

National reports on armed violence

The Review Conference of the UN Program of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons provides an opportunity for countries to reiterate their commitment to comprehensive measurement and monitoring of armed violence. In this perspective, the biennial report on SALW submitted in the framework of the UN PoA provides a useful basis on which to elaborate broader reports on armed violence that look not only at the tools of violence but also at measures undertaken to address armed violence, their impact on the ground and actions to support victims' rights.

During the Review Conference, countries should:

- recognise the relevance of rigorously monitoring and measuring the incidence and impact of armed violence to understand the problem and inform effective actions;
- commit publicly in their interventions to produce comprehensive national reports on armed violence in consultation with other relevant ministries, local authorities and civil society;
- support the references to national reporting on SALW as included in several paragraphs of the declaration and the implementation plans.

Rationale

Support for 'measurable reductions' in armed violence in the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development¹, and for the practical advances in measuring and monitoring the problem within the Oslo Commitments on Armed Violence and Development², have created a clear constituency of states committed to creating and building systems for national armed violence monitoring. The production of such national reports reflects a determination by participating states to acknowledge and address the problem of armed violence domestically, and to work with governmental and non-governmental institutions, with local affected populations, and with victims and survivors.

National reports on armed violence offer a comprehensive picture of the problem at national level. In particular they provide an opportunity to:

- assess the effectiveness of interventions to address armed violence and share good practices nationally and internationally;
- identify specific challenges and set out concrete measures to tackle them effectively;
- identify the full range of actors that have a stake in armed violence reduction, including relevant ministries and local authorities, civil society organisations as well as people and communities that are directly affected by armed violence;
- engage all those relevant actors in the process of drafting the reports as well as consulting them in the process of developing responses to the key challenges identified in the report.

¹ Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, Geneva, June 2006.

² Oslo Commitments on Armed Violence and Development, Geneva, May 2010.