



**Preventing firearm violence and injury:
International Action Network on Small Arms statement to governments gathered for the
first UN Programme of Action Review Conference, 26 June to 7 July 2006, UN HQ**

In March 2006, experts gathered for a conference, **Driving Change: Developing Firearms Policies for Safer Societies**, in South Africa, linked to the 2006 World Injury Prevention Conference, to discuss lessons learned and priorities related to small arms violence and injury prevention. Inspired by the meeting, the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) circulated this statement for wider support in recognition of the growing momentum from diverse communities for more effective, evidence based, and holistic measures to meet the challenge of reducing armed violence.

The statement represents the views and concerns of 188 organisations, who encourage governments gathered at the first Review Conference to assess progress in implementing the 2001 UN Programme of Action on small arms control to consider the recommendations below. Such approaches can make a significant contribution to the full implementation of the Programme of Action. Most importantly, these measures contribute to reducing the suffering, death and injury associated with small arms availability and misuse.

The Programme of Action acknowledges that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects has a ‘wide range of humanitarian and socio-economic consequences and pose a serious threat to peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development at the individual, local, national, regional and international levels’.

The following recommendations are offered to governments for consideration at the Review Conference:

1. The multidimensional nature of the issue and responses: Experience from different settings has shown that violence associated with the destabilising accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons is preventable through a combination of local initiatives, national legislation and international cooperation. Multi-sectoral, public and private collaboration is an effective approach to responding to this issue, as demonstrated since 2001. In particular, greater linkages are encouraged between arms control, public health, justice and law enforcement, and development communities from all regions of the world in order to share information and knowledge, particularly on effective implementation strategies, as well as to facilitate collaboration in devising evidence-based policies.

2. Survivors of small arms related violence require policy attention: In the process of exchanging good practices and approaches at the Review Conference, it is time to acknowledge the needs of those people and communities directly affected by armed violence. This long overdue priority for the international community requires a commitment to adopting a multifaceted approach. States and appropriate international and regional organisations should seriously consider addressing the socio-economic, physical and psycho-social needs of those people who survive the consequences of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects.

3. The link between the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and development: The violence and suffering associated with the uncontrolled availability of small arms and light weapons has a range of negative impacts on human development and impedes the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. Development programming can be used to promote more effective control of the illicit trade in all its aspects, and to reduce the human insecurity that is a consequence of widespread violence in an integrated manner, while pursuing a wider goal of violence prevention and poverty reduction. Consequently, activities geared towards controlling and reducing small arms have to be seen as an integral part of development programming.

4. The contribution of action oriented research: As called for in the Programme of Action, action oriented research undertaken since 2001 has made a significant contribution to advancing understanding on the range of consequences of the illicit trade in small arms in all its aspects, and identifying further appropriate responses to address these consequences. Based on existing evidence, it is now clear that violence associated with the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons is the leading cause, or one of the leading causes, of death and injury in many countries, particularly amongst young men. Enhancing the understanding of the causes and consequences of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects, and of the environments in which these events take place can make a significant contribution to the further implementation of the Programme of Action. Additional comprehensive policy relevant research efforts and funding should be further encouraged and supported.

Addressing this particular aspect of human suffering is within the reach of all governments gathered in New York to chart the next phase of global action on illicit trade in small arms and light weapons **in all its aspects**.

List of endorsing organisations

- 1 Action Solidaire pour le Developpement et la Paix – Democratic Republic of Congo
- 2 Africa and Europe Faith and Justice Network – Belgium
- 3 Africa and Europe Faith and Justice Network – Spain
- 4 Africa Europe Network – Netherlands
- 5 Africa Peace Forum – Kenya
- 6 African Diaspora and Other Races' Development Movement – Ghana
- 7 Alcadia Municipalde San Salvador – El Salvador
- 8 Al-Mezan Center for Human Rights – Palestine
- 9 Amman Center for Human Rights Studies – Jordan
- 10 Amnesty International – Bahrain
- 11 Amnesty International – Belgium
- 12 Amnesty International – Chad
- 13 Amnesty International – Cote d'Ivoire
- 14 Amnesty International – Spain
- 15 Amnesty International, International Secretariat – Worldwide
- 16 Arab Network for Research on Landmines and Explosive Remnants of War – Syria
- 17 Asociación de Lucha para el Desarme Civil – Uruguay
- 18 Asociacion Para Publicas – Argentina
- 19 Association des femmes pour les initiatives de paix – Mali
- 20 Association des femmes de l'Aeronautique – Burundi
- 21 Australian National Coalition for Gun Control – Australia
- 22 Bhattarai – Nepal
- 23 Bonn International Center for Conversion – Germany
- 24 Brummana Quakers – Lebanon
- 25 Calvary and Liberation Ministries – Sierra Leone
- 26 Carrefour Prison – Switzerland
- 27 CBTF – Mexico
- 28 Ceasefire – USA
- 29 Ceasefire Campaign – South Africa
- 30 Centre de Documentation et de Recherche sur la Paix et les Conflits – France
- 31 Centre for Democracy and Development – Nigeria
- 32 Centre for Democratic Empowerment – Liberia
- 33 Centre for Human Rights and Rehabilitation – Malawi
- 34 Centre for Human Rights, Democracy and Transitional Justice Studies – Democratic Republic of Congo
- 35 Centre for Humanitarian Dialogue – Switzerland
- 36 Centre for Peace and Development – Nigeria
- 37 Centre for Peace and Economic Development – Tanzania

- 38 Centre for Trauma Counseling and Conflict Resolution – Liberia
- 39 Centro de Investigación en Demografía y Salud, Universidad Nacional Autónoma de Nicaragua – Nicaragua
- 40 Centro de Prevención de la Violencia – Nicaragua
- 41 Centro de Recursos para el Análisis de Conflictos – Colombia
- 42 Cercle des Jeunes pour une Société de Paix – Togo
- 43 Child Accident Prevention Foundation of Southern Africa – South Africa
- 44 Child, Adolescent and Family Survival Organization – Nigeria
- 45 Children First – South Africa
- 46 Children's Mercy Hospital – USA
- 47 Citizens Collective – India
- 48 Coalition to Stop Gun Violence – USA
- 49 Colegiatura de Abogados Litigantes – USA
- 50 Colonie des Pionniers du Développement – Burundi
- 51 Commission Justice Paix et Intégrité de la Création – Netherlands
- 52 Commission of the Churches on International Affairs, World Council of Churches – Worldwide
- 53 Commonwealth Peoples' Association of Uganda – Uganda
- 54 Community Action and Motivation Plan – Pakistan
- 55 Concern – Ireland
- 56 Conflict Analysis Resources Center – Colombia
- 57 Conflict Resolution Trainers Network – Nigeria
- 58 Congolese Physicians for Peace – Democratic Republic of Congo
- 59 Consejo de Investigaciones e Información en Desarrollo – Guatemala
- 60 Coordination de l'Action Non-Violente de l'Arche – France
- 61 Dagropass – Burundi
- 62 DanChurchAid – Burundi
- 63 Daughters of Wisdom – UK
- 64 Department of International Relations, Research School of Asian and Pacific Studies, Australian National University – Australia
- 65 Documentation & Dissemination Centre for Disarmament Information – India
- 66 Egalite Public Foundation – Kyrgyzstan
- 67 Entropy Inc – USA
- 68 Environmental Protection and Development Initiative – Nigeria
- 69 Escola de Cultura de Pau – Spain
- 70 European Centre for Conflict Prevention – Netherlands
- 71 Facultad Latinoamericana de Ciencias Sociales – Costa Rica
- 72 FAFO Institute for Applied International Studies – Norway
- 73 Fellowship of Christian Councils in the Great Lakes & Horn of Africa – Kenya
- 74 Franciscans Internacional – Worldwide
- 75 Fundació per la Pau – Spain
- 76 Fundación Psicología y Cristianismo – Spain
- 77 Gaia – Portugal
- 78 Gaston Z. Ortigas Peace Institute – Philippines
- 79 Global Majority – USA
- 80 Governance and Human Development Centre – Nigeria
- 81 Greenpeace – Argentina
- 82 Groupe de Recherche et d'Information sur la Paix et la Sécurité – Belgium
- 83 Groupement de Promotion Intégrale (GPI) – Democratic Republic of Congo
- 84 Grupo Mujeres, Niñez y Familia – Colombia
- 85 Gun Control Network – UK
- 86 Gun Free South Africa – South Africa
- 87 Gun Free South Africa – South Africa
- 88 Hague Appeal for Peace – USA

- 89 Handicap International – Belgium
- 90 Human Development Promotion Group – Pakistan
- 91 Human Rights Network – Nigeria
- 92 Indian Institute for Peace, Disarmament & Environmental Protection – India
- 93 InfoNature.Org – Portugal
- 94 Innovation et Formation pour le Développement et la Paix – Democratic Republic of Congo
- 95 Institut de l'Enfance et la Parentalité – Togo
- 96 Institute for Dispute Resolution – Nigeria
- 97 Institute for New Leaders – Nigeria
- 98 Institute for Security Studies – South Africa
- 99 Instituto de Enseñanza para el Desarrollo Sostenible – Guatemala
- 100 Instituto Peruano de investigación de familia y probación – Peru
- 101 Integrated Forum for Human Rights and Manportable Guided Weapons and Small Arms Control – Bangladesh
- 102 Interdisciplinary Institute of Human Rights, Universtity of Fribourg – Switzerland
- 103 International Peace Bureau – USA
- 104 International Peace Research Institute – Norway
- 105 International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War – El Salvador
- 106 International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War – Worldwide
- 107 International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War – Zambia
- 108 Isis – Women's International Crosscultural Exchange – Uganda
- 109 Kampala Baptist Church – Uganda
- 110 Latin American Circle for International Studies – Mexico
- 111 Leitana Nehan Women's Development Agency – Papua New Guinea
- 112 Liberia Action Network on Small Arms – Liberia
- 113 Liberia Hope Fund – Liberia
- 114 Life and Peace Institute – Kenya
- 115 Life and Peace Institute – Sweden
- 116 Liga Anti-Disección Animal – Italy
- 117 Liga Mundial de Mujeres por la Paz y la Libertad – Colombia
- 118 Ligue Iteka – Burundi
- 119 Madaba for sustainable development – Jordan
- 120 Middle East North Africa Action Network on Small Arms
- 121 Mouvement Citoyen – Senegal
- 122 Mouvement Panafricain de la Jeunesse Féminine pour la PAIX – Côte d'Ivoire
- 123 Mwanza Environmental Sympathizers – Tanzania
- 124 National Coalition for Gun Control – Australia
- 125 National Committee for Demining and Rehabilitation – Jordan
- 126 National Governance Programme – Ghana
- 127 National Organisation for Defending Rights & Freedoms – Yemen
- 128 New Zealand Campaign against Landmines – New Zealand
- 129 Nonviolence International Southeast Asia – Thailand
- 130 Orange County Citizens for the Prevention of Gun Violence – USA
- 131 Organisation de Femmes pour le Développement de la Commune de Thomonde, Département du Centre – Haiti
- 132 Organisation de Femmes Progressites de Lascahobas – Haiti
- 133 Oxfam Canada – Canada
- 134 Oxfam Great Britain – UK
- 135 Palmerston North Poverty Action Group – New Zealand
- 136 Parliamentarians for Global Action – USA
- 137 Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons – Sweden
- 138 Participatory Action and Research Centre – India
- 139 Pax Christi International – Worldwide

- 140 Pax Christi Vlaanderen – Belgium
- 141 Peace Movement Aotearoa – New Zealand
- 142 Peace Studies Group, University of Coimbra – Portugal
- 143 Peace without Arms – Nigeria
- 144 Pediatric and Adolescent Health Research Centre – United States
- 145 People with Disabilities – Uganda
- 146 Philanthropic Action in Burundi – Burundi
- 147 Project Ploughshares – Canada
- 148 Projet GRAM – Democratic Republic of Congo
- 149 Promotion and Help for Feminine Initiatives – Democratic Republic of Congo
- 150 Promundo – Brazil
- 151 Quaker United Nations Office – Switzerland
- 152 Quaker United Nations Office – USA
- 153 Rah-e-Amal Welfare Trust – Pakistan
- 154 Ramallah Center for Human Rights Studies – Palestine
- 155 Red Africa-Europa-fe-Justicia – Spain
- 156 Red Peruana para el Desarme Civil, la Cultura de Paz y Seguridad Humanaz – Peru
- 157 Refugee Voice Group – Uganda
- 158 Religiosas del Sagrado Corazón – Spain
- 159 Réseau Congolais d'Action sur les Armes Légères – Democratic Republic of Congo
- 160 Réseau des Journalistes pour la Paix et la Sécurité en Afrique del'Ouest – Senegal
- 161 Réseau Foi & Justice Afrique – France
- 162 Réseau National d'Action sur les Armes Légères – Togo
- 163 Revista "La Pau" – Spain
- 164 Rural Initiatives in Sustainability and Empowerment – Pakistan
- 165 Safe Earth Nigeria – Nigeria
- 166 Safeguards Initiative – Nigeria
- 167 SaferWorld – UK
- 168 Sayar – Turkey
- 169 Security Research and Information Center – Kenya
- 170 Sierra Leone Action Network on Small Arms – Sierra Leone
- 171 Sociedad Paraguaya de Criminología – Paraguay
- 172 Students against Violence – Nigeria
- 173 Taxila Centre for Medical Reforms and Research – India
- 174 The Association for the Promotion of Peace – Mozambique
- 175 Un Arma Menos son Muchas Vidas mas – Colombia
- 176 UNDP – Canada
- 177 UNICEF – Cambodia
- 178 Unité de coopération paysanne au Sud-Kivu – Democratic Republic of Congo
- 179 Village Nationall des Jeunes pour la Solidarité et l'Avancement de la Démocratie – Haiti
- 180 VIP/CDC – Iran
- 181 Viva Rio – Brazil
- 182 Voluntas – Belarus
- 183 Women Environment and Development Network – Nigeria
- 184 Womens' Institute for Alternative Development – Trinidad and Tobago
- 185 World Vision International – Burundi
- 186 Youth Action for Peace UK – United Kingdom
- 187 Youth Crime Watch of Liberia – Liberia
- 188 YUA – Netherlands