

**United Nations Workshop on SALW for South Asia and Southeast Asia
“Towards the Review Conference on the Implementation of the PoA”**

**Report of the Working Group for Southeast Asian States
19 May 2006**

1. Workshop participants met to review progress made in implementing the United Nations *Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects* at both the national and regional levels. The Workshop took place in preparation for the Review Conference to be held in New York in June–July 2006.
2. The following ASEAN States participated in the Workshop: Brunei Darussalam, Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, the Philippines, Thailand and Viet Nam.
3. ASEAN participants recalled the *ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime*, adopted in Yangon, Myanmar on 23 June 1999, and the *Work Programme to Implement the ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime*, adopted in Kuala Lumpur on 17 May 2002, which includes tackling SALW as part of transnational crime.
4. ASEAN participants recalled that the Workshop in Bangkok followed the United Nations Workshop on Small Arms and Light Weapons held in Beijing on 19–21 April 2005 and the ASEAN Regional Forum Seminar on SALW held in Phnom Penh on 4–5 November 2005.
5. ASEAN participants noted, in particular, the recommendations made at the ARF Seminar in Phnom Penh, specifically:
 - SALW Points of Contact to send their contact details to the ARF Unit of the ASEAN Secretariat to facilitate networking.
 - Representatives of ASEAN countries to explore with their own governments the potential for enhanced regional co-operation on SALW issues.
 - ASEAN countries to consider adding SALW to the agenda of future ASEAN meetings.
 - ASEAN countries to consider co-ordinating national positions on SALW issues ahead of the Preparatory and Review Conferences of the *UN Programme of Action on SALW* in 2006 and other international SALW meetings.
6. ASEAN participants affirmed their continuing commitment to fully implement the *UN Programme of Action* and to cooperate with other States, within Southeast Asia and beyond Southeast Asia, to that end. They acknowledged the important

interrelationship in national, regional and global-level implementation of the *Programme of Action*.

7. Each State reported on its implementation of the *UN Programme of Action* to date.
8. Those States that had not yet submitted a report on their implementation of the *Programme of Action* would endeavour to submit such a report by the time of the Review Conference, using the information they had provided at the Workshop as a basis for it.
9. ASEAN participants outlined the various steps they had taken to implement, and align their activities with, the *Programme of Action*, including, inter alia:
 - the establishment of national points of contact;
 - the establishment of national coordination agencies or bodies;
 - national laws, regulations and administrative procedures across the range of areas covered by the *Programme of Action*;
 - transfer controls;
 - brokering;
 - stockpile management and security;
 - weapons collection and destruction;
 - disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) of ex-combatants; and
 - public awareness programmes.
10. ASEAN participants reaffirmed their commitment to implement other politically binding measures agreed within the UN framework to combat illicit small arms and light weapons.
11. ASEAN participants affirmed the continued importance of cooperation with other Southeast Asian States in addressing the problems posed by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects. In this regard, they highlighted the following:
 - the effective control of land and maritime borders;
 - close cooperation among police, customs and other officials responsible for combating the illicit SALW trade, including the sharing of relevant information; and
 - the exchange of information on experiences, progress made and difficulties encountered in implementing the *Programme of Action*, including best practices.
12. In these areas and other areas relevant to the control of the illicit SALW trade, ASEAN participants reaffirmed their commitment to strengthen subregional cooperation for purposes of preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects. They noted that the 26th meeting of ASEANAPOL, in

Kuala Lumpur from 22 May 2006, would provide an initial opportunity to strengthen subregional mechanisms for information exchange.

13. In their statements to the Workshop, ASEAN participants underlined the importance of assistance, including technical and financial assistance where needed, to their implementation of various aspects of the *Programme of Action* in relation to weapons, their ammunition and explosives. In this regard, they highlighted the following:
 - the organization of a capacity-building workshop in the subregion;
 - training for law enforcement officers;
 - increasing capacity for effective control of land and maritime borders;
 - assistance for stockpile management and surplus destruction;
 - assistance for DDR; and
 - assistance for public awareness programmes.
14. In these areas and others, ASEAN participants acknowledged the important role the UN played and should continue to play in supporting the implementation of the *Programme of Action*.
15. ASEAN participants recognized the important contribution made by other international organizations, as well as civil society, to the implementation of the *Programme of Action* and requested their continued support to this end.
16. ASEAN participants thanked the organizer of the Workshop, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD/DDA), Workshop sponsors Canada, Japan and UNDP, and host Government Thailand for the important contributions they had made to the success of the Workshop. They affirmed that the Workshop had helped them prepare for the forthcoming Review Conference.
17. Finally, ASEAN participants resolved to sustain their commitment to tackling the problem of the illicit trade of SALW in all its aspects over the long term. They acknowledged the importance of the efforts made over the past five years to implement the *Programme of Action*, while recognizing that much more still needed to be done.