

Fewer than 100 days to the RevCon!

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1. Glossary of terms

PoA = UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

PrepCom = Preparatory Committee Meeting

RevCon = Conference to Review Progress Made in Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons

DDA = UN Department of Disarmament Affairs

2. What is the Review Conference?

The RevCon, which takes place at UN headquarters in New York from 26 June to 7 July, is intended to review the Programme of Action on Small Arms. Since the PoA was agreed in 2001, significant progress has been made in understanding the dynamics of small arms proliferation, how it affects communities, and what policy decisions need to be taken in order to make people safer from gun violence. It is now clear that many aspects of the PoA need to be elaborated, and that issues which were pushed off the agenda in 2001 are essential to effective implementation and must now be discussed.

By the time the next global small arms meeting takes place in five or six years time, another 1.8 million people will have been killed by small arms and millions more injured. Governments must use the opportunity of the Review Conference to agree on policies that will make a difference.

3. What happened at the PrepCom?

The PrepCom, held at UN Headquarters in New York, 9-20 January, was chaired by Ambassador Rowe of Sierra Leone. It was attended by most UN Member States, as well as NGO representatives from 43 countries.

The purpose of the PrepCom was to determine the structure and content of the RevCon. Specific tasks included developing an agenda for the June meeting; identifying issues on and off the negotiating table (and the parameters of those deemed to be on the table); and agreeing on procedural issues (such as NGO participation and whether there will be a ministerial level segment at the RevCon).

Regrettably States did not conclude any of these tasks. Decision-making about the RevCon has, therefore, been delayed until the June meeting, placing a great deal of pressure on the designated President of the RevCon—New York-based Sri Lankan Ambassador Prasad Kariyawasam—to generate a ‘programme of work’ and develop a draft ‘outcome document’. In order to do this, he is holding a very tight schedule of consultations with governments and civil society and releasing now every 2-3 weeks another section of the draft Outcome Document to be negotiated at the RevCon (see below, section 4).

To learn more about the meeting, read the IANSA Report of the PrepCom via www.iansa.org/un/

4. Thematic working groups

Volunteers from policy organisations within the IANSA network have formed five thematic working groups to develop text for IANSA position papers for the designated Chair of the RevCon (Amb Kariyawasam) and other diplomats. These papers will also serve as the basis for talking points for IANSA participants to use for

lobbying and presentations. Narrowing down the number of issues advocated by IANSA was long overdue in order to focus our lobbying activities. Four substantive issues and one procedural issue have been selected:

- **International transfer controls**
- **National firearms regulations**
- **Survivor assistance**
- **Development**
- **Follow-on mechanisms**

In addition there is a UN Process working group whose main task is writing these UN Bulletins, and a Communications working group, which will get our messages into the media.

As noted above, Amb Kariyawasam has the considerable job of devising a programme of work and a draft outcome document for the RevCon. To this end he is holding a series of consultations with States and NGOs on 'national, regional, global action' (see calendar at end of this Bulletin). To make an effective contribution to his consultations on 27 and 30 March, IANSA has had to move quickly! Draft position papers setting out IANSA's preferences were sent in early March for rapid comment to those members of the network who are most active on each topic. The papers, with comments incorporated, have now been circulated to diplomats and Amb Kariyawasam. For copies of these papers, contact Alun Howard at alun.howard@iansa.org.

The thematic working groups are now busy turning these position papers into talking points, full of factual and clear information. These talking points will be translated and made available rapidly and widely to IANSA members during early April. If you want to help in this process, contact Alun Howard at alun.howard@iansa.org for a copy of the Terms of Reference for joining the working groups.

To ensure that we are speaking with one voice, all IANSA activists should—as far as possible—use these talking points from April to June in lobbying officials in your capital, at regional meetings, and at the UN.

5. How to get involved NOW!

Negotiating positions at the UN are determined by government officials at home. So for us to affect the outcome in New York in July, IANSA members must raise public awareness through the media and through regular meetings with government officials on what is at stake in the UN negotiations. By the start of the RevCon in June it will be too late. Most government positions will be set, and there will only be marginal benefits in lobbying them there.

The IANSA Secretariat is happy to help or advise on all of the following activities:

(i) Talk to your government.

Please study the statements produced and documents circulated at the PrepCom by your national government in order to identify missing or poorly represented issues, as well as policy positions that can be consolidated. To find out your government's position use these links:

- Overview of the PrepCom statements: <http://www.hdcentre.org/UN+process+on+small+arms+control>
- Text of the national statements: <http://www.un.org/events/smallarms2006/prepcom/statements.html>
- National reports to the UN: <http://disarmament.un.org/cab/salw-nationalreports.html>

These documents are also available through the UN section of the IANSA website

Arrange a meeting with someone from your government who does or *should* take an interest in small arms control. This person could be from the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, police, customs, child welfare, gender issues, health, development, etc. Present the arguments from the IANSA talking points and propose that your government support a strong position on all of these areas. Please send a brief email about the meeting to alun.howard@iansa.org, so that the IANSA Secretariat can report on your work to the Network and reinforce your good work through follow up, if possible.

(ii) Talk to journalists. Media coverage is the best way to ensure that your government and its delegation support strong measures at the RevCon to control small arms, strengthen stockpile security and reduce gun

violence. The IANSA Secretariat will be working to raise international media coverage of the event, will be providing media materials for IANSA members in the coming weeks, and is happy to help anyone trying to raise media coverage in their own country. Please contact anthea@iansa.org for more information.

(iii) Join the 100 Days countdown campaign, and / or organise an event for the Global Week of Action 22-29 May

Campaign activities help to raise the profile of the Review Conference and are one of the best ways to gain media coverage. See the latest campaign circular at www.iansa.org/control_arms/100days/index.htm to find out how you can join in the 100 Days countdown, or email laura.cheeseman@iansa.org

Use the calendar at the end of this Bulletin to identify regional or international meetings which you can use to organise lobbying, media or campaigning activity.

(iv) Send us news and information. Please send us:

- Information on relevant upcoming events in your region for inclusion in the calendar
- Copies of relevant news articles for posting on the IANSA website
- Reports on your discussions with government officials, including mention of their positions

6. How to get involved at the RevCon

If you wish to apply for accreditation to attend the RevCon, you must submit your application to DDA by 28 April: <http://www.iansa.org/un/review2006.htm>

If you wish to apply for IANSA sponsorship to attend the RevCon, you must submit your application to IANSA by 10 April: <http://www.iansa.org/un/review2006.htm>

If you are planning to attend the Rev Con, there are many ways to be involved. Here are some suggestions for how individual IANSA members can make a significant contribution. **We need volunteers to carry out these tasks** so please choose the activities in which you would like to participate and inform Alun Howard alun.howard@iansa.org.

Activity	Work required
Translation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Translate IANSA documents into French, Spanish, other languages during the RevCon; • Provide <i>ad hoc</i> translation in NGO side meetings.
Media	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide human cost stories about gun violence around the world between now and RevCon • Provide information and stories to your national media during the RevCon • Act as spokespeople for international media before and during the RevCon
Reporting on government positions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Collect and analyse government statements at the RevCon • Brief media officers and other spokespeople on the positions taken by various governments • Providing information from the conference room for the daily newsletter to be produced by IANSA
Lobbying	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Coordinate lobbying activities by IANSA members • Meeting with specific governments and/ or regional groups

7. Side events at the RevCon

In the past an ad-hoc approach to the organising of side events at UN meetings has resulted in unfortunate timetable clashes, with two or even three events on similar topics being held at the same time. This splits the target audience to the disadvantage of both events.

This year IANSA proposes to coordinate key thematic side events more closely. We will book rooms for IANSA's five priority issues for the RevCon (listed above). Those member organisations who would like to hold an event on one of these topics should contact us, and we will put you in touch with other organisations who want to do a side event on the same subject so that you can pool your resources and organise the event together. The result will be a coherent list of events on topics where it is vital that we communicate a clear message.

We will also coordinate events for the IANSA women's network, the IANSA public health network, and the parliamentary action campaign.

Of course we will, as before, encourage members to hold regionally-focused side events. Rooms for these events can be booked through IANSA. Please email mark.marge@iansa.org and copy noguns@global.co.za. Please ensure that your request includes a full title for your event.

8. Calendar of international small arms advocacy opportunities

March	
27	New York, US: Consultations by RevCon Chair Designate Amb Kariyawasam
30	New York, US: Consultations by RevCon Chair Designate Amb Kariyawasam
31-1 Apr	Durban, South Africa: Pre- Conference on Reducing Firearm Injury (precon2006@iss.org.za)
April	
2-5	Durban: 8th World Conference on Injury Prevention and Safety Promotion (www.safety2006.info)
3-7	Bogotá, Colombia: Meeting of members of CLAVE (Latin American Coalition against Armed Violence)
10	New York, US: Consultations with civil society by RevCon Chair Designate Amb Kariyawasam
10-12	Wilton Park, UK: Conference on Armed Violence, Poverty & Development (UK Dept for International Devlt)
10-12	Buenos Aires, Argentina: Mercosur Working Group on Firearms
10-28	New York, US: UN Disarmament Commission
21-22	Nairobi, Kenya: Inter-Government meeting on transfer controls
25	Kampala, Uganda: Extra-Ordinary Council of Ministers meeting in the Great Lakes Region & Horn of Africa
27-28	Kampala, Uganda: Regional Consultative Seminar in Preparation for the UNPoA Review Conference
May	
TBC	Geneva, Switzerland: Biting the Bullet meeting on transfer controls
TBC	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia: Mtg of Government Experts on Post-Conflict Reconstruction & Devlt, African Union
TBC	Place TBC: Consultations by RevCon Chair Designate Amb Kariyawasam
TBC	Bamako, Mali: Meeting of Government Experts on the ECOWAS Convention
1 May	Nairobi Protocol comes into force
2-5	La Antigua, Guatemala: UN-LiREC meeting (corrales@unlirec.org)
5	New York, US: Consultations by RevCon Chair Designate Amb Kariyawasam
4-7	Athens, Greece: European Social Forum
7-12	Nairobi, Kenya: 114th Inter-Parliamentary Union meeting (www.ipukenya.org/ , Anda Filip af@mail.ipu.org)
8-12	New York, US: Group of Governmental Experts on Continuing Operation of UN Register of Conventional Arms
17-19	Bangkok, Thailand: Workshop organised by UN Regional centre for Peace & Disarmament (RCPD)
mid May	Kigali, Rwanda: Meeting of Women, Youth & Civil Society Organisations, Peace & Security Council, African Union
15 May–30 June	Geneva, Switzerland: Conference on Disarmament
22-27	Geneva, Switzerland: WHO, World Health Assembly: session 59
22-29	Worldwide: Global Week of Action against Small Arms
23	New York, US: Consultations by RevCon Chair Designate Amb Kariyawasam
June	
TBC	Niamey, Niger: ECOWAS Heads of State Summit expected to decide on ECOWAS Convention
TBC	Place TBC: Consultations by RevCon Chair Designate Amb Kariyawasam
1-2	Bangkok, Thailand: Human Security Network Ministerial Mtg. (www.humansecuritynetwork.org/events-e.php)
6-7	Geneva, Switzerland: Development Summit (UNDP and Government of Switzerland)
14-16	New York, US: UN Secretary General's Advisory Board on disarmament matters
15-16	Russia: G8 Interior, Justice Ministers, and Attorney Generals' Meeting (www.en.g8russia.ru)
19-23	New York, US: Open-ended Working Group for 4th Special Session of UN General Assembly devoted to disarmament
25	End of 100 day countdown to RevCon
26	New York, US: RevCon starts
29	Russia: G8 meeting Foreign Ministers' meeting (www.en.g8russia.ru)
July	
1-2	Banjul, Gambia: 7th Ordinary Session of the Assembly of the African Union
7	New York, US: RevCon ends
9	Worldwide, International Gun Destruction Day
15-17	Russia: G8 Summit