, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, The Republic of India, The Federal Democratic Republic of Ethiopia, The Republic of Croatia, The Republic of South Africa

DISARMAMENT COMMISSION,

Emphasizing that transnational illicit trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) not only fuels terrorism and organized crimes, but also undermines state sovereignty by exploiting porous borders and weak institutional capacities,

Aware that the transnational illicit trafficking of small arms and light weapons can fuel violent conflict,

Recognizing S/RES/2117 and S/RES/2220 which call for stronger international cooperation for arms control measures and more effective arms-embargo implementation,

Recalling the UN firearms protocol, which requires participating states to criminalize illicit firearm manufacturing and trafficking,

Bringing attention to the trade of 3D printed "ghost guns" and their components, with approximately 186 reported cases of 3D printed firearms and/or their components being seized,

Recalls the open debate 54/54V, in which member states have agreed upon to implement practical measures for SALW control and adopting the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT),

Deeply alarmed by approximately 250,000 weapon-related deaths annually, of which roughly 71 % involve firearms coupled with the illicit arms trade expanding at an uncontrollable rate,

1. Calls nations to greater support member states in the Caribbean such as Haiti in through ways such as:
    a. Improving Haiti's failing legal and regulatory framework to better address the security crises or fully implementing the UN arms embargo by:
        i. Updating and aligning national firearms related frameworks with applicable international instruments like the Firearms Protocol to ensure comprehensive criminalization of illicit weapons,

ii. Strengthening legal and procedural controls to address vulnerabilities exploited by firearms traffickers and ensure that national legislation integrates effective prosecution in embargo-related cases,

b. Deepening regional and international operational cooperation to enhance intelligence sharing and promote greater operations targeting regional arms-flows through ways such as:
    i. Requesting the fifteen member states among the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) and other countries near Haiti to help reinforce joint risk analysis and coordinated interdictions to make full use of existing regional mechanisms and databases,
    ii. Expanding international judicial cooperation including the use of Joint Investigation Teams and coordinated investigations of illicit firearms embargos,
c. Asking the United States in their key position to increase supported deployment of the Gang Suppression Force (GSF), cooperation with Haitian authorities to track down untraced firearms, and other means in ways such as:
    i. Requesting the U.S. Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives (ATF) to dedicate resources towards investigating trafficking activities in Florida and particularly focus on metro areas with high absolute trace numbers like Miami, Orlando and Tampa bay,
    ii. Improving the detection and investigation of illicit cargo before it leaves port in South Florida to greater disrupt arms flows heading to Haiti,
    iii. Calling the GSF to record and preserve data related to, at a minimum, the make, model serial number, and circumstances of the recovery of all weapons seized as they are authorized do to so,
d. Supporting the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap in ways such as harmonizing domestic legislation on firearms with international instruments signed and ratified by states:
    i. Assessing national legislation in a systematic and transversal way to identify any legal gap,
    ii. Requesting greater multisector participation to carry out the assessment of national legislation in relation to international instruments;

2. Suggests Member States and organizations to strengthen international cooperation to combat the illegal trafficking of small arms through mutual assistance, aid based on requests, or reports while protecting a country's sovereignty through measures such as but not limited to:
    a. Encouraging developed countries and NGOs to provide voluntary financial and technical assistance to developing countries by:
        i. Funding training programs for border security officers,

ii. Providing technology to improve weapon registration and tracing,
iii. Facilitating cooperation between national law enforcement agencies,
iv. Allowing recipient countries to determine their priorities according to national needs;

b. Collaborating on improved border security in fragile sovereign states in ways such as but not limited to:
    i. Educating border officials of less-developed countries by sending military officials from more-developed countries,
    ii. Providing border monitor system such as radar to prevent illegal shipping or transport of small arms and light weapons frequently occurring in the fragile sovereign states,
    iii. Formation of international security organizations organized by regional organizations especially in regions where less-developed countries are clustered(e.g. African Union(AU), Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), and Caribbean Community (CARICOM),
c. Affirming the national sovereignty of assisted sovereign states when assisted by other member states, ensuring all assistance shall respect national sovereignty, be free from political conditions, and not be used as a pretext for interference in the internal affairs of recipient States:
    i. Affirms that assistance shall not be conditioned upon changes in the recipient State's domestic policies or governance,
    ii. Calls for transparent delivery of assistance in full consultation with the recipient State;

3. Recommends member states to strengthen border monitoring to prevent the transnational illicit of small arms and light weapons in ways such as but not limited to:
    a. Building patrol towers near the borders, such as how the US is bringing surveillance towers to watch the borders, including:
        i. Border patrol,
        ii. Surveilling the border area,
    b. NGOs and the UN can help small sovereign states in ways such as:
        i. Giving money to the small sovereign states through donations from governments and people,
        ii. Assisting them when traffickers smuggle in small arms and light weapons,
    c. Through funds such as:
        i. Tax money collected through the government,
        ii. A select amount of public bank revenue,
        iii. Trust funds such as from as the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation;

4. Urges member states to make sure that there is no place to purchase weapons in ways such as but not limited to:
    a. Combating illegal arms market in ways such as:
        i. A government inspection around main cities and rural areas,
        ii. If a black market is found, the place will be taken down and the people who are operating it will be detained and charged,
    b. Making sure there are no weapons on the internet in ways such as:
        i. Governments can enforce laws so that companies do not add weapons or related products on their app,
        ii. Governments can scrutinize the apps and make sure there are no weapons, weapon accessories or weapon components;

5. Emphasizes the need for fragile nation states to better manage and supervise national weapon stockpiles against theft, raids made by individuals or organized criminal groups, and the smuggling of arms via corrupt persons or officials through measures such as but not limited to:
    a. Upgrading the physical security of access control on buildings that contain weapons so that no single person can access weapons alone by:
        i. Implementing reinforced doors, high security locks, and biometric entry systems,
        ii. Enforcing that through digital monitoring, intrusion alarms, and vetted, properly paid security guards,
    b. Keeping detailed records and taking inventory on small arms to prevent corrupt peoples from selling them off and contributing to the circulation of unaccountable weapons through measures such as but not limited to:
        i. Marking every firearm with a unique serial number, country code, and year of production or import so they can be traced if recovered at a crime scene,
        ii. Recording and tracking inventory with centralized electronic databases that allow governments to check stock levels and compare them to what they already have,
    c. Disposing collected weaponry from any conflicts or that risks becoming illegally trafficked and drains financial resources by collecting surplus or broken arms and permanently destroying them by crushing, cutting, or smelting;

6. Encouraging member states to collaborate with the The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and PoA to share information through ways such as but not limited to:
    a. Publishing detailed annual country reports detailing information and current measures on small arms and light weapons, such as but not limited to:

i. The total number of small arms and light weapons in each member states that are exported and imported, produced illegally, confiscated, and estimated to still be in circulation,
ii. A review of the effectiveness of their tracing measures,
iii. Any adjusted strategies,

b. Filling out the PoA reporting template regularly which allows States to report on their tracing measures in ways such as:
i. National markings on small arms to help other member states trace the origin of the weapons,
ii. Positive or negative results on missions;

7. Asks all member states to raise public awareness of this issue especially in countries most affected by this in ways such as but not limited to:
a. Educate the public in ways such as news broadcasts, newspapers, magazines, posters, social media, and TV programs,
b. Educating this issue in schools in ways such as:
i. School units regarding this issue,
ii. School curriculums can change to adapt this,
c. Advocating with officials, parliamentarians, and the media to help develop and promote concise guides for policymakers,
d. Calling on States to include technology issues in their State's national reports under the UN PoA and International Tracing Instrument (ITI);

8. Further requests member states to enforce stricter laws and policies to restrict the amount and use of illicit light weapons and small arms trafficking in ways such as but not limited to:
a. Regulating production and trade of SALW on an international level by:
i. Bringing Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) to more countries through funds through the public bank revenue or tax money,
ii. Increasing tariffs relating to small arms and light weapon trade,
iii. Limiting the yearly production number of small arms and light weapons,
iv. Enforcing economic and political regulations in nations violating international rules regarding small arms and light weapons through sanctions,
b. Tightening domestic gun laws to combat cross-border smuggling by limiting gun access and alerting government authorities:
i. Including background checks on all gun buyers,
ii. Limiting the amount of guns a person can buy by setting a purchase limit and waiting period or banning the act individuals purchasing weapons itself,

iii. Requiring legal gun owners to report lost or stolen firearms to the authorities immediately,
iv. Timely enforcement of offenders through fines or imprisonment,

c. Establishing and reinforcing 3D printer laws in order to combat the production of 3D printed firearms requiring manufacturers to demonstrate compliance with 3D printer laws and regulations by:
    i. Requiring manufacturers to have permits to build and/or sell 3D printers and undergo background and security checks before receiving permits,
    ii. Requiring manufacturers to regularly update printer software to address newly identified methods of circumventing existing safeguards,
    iii. Implementing safeguards designed to prevent the unauthorized production of firearms and firearm components, such as software-based restrictions that identify and block unauthorized firearm-production designs.