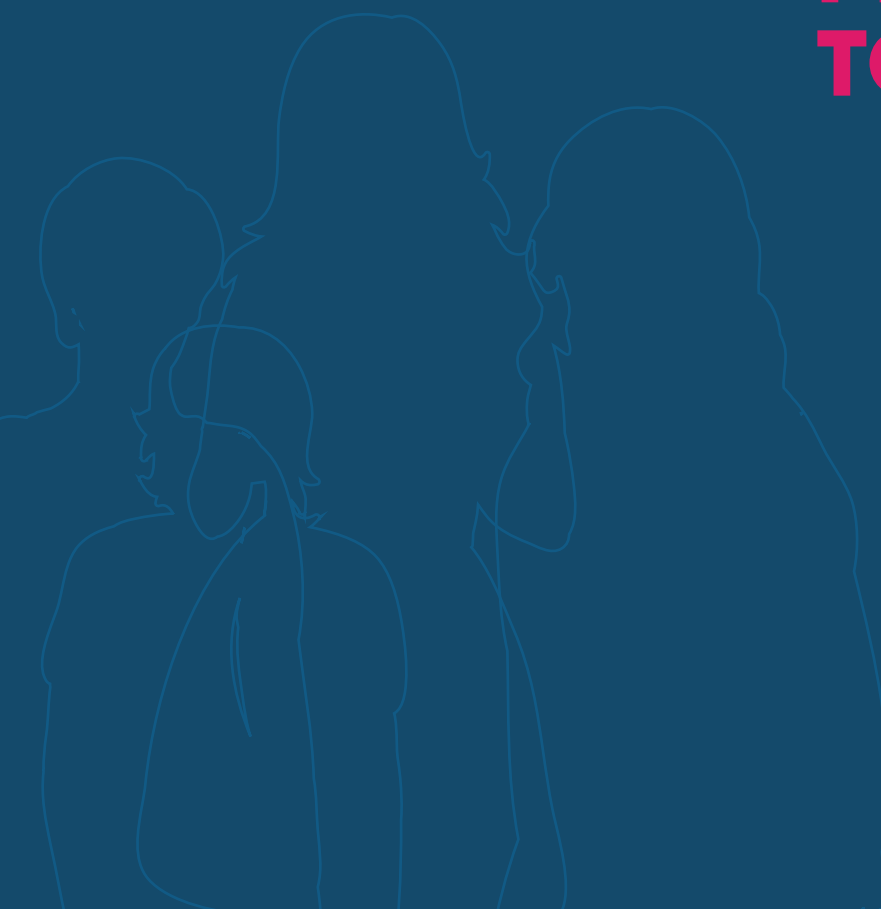




ISSUE 1, JUNE 2021

# FROM PROMISES TO PROGRESS

Opportunities for action  
on gender responsive small  
arms control in existing  
international commitments



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>03</b>	<b>ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS</b>
<b>03</b>	<b>ABOUT THE ISSUE BRIEF SERIES</b>
<b>03</b>	<b>ABOUT GENSAC</b>
<b>03</b>	<b>ABOUT THE PATHFINDERS</b>
<b>04</b>	<b>REVIVING COMMITMENTS TO ACTION</b>
<b>06</b>	<b>MAPPING PROMISES FOR PROGRESS</b> Identify the Most Useful Issue Linkages Focus on the Most Relevant Level of Action <i>Multilateral Fora</i> <i>Regional Instruments</i> <i>National Contexts</i> Understand the Promise to Act
<b>13</b>	<b>BUILDING STRATEGIES FOR ACTION ON EXISTING COMMITMENTS</b>
<b>15</b>	<b>EXAMPLES OF INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR ACTION</b> Disarmament and Small Arms Control Commitments Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment Commitments Sustainable Development Commitments Human Rights Commitments
<b>23</b>	<b>NOTES</b>

## Acknowledgements

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## About the Issue Brief Series

GENSAC's Issue Brief Series provides concise and practical analysis of contemporary issues in gender responsive small arms control. The series aims to inspire and support progress across local, national, regional and international levels of action. It builds on extensive background research as well as the collective insights of GENSAC's membership and the interested policy and practitioner community. The series aims to reach specialists in small arms control with an interest in understanding the relevance of gender responsive approaches, as well as specialists in gender equality, women's empowerment, and conflict and security fields who seek to better understand the contribution of gender responsive small arms control for violence reduction.

## About GENSAC

The Gender Equality Network for Small Arms Control (GENSAC) is a membership network that aims to make small arms control policy and practice more gender responsive. The Network works to amplify international, regional, national and local best practices of those who have been doing "small arms control behind the curtain," including representatives from civil society organizations, women's groups, conflict prevention and development communities. It furthermore aims to foster cross-regional learning through focused knowledge- and experience-sharing among regionally diverse groups of women's rights advocates and technical experts on gender and/or small arms control. Learn more: [www.gensac.network](http://www.gensac.network)

## About the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies

The Pathfinders are a group of 39 UN member states, international organizations, global partnerships, civil society and the private sector partners. The Pathfinders work to accelerate action to implement the SDG targets for peace, justice and inclusion (SDG16+). The Pathfinders act as a platform for action with the goal of demonstrating measurable change against the SDG16+ targets in Pathfinder countries by working to strengthen both national and international delivery as well as grand challenges that raise ambition, increase political will, and set a policy and learning agenda in the key areas of promoting justice for all, reducing violence, and tackling exclusion and inequality.

## About Halving Global Violence by 2030

Pathfinders have launched and are committed to supporting a [Movement to Halve Global Violence by 2030](#), inspired by the international community's mandate and binding political commitment to "significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere" by 2030 (SDG16.1). We collaborate with at least 100 partners to prioritize and scale-up concrete and practical solutions to reduce multiple categories of violence, and build innovative coalitions to tackle the pressing challenge of violence in its many forms. Learn more: [www.sdg16.plus/peace](http://www.sdg16.plus/peace)

# REVIVING COMMITMENTS TO ACT

**By endorsing SDG16.1, all states have committed to significantly reducing all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere**, within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Effective control of small arms and their illicit flows are essential aspects in achieving this goal and lowering rates of global violence ‘epidemic.’

**Gender shapes both the causes and consequences of small arms violence.** Recognizing this is vital to more effective small arms control in every context, and also crucial for the overarching objective of global violence reduction. Research and experience show that making small arms control more gender responsive can help reduce violence in both conflict-affected and non-conflict contexts.<sup>1</sup>

**State action is essential to both national and international efforts to make small arms control more gender responsive.** Specifically, this means that each state will need to create effective domestic frameworks for the control of firearms that reflect the gendered use of weapons and the broader conditions for societal violence prevention. States have already made commitments to this effect in a range of international agreements on disarmament (especially small arms and ammunition control agendas); protection of human rights; gender equality and women’s empowerment; peace and security; and sustainable development.

**However, implementation of existing commitments has been slow, sometimes completely faltering. In other instances, commitments appear to have fallen into political irrelevance.** Current international and regional frameworks are imperfect, and advocates for violence reduction and stronger small arms control have identified gaps and overlaps in international control regimes. International consensus on new measures for disarmament and small arms control remains notoriously difficult to reach despite broad progress achieved on violence reduction and disarmament.

**The obstacles to new and better agreements on small arms control are well known.** States may have conflicting views about the legitimate need for arms control; political and financial interests, or even corruption, can trump commitments to peace, security, and human rights; and the technical details of regulating international arms production and trade can make reaching agreements both time consuming and complicated. Moreover, every new agreement carries the risk of creating new loopholes, or perverse market incentives.

**Similarly, barriers to action at the national level also stall progress on new frameworks for gender responsive small arms control.** For example, national industries that depend on manufacturing or trade in arms, ammunition, or components may show strong opposition to new control measures. The concerns of opposing political parties (or even state institutions) may complicate and politicize policymaking on gender responsive small arms control. Some may resist new disarmament or control initiatives because they see these as limiting a legitimate role for arms transfers in international cooperation, regional defense agreements, or in cementing diplomatic ties. In a few cases, there may also be significant public demand for access to legal weapons for self-defense or as a cultural marker (a condition that can affect both the licit and illicit trade in firearms, in both conflict and non-conflict situations).

**None of these challenges are insurmountable and significant past progress has been made at both national and international levels.** It thus remains essential to continue to push for further amendments, new additions, and meaningful innovations that will make existing international and national frameworks for small arms control more gender responsive and consequently more effective.

# REVIVING COMMITMENTS TO ACT

Recognizing that existing legal and policy commitments boast the enormous advantage of having already overcome the challenges that block new political consensus on arms control, **this Issue Brief argues that existing international agreements are currently underutilized in advocacy strategies for making small arms control more gender responsive.** The brief makes the case that:

- Existing political and legal frameworks represent a minimum political consensus to act at international, regional, or national levels on issues related to gender responsive small arms control.
- Reviving the relevance of existing international political commitments and applying them to argue for more gender responsive policies can create opportunities for advocacy—and ultimately progress—on implementation of more gender responsive small arms control policies.
- Encouraging states to act on the commitments they have already made regarding violence reduction, disarmament, and gender equality offers the hope of progress that can also strengthen the evidence base for further action and ultimately stronger future agreements.

**Commitments relevant to gender responsive small arms control are spread across a range of thematic agreements, across different levels of multilateral governance, and carry varying degrees of leverage to act.** This Issue Brief suggests how advocates for gender responsive small arms control can identify relevant commitments in international agreements to create leverage for national action. It also gives an overview of some of the most important relevant agreements.

**Gender responsive small control** in this brief is understood as ensuring all policies, programs, or activities at every stage of a small arms control initiative are non-discriminatory with regard to sex, equally benefit women and men, and aim at correcting gender imbalances and inequalities.<sup>2</sup>

# MAPPING PROMISES FOR PROGRESS

Activating the latent potential of existing international commitments to action on gender responsive small arms control depends on three kinds of analysis, all rooted in an underlying gender analysis of security and weapons issues:

- 1 **Identify** relevant issue linkages to reveal promising arguments for advocacy or ideas for action.
- 2 **Focus** on the level of decision-making most relevant to national action on gender responsive small arms control.
- 3 **Understand** what kind of commitment or obligation results from a promise to act in the context of different types of agreements.

The section below gives a brief overview of each of these aspects. The interplay between levels of agreement and the types of issues that might be relevant are illustrated in Figure 1.

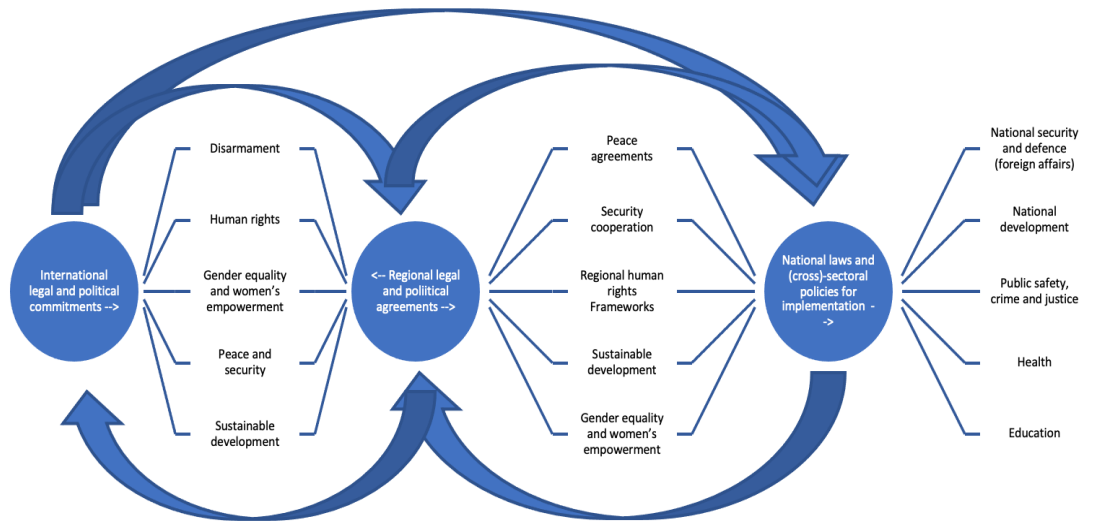


Figure 1: Legal and political commitments across issues and levels of decision-making

## Identify the Most Useful Issue Linkages

Gender responsive small arms control is relevant to multiple issue areas that are governed by international and regional agreements. Understanding the issue linkages is key to identifying useful entry points for advocacy or policy development. Following is an outline of some key issue linkages:

<b>Peace and security</b>	Access to weapons, especially small arms, is an exacerbating factor in violence in conflict affected contexts. Gender responsive small arms control policies have the power to highlight differences in how women and men access the arms that fuel violence, and also to highlight gendered impacts of armed violence in conflict. Policies intended to protect civilians, prevent sexual violence in conflict, disarm and demobilize formerly violent armed groups, and halt illegal flows of weapons across borders, all benefit from a gender responsive approach to small arms control.
<b>Disarmament</b>	A gender analysis of the patterns of use, trade, and general demand for small arms can reveal facts that support better and more effective disarmament policies. Examples include examination of the potential for gender-based violence linked to small arms exports licensing under the Arms Trade Treaty, or studies that understand the distinct roles women can play in community-based disarmament programs or the cross-border trafficking of small arms. Such analyses can lead to more effective monitoring and control of small arms. <sup>3</sup>
<b>Human rights</b>	Firearms are widely used in the violation of human rights that states have committed to protecting. Gender responsive analysis of small arms use can help improve understanding of human rights violations that often involve the use of small arms, such as deprivation of the right to life, torture, femicides, sexual violence in armed conflict, and many forms of gender-based violence.
<b>Gender equality</b>	Gun violence affects men and women differently, and gendered patterns of violence are widely recognized as direct and indirect impediments to gender equality. Gender responsive small arms control is an important aspect of creating the conditions for gender equality in every society, since firearms are used to perpetuate social conditions of gender inequality.
<b>Women's empowerment</b>	Women have less access to professional opportunities and decision-making in both the security sector and disarmament fields. Promoting meaningful participation of women in security delivery and policymaking contributes to women's empowerment and gender equality and is a direct outcome of promoting gender responsive small arms control.
<b>Sustainable development</b>	The presence of small arms in both the home and community creates a risk of violence and an atmosphere of fear and intimidation that limits access to education, economic opportunities, health, and other social services, as well as the exercise of political rights. Gender responsive small arms control helps to create a conducive environment for sustainable development.

## Focus on the Most Relevant Level of Action

Specific issues can be dealt with most comprehensively at different levels of governance. For example, the protection of human rights is well defined at international levels through the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and related human rights frameworks, which are underwritten by international legal protections. In contrast, some regional agreements provide detailed commitments to act on issues, norms, or policies that might have particular national relevance. In Southeast Europe, for example, a regional roadmap defines the benchmarks states should aim for in implementing their small arms control policies. In Africa, the Maputo Protocol provides comprehensive protections of women's rights specifically tailored to the regional context.

The forum and context in which an agreement is made can influence its scope and the strength of commitment connected to it. This Issue Brief focuses on international agreements and political commitments, but regional agreements will also be a useful resource.

## MULTILATERAL FORA

The United Nations is the central multilateral forum for decision-making on small arms control, with the broadest membership and greatest degree of legitimacy. Responsibility for these decisions is spread across several parts of the UN's disarmament mandate: the **UN General Assembly** (including the **First Committee** responsible for examining issues of Disarmament and International Security); the **Conference on Disarmament**; and the **UN Disarmament Commission**. In addition, the **UN Security Council**, through its mandate for international peace and security, has twice requested the Secretary-General to submit reports to the council on the use and misuse of small arms as related to their trade and brokering, marking, record-keeping and tracing of weapons, stockpile management, and armed violence.<sup>4</sup>

The relevance of a gender perspective and more effective women's participation has rarely featured explicitly in the deliberations and decisions of these disarmament forums. However, there has been a steep increase in the degree of recognition given to gendered impacts of weapons (and gender diversity in participation in particular) in the UN First Committee resolutions. At the same time, issue linkages with sustainable development, peace and security, and human rights protection (as described above) mean that some of the more relevant decisions on gender responsive small arms control are to be found in UN decision-making fora beyond disarmament. For example:

- The successive set of the UN Security Council Resolutions that collectively compose the **Women, Peace and Security Agenda**—and in particular resolutions 2122 (2013) on women's participation and 2242 (2015)—highlight the impact of arms and armed conflict on women, sexual violence against women, and the key role women play in small arms control.
- The **Sustainable Development Goals** under **Agenda 2030**, which commit states to a series of interlocking actions to reduce violence under SDG 16.1, control the illicit flow of weapons under SDG 16.4, and promote gender equality and women's empowerment, including through violence reduction and greater participation under SDG 5.
- Both **international human rights law** and **international humanitarian law**, all include a legal commitment on the protection of the right to life.
- The 1979 **Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women** (CEDAW) as well as the 1993 **Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women**, both of which recognize the protection of women's rights as human rights, including freedom from violence and discrimination on the basis of gender.



## REGIONAL INSTRUMENTS

Global multilateral agreements carry an unparalleled normative and sometimes legal power. However, they are also captive to a process of consensus-based decision-making, which in conjunction with political factors such as changing priorities and implementation fatigue can stall more progressive agreements. Regional organizations may have the scope to make more ambitious agreements, while also seeking consensus among a smaller group of members with more closely shared experiences and interests.

The regional context for policy development may also be the best place to seek creative solutions to the problem of small arms control because of the similarities in context and culture among member states and across regions and sub regions. This could have particular relevance for gender responsive small arms control, because gender is a subjective and social concept that varies among societies and shapes how people behave in culturally distinct ways. Indeed, gender responsive small arms control is a promising innovation in disarmament precisely because a focus on gender equality and women's empowerment requires context-specific approaches instead of one-size-fits-all technical programs.

Regional agreements can also differ in scope and purpose from global international frameworks in ways that create opportunities for projects and programs on gender responsive small arms control. Where regional commitments exist, they can become a lever of influence over national legal and policy frameworks. Similarly, regional agreements can inspire policy innovation at international levels and have done so in past. The same process can also work from the national to the regional or international level: where national frameworks are more progressive, they may provide an evidence base or an example for regional (or international) standards or agreements.

While each region reflects its own history of security, peacemaking, and policymaking, relevant regional frameworks might include:

- Peace agreements, in particular those that include provisions for small arms control, often linked to programs for disarming, demobilizing, and reintegrating former combatants and reforming the security sector.
- Regional agreements on security cooperation, for example on border security arrangements or transnational security threats.
- Regional courts, commissions, and special rapporteurs working to protect human rights linked to gender responsive small arms control.
- Regional frameworks for sustainable development and localizing the implementation of the SDGs.
- Gender equality and women's empowerment mechanisms that provide a highly context-specific, rights-based argument for gender responsive small arms control, as well as associated institutional mechanisms intended to protect those rights.

# MAPPING PROMISES FOR PROGRESS

## NATIONAL CONTEXTS

States and their governments are potentially the most powerful actors in implementing gender responsive small arms control. Translating the international and regional commitments described above into national contexts entails adoption of appropriate laws, policy frameworks, sectoral strategies for implementation, partnerships with local governments or authorities and civil society, and follow-up. At the same time, the variety of issue linkages to which gender responsive small arms control might be relevant also creates the opportunity (and the need for) cross-sectoral policies on violence reduction. Thus, gender responsive small arms control might find its most active policy advocates in sectors of government beyond its traditional remit.

<b>National security and defense</b>	<p>Gender responsive small arms policy can be addressed at every policy level, from adapted laws governing the security sector to policy and sectoral frameworks and in institutional planning. For example, gender dimensions of small arms control policy need to be considered on issues as diverse as weapons procurement, training and storage policies, and protection of civilians, as well as weapons production and export issues. In addition, focusing the gender responsive lens on small arms control helps highlight the need to ensure access to equal opportunities for women to become small arms specialists (as well as other kinds of relevant specializations).</p>
<b>Public safety, crime and justice</b>	<p>Gendered patterns in the use and misuse of firearms in a domestic or community context is one of the most effective starting points for the application of gender responsive small arms control policies. The criminal justice system can be a source of vital information through the collection and disaggregation by gender of data relevant to small arms control. It is also an important point of intervention: for example, by introducing legal regulations and licensing regimes for gun ownership that reflect gendered patterns in the use and abuse of firearms. International and regional commitments to protect rights, follow best practices, or uphold minimum standards are often fulfilled (or not fulfilled) by how the justice sector applies gender responsive small arms control policies.</p>
<b>National development</b>	<p>Gender responsive small arms control should be included in national frameworks for sustainable development. Most directly, effective small arms control is a policy for violence reduction, which can help create conditions for healthy economic growth while avoiding the economic costs of armed violence. Gender responsive small arms control also contributes indirectly to national sustainable development by creating safer societies where fear of violence does not prevent women and girls from accessing health, education, and economic opportunities that shape individual lives. Comprehensive plans for sustainable national development can provide an umbrella policy platform where different parts of government—from the security sector to social services—can coordinate their roles in making small arms control more gender responsive.</p>
<b>Health</b>	<p>The health sector is directly affected by gun violence because of the burden of caring for victims of gunshots. The health sector is also an important source of information about the gendered patterns of small arms violence, which can help shape more effective policy. Health services need to work closely with national law enforcement, justice, and community services in responding to the damage done by firearms violence.</p>
<b>Education</b>	<p>Expectations of behavior and attitudes toward others shaped by gender are a key factor in determining who wishes to own a gun and why, especially among young males. Social programs that focus on healthy gender roles, nonviolent communication, and positive attitudes toward peace have been proven to reduce rates of gun violence. Schools are a primary setting for such interventions. Thus, national education policy is a critical site of violence prevention through gender responsive small arms control, especially in societies recovering from armed conflict or suffering from systemic armed violence.</p>

# MAPPING PROMISES FOR PROGRESS

Translating international and regional commitments into effective national programs for gender responsive small arms control touches areas of national governance beyond those outlined above. Other relevant sectors to consult include those responsible for social affairs (youth issues, women’s affairs, or gender), agriculture, wildlife, sport, interior ministries, and urban planning.

## Understand the Promise to Act

Commitments to action under international and regional agreements are not created equal. Not all states have agreed to the same commitments, and not all commitments carry the same force. Effective advocacy for action depends on a clear analysis of what a state has agreed to do, as well as a careful interpretation of how firm the promise to act may be. A good starting point for analysis is to distinguish between commitments that are political and those that are legally binding:

Legally-binding commitment	Political commitment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ Least common</li> <li>▪ State agrees to take certain actions or respect certain principles by adhering to an international agreement that has the force of international law (through a treaty, for example)</li> <li>▪ Legal remedies are available if state neglects its duty under international law (but may be hard to access)</li> <li>▪ Avoiding effects of negative reputation may be powerful incentive to act</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>▪ More common</li> <li>▪ State agrees to act or respect certain principles by adhering to an international agreement that does not have the force of law</li> <li>▪ No legal remedies are available if state neglects its duty under international law</li> <li>▪ Effects of positive reputation are the main incentive for action, i.e., the desire to be seen as a “good global citizen”</li> </ul>

Whether political or legally binding, the most important effects of any commitment depend on how they are adapted into national legal and policy frameworks. In this respect, it is useful to make a distinction between explicit and implicit promises of action. An explicit commitment to act addresses the issues of small arms and gender head on, and asks states to take a clearly-defined action on the issue; an implicit commitment is one where action on gender responsive small arms control would be a relevant and meaningful way of fulfilling a broader obligation (such as protecting the right to life or reducing violence). Figure 2 summarizes the difference with some examples:

# MAPPING PROMISES FOR PROGRESS

	Legally binding	Political commitments
Explicit	<p>A commitment to make small arms control more gender responsive, which states have agreed to under international law</p> <p>Ex.: Art. 7 of the Arms Trade Treaty</p>	<p>A direct and clear promise to act on small arms control in a way that reflects the gendered dimensions of gun violence but does not carry the force of law</p> <p>Ex.: UN Programme of Action (specifically outcomes of the Review Conferences, not the original instrument itself), SDG 16.4 on illicit arms flows</p>
Implicit	<p>A requirement under international law to act on an issue where gender responsive small arms control is directly relevant to meaningful implementation</p> <p>Ex.: protection of the human right to life, prevention of gender-based violence, The UN Firearms Protocol</p>	<p>Broad political agendas, which cannot be feasibly implemented without consideration of small arms control and its gendered dimensions</p> <p>Ex.: SDG 16.1 on violence reduction, SDG 5.2 on reducing violence against women</p>

Figure 2: Types of commitments and examples

Recognizing differences in types of commitments helps to gauge how strong a commitment to act might be, aiding in better leverage of pressure on states to keep their promises. The strongest commitments are likely those that have the most important reputational effects: states can be “named and shamed” for failing to keep their promises, whether they are political or legally binding.

At the same time, positive reputational effects can also be a powerful argument for action: states that wish to signal their commitment to certain norms or expectations of behavior in the international community can do so by acting to align national policies with international standards, and gender responsive small arms control can be part of that. At the extreme, a policy of leadership by example can allow some states to distinguish themselves as issue leaders on a global stage.



Figure 3: Summary of some of the examples of reputational effects

# BUILDING STRATEGIES FOR ACTION ON EXISTING COMMITMENTS

To date, there is no global agreement to act that has a focus solely on gender responsive small arms control. However, as argued in this Issue Brief, action on gender responsive small arms control is already an essential part of meeting states' commitments to reduce violence, promote gender equality and women's empowerment, strengthen control of small arms, support peace and security, protect human rights, and achieve sustainable development.

Understanding why a political or a legal commitment to act on gender responsive small arms control has not been implemented can be an important starting point for creating an effective strategy for progress. The reasons for inaction are usually found in a lack of incentives, resources, technical capacity, knowledge or political urgency. In addition, there is often a gap between the international policy-making and norm-setting and national practice, law, and implementation. Furthermore, within and between national ministries responsible for implementation, poor communication can act as an obstacle to effective programming and cooperation. In addition, gender mainstreaming, elevating gender or women to a priority, as well as addressing gender-based violence are all strategies that require long-term investment, and sustaining resourcing can be difficult. These barriers are all the more difficult to overcome because each region of the world reflects its own unique cultural and values-based expectations of gender roles and power.

Progress can be made on gender responsive small arms control by identifying and working to help overcome such barriers:

Identify new opportunities	
Problem	Solution strategy
States may not have agreed to or ratified all relevant international agreements/ treaties, or they may not have been adopted into national law or related policy frameworks.	Analyze status of existing commitments for inconsistencies and draw attention to the need to change national commitments or legal frameworks; offer expertise on how to do so (e.g., policy analysis, model laws, or regional experiencing sharing).
Highlight political incentives	
Acting on political commitments is a matter of reputational credibility and accountability of the government/state.	Focus sustained public attention on the failure to act, and the consequences of that failure. Consider working through public awareness campaigns, stakeholder engagement, testimonies from affected communities or individuals, and cooperation with media.
Contribute cross-sectoral or technical knowledge	
States may not recognize how commitments to action in some areas are related to gender responsive small arms control, or they may lack the necessary skillsets for effective policy development.	Advocates can develop strategies for action that states may not have considered, especially drawing on community experiences or civil society expertise for policy development. International and regional expert networks can provide support and inspiration.

# BUILDING STRATEGIES FOR ACTION ON EXISTING COMMITMENTS

<b>Create a sense of public urgency</b>	
Commitments may have fallen into irrelevance or become politically dormant over time.	Revive interest in relevant issue areas among the public and policymakers by highlighting the costs of inaction, the usefulness and relevance of change, and alignment with existing commitments. Look for ways to link with aspects of public policy that gain more attention and resources.
<b>Leverage international or regional mechanisms for accountability</b>	
States may not be making use of reporting or accountability mechanisms in existing agreements to report on progress or seek redress for nonaction.	Raise awareness of various mechanisms for review to highlight progress and showcase success; where rights or obligations have been neglected, seek redress through international or regional mechanisms for accountability.
<b>Build an evidence base for gender responsive solutions</b>	
Gendered dimensions of firearms control or gun violence may be invisible because data is not disaggregated by sex or weapon.	Analyze the sources of data on gun violence to assess whether a sex disaggregated analysis can fully capture the gendered causes and consequences of gun violence as well as the possible impact of more gender responsive violence prevention policies. Support key stakeholders in the development of national statistics that can make gendered patterns of gun violence visible and support evidence-based policies and programs.
<b>Seek sustainable financing</b>	
Funding for gender responsive small arms control may be recognized as important but insufficient, especially in violence-affected contexts where resources may be scarce.	Argue for gender-budgeting at the national level to include security budgets. Advocate for more funding by emphasizing “value for money” arguments that account for the indirect costs of gun violence and its development impact. Develop partnership models with local communities, international partners, or the local/national stakeholders in security with the most to gain from a reduction in gun violence.

Multipronged strategies will be required. These can range from raising awareness among decision-makers and operational staff to stronger data collection, more robust evidence bases, adapted support for national implementation, and experience-sharing nationally, regionally, and internationally.

Following is a selection of prominent international legal and policy frameworks, together with some examples of how these commitments can provide a platform for more robust action on gender responsive small arms control.

# EXAMPLES OF INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR ACTION

## Disarmament and Small Arms Control Commitments

Framework	Relevant aspects	Basis for action	Context
<b>UNSG's Agenda for Disarmament</b>	UN Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament declares: <i>"States should also incorporate gender perspectives in the development of national legislation and policies on disarmament and arms control, including consideration of the gendered aspects of ownership, use and misuse of arms; the differentiated impacts of weapons on women and men; and the ways in which gender roles can shape arms control and disarmament policies and practices."</i>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ask whether a state has developed national legislation on gender responsive small arms controls as called for in the UNSG's Agenda for Disarmament.</li> </ul>	The UN Secretary-General's 2018 Agenda for Disarmament sets out practical measures for a range of disarmament issues, including small arms control. The need for gender responsive small arms control was part of his call under 'Disarmament that Saves Lives.' The Agenda for Disarmament also calls on states to mainstream gender in national policy and legal frameworks. <sup>5</sup>
<b>UN Programme of Action</b> The United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons	<p>Paragraphs 14–15 of the UN Programme of Action (PoA) state: <i>"14. We remain gravely concerned about the negative impact of the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons on the lives of women, men, girls and boys and recognize that eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is a key part of combating gender-based violence.</i></p> <p><i>15. We recognize the need for strengthened participation of women in decision-making and implementation processes relating to the Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and reaffirm the need for States to mainstream gender dimensions in their implementation efforts."</i><sup>6</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Make use of opportunities at Biennial Meetings of States and Review Conferences to follow up on action to introduce and implement provisions for gender responsive action on small arms at national levels. This includes national frameworks for preventing violence in general, and gender-based violence in particular.</li> <li>• Ensure that state delegations working on small arms in connection with UN PoA reflect equal or at least strengthened participation of women, and also in national implementation processes.</li> <li>• Seek connections, networking, and learning opportunities with advocates and activists working for the same goals in different contexts.</li> </ul>	In 2001, governments under the UN PoA committed to improving small arms control through national laws, import/export controls, and stockpile management, as well as to help each other do so through cooperation and assistance. Although implementation is reviewed on a regular basis at Biennial Meetings of States and Review Conferences, the outcome document of the Third Review Conference in 2018 acknowledged the need for a gender responsive approach for the first time. <sup>7</sup>



# EXAMPLES OF INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR ACTION

<p><b>The Arms Trade Treaty</b></p>	<p>Article 7.4 of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) commits states to consider in their export assessments the risk that weapons may be used <i>"to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence or serious acts of violence against women and children."</i><sup>8</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Encourage states to accede to, ratify, and implement the ATT. For those that have done so, ensure national risk assessment systems are fully adapted to the criteria laid out in the ATT.</li> <li>• Provide capacity building for national officials making export assessments on how to interpret the provisions of Art. 7.4, including access to data, resources, and input from relevant related ministries or departments, which may not normally have a role in weapons export decisions (e.g., those with gender remit).</li> <li>• Follow up on the implementation of CSP5 commitments to more gender balanced representation and participation in ATT implementation and the CSP, as well as actions to increase understanding of the gendered impact of armed violence in the context of the ATT, and the risk assessment criteria associated with Articles 6 and 7.</li> <li>• Link ATT provisions and decisions to 1325 National Action Plans (NAP) frameworks and national action to control illicit arms flows under SDG 16.4 (see below on SDGs and WPS agenda).</li> </ul>	<p>The ATT creates the first international legal obligation on states to consider gender in their arms export regulations. The ATT makes it illegal for states to transfer weapons if there is a substantive risk that the weapons will be used to facilitate GBV. Since its entry into force in 2015, 110 states have become parties to the treaty.<sup>9</sup> The Conference of States Parties (CSP) to the ATT meets regularly to review implementation for the ATT and in 2019 the fifth meeting of the CSP focused on gender and gender-based violence. The decisions of the 2019 conference include a series of detailed commitments for states parties to seek gender balance in the work of the ATT, increase understanding of the gendered impact of armed violence in the context of the ATT, and improvements to the GBV risk assessment criteria included in Articles 6 and 7 of the ATT.<sup>10</sup></p>
<p><b>The UN Firearms Protocol</b> Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime</p>	<p>The Firearms Protocol "2. <i>Calls upon Member States, where appropriate, to take a gender perspective into account in the implementation of the Organized Crime Convention and the Protocols thereto by considering how crime, including transnational organized crime, has different impacts on men and women, in order to ensure that policies, programmes and actions to address crime are effective;</i></p> <p>3. <i>Also calls upon Member States to continue to appropriately mainstream a gender perspective into their criminal justice systems and into efforts to prevent and combat crime, including transnational organized crime, including by developing and implementing national criminal justice legislation, policies and programmes that take into account the important role and specific needs of women and girls and by promoting gender-specific measures in crime prevention and protection policies, and encourages Member States to solicit contributions from women and girls to the development and implementation of related national legislation, policies and programmes;</i>"<sup>11</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze whether and how gender perspectives are reflected in national implementation of the OOC and the Firearms Protocol at national levels.</li> <li>• Mainstream gender responsive policies for gun control across national criminal justice and law enforcement systems as a means of making crime and violence prevention more effective.</li> <li>• Promote the meaningful participation and consultation of women in making small arms control more gender responsive through national legislation, policies, and programmes.</li> </ul>	<p>The Firearms Protocol is a supplement to the Organized Crime Convention and is the first legally binding commitment states have made to control and regulate their own production and transfer of firearms. Although the Firearms Protocol entered into force in 2005, the Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice adopted its first resolution on gender mainstreaming in 2017. This included calling on member states to mainstream gender in their implementation of the Firearms Protocol by considering the different impacts of crime on men and women in all their crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programs.<sup>12</sup></p>



# EXAMPLES OF INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR ACTION

<p><b>Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials</b></p>	<p>11. Rules and regulations on the use of firearms by law enforcement officials should include guidelines that:</p> <p>(a) Specify the circumstances under which law enforcement officials are authorized to carry firearms and prescribe the types of firearms and ammunition permitted;</p> <p>(b) Ensure that firearms are used only in appropriate circumstances and in a manner likely to decrease the risk of unnecessary harm;</p> <p>(c) Prohibit the use of those firearms and ammunition that cause unwarranted injury or present an unwarranted risk;</p> <p>(d) Regulate the control, storage and issuing of firearms, including procedures for ensuring that law enforcement officials are accountable for the firearms and ammunition issued to them;</p> <p>(e) Provide for warnings to be given, if appropriate, when firearms are to be discharged;</p> <p>(f) Provide for a system of reporting whenever law enforcement officials use firearms in the performance of their duty.<sup>13</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Ensure that national regulations for the use of firearms by law enforcement reflect basic principles of international standards and are also gender responsive.</li> <li>• Conduct a wider study of gun control policy and gender in the security sector in order to address differences in how inappropriate use of firearms by law enforcement affects women and men.</li> <li>• Advocate to update the Basic Principles to reflect a gender responsive approach.</li> </ul>	<p>Inappropriate use of firearms by security sector personnel makes up an important subset of injuries and death from firearms. Among the first international agreements to set out principles for the domestic regulation and use of firearms, the Basic Principles set out standards for law enforcement, but make no mention of women or gender. They remain unimplemented in national law in many countries. Ensuring gender responsive rules and regulations are developed under national standards might entail a wider examination of gender in the security sector, and also differences in how inappropriate use of firearms by law enforcement affects women and men.</p>
<p><b>UNSC 2220 (2015)</b> United Nations Security Council Resolutions on small arms control 2220 (2015)</p>	<p>UNSC 2220 (paragraphs abridged) states: Para. 16 "Encourages Member States to better understand the impact of small arms on women through sex and age disaggregated data collection and developing appropriate and effective national risk assessment criteria;</p> <p>Para. 17 (abridged) "Calls upon Member States, United Nations entities, intergovernmental, regional and subregional organizations to take into consideration the specific impact of conflict and post-conflict environments on women's security, mobility, economic activity and opportunities</p> <p>Para 18. (abridged) "Urges Member States, United Nations entities, and regional organizations, to facilitate women's full and meaningful participation in all policymaking, planning and implementation processes to control small arms and for disarmament, demobilization and reintegration and justice and security sector reform efforts to take into account the particular needs of women and children associated with armed forces and armed groups."<sup>14</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze national and international programs related to the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation, and misuse of small arms to ensure gender analysis and mainstreaming is fully reflected. Where needed, develop a strategy for making these policies more gender responsive.</li> <li>• Ensure meaningful participation and consultation of women is integrated into decision-making and policy planning processes, as well as implementation.</li> <li>• Provide capacity building that can support more active and meaningful participation of women in small arms control policy.</li> </ul>	<p>Follows on the first UNSC thematic resolution on small arms 1467 issued in 2013. The 2220 resolution recognized the disproportionate impact on women and girls of the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation, and misuse of small arms.</p>

## Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment Commitments

Framework	Relevant aspects	Basis for action	Context
<p><b>CEDAW 1979</b> United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women</p>	<p>CEDAW requires ... States parties to focus on the prevention of conflict and all forms of violence. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women states that:</p> <p>Para. 29 (abridged): <i>"Such conflict prevention includes (...) robust and effective regulation of the arms trade, in addition to appropriate control over the circulation of existing and often illicit conventional arms, including small arms, to prevent their use to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence ..."</i></p> <p>Para. 33 (abridged) <i>"The Committee recommends that States parties: ... (e) Address the gendered impact of international transfers of arms, especially small and illicit arms including through the ratification and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (2013)."</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement Committee recommendations for action on CEDAW by ratifying and implementing the ATT, integrating gender dimensions in national level small arms regulations, and reflecting prevention measures against gender-based violence in national firearms legislation.</li> <li>• Utilize the opportunities of human rights mechanism peer review system, encouraging states to raise formal questions to the country under review about the gendered impact of their arms transfers and weapons use.</li> </ul>	<p>CEDAW provides foundational definitions of discrimination and defines women's rights that states' parties have committed to protect. Countries that have acceded to CEDAW are legally bound to implement its provisions and report on their progress at least every four years. The Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women is the body of independent experts that monitors implementation of CEDAW. The Committee has interpreted the conflict and violence prevention aspects of the CEDAW Convention to require gender responsive small arms control.<sup>15</sup></p>
<p><b>1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women</b></p>	<p>Art. 4 (f) calls on states to <i>"Develop, in a comprehensive way, preventive approaches and all those measures of a legal, political, administrative and cultural nature that promote the protection of women against any form of violence, and ensure that the re-victimization of women does not occur because of laws insensitive to gender considerations, enforcement practices or other interventions."</i><sup>16</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Analyze the place of gender responsive small arms control in a comprehensive national approach to violence prevention covering legal, political, administrative, and cultural measures.</li> <li>• Encourage the development of national mechanisms for the implementation of the 1993 Declaration that encompass gender responsive small arms control as a means of addressing violence against women.</li> </ul>	<p>The 1993 Declaration was the first international instrument to explicitly address violence against women through a framework for national and international action. It points out that violence against women is a violation of multiple human rights, and calls on states to take action to prevent and punish acts of violence against women.</p>

# EXAMPLES OF INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR ACTION

<p><b>Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action</b></p>	<p>Strategic Objective E.2 on Women in Armed Conflict calls on states to control the availability of armaments and specifically calls on governments to (abridged) ... <i>"recognize and address the dangers to society of ... trade in arms, ... and excessive investment for arms production and acquisition; similarly, recognize the need to combat illicit arms trafficking ..."</i><sup>17</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• States should act to accede to, ratify, and implement international agreements regulating the availability of small arms, including the UN PoA, the ATT, and the Firearms Protocol, as well as relevant regional policy frameworks for arms control.</li> <li>• Integrate gender responsive small arms control into policy frameworks for women's empowerment, gender equality, and violence prevention linked to the SDGs.</li> </ul>	<p>The 1995 Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action defined 12 areas of urgent action required for gender equality. These included steps governments should take to protect women from gender-based violence and address the effects of uncontrolled arms flows on women amid episodes of armed conflict. 25 years after agreeing to implement the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, the 2019 review and appraisal of its implementation found that action to curb small arms has faltered due to limited implementation of international control measures.<sup>18</sup></p>
<p><b>Women, Peace and Security Agenda</b></p>	<p>The Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325 states: <i>"(t) he availability of small arms inhibits efforts to prevent armed violence and contributes to the escalation of lethal violence. Access to such weapons intersects directly with and impacts the forms and intensity of women's experiences of gendered violence within and outside of conflict."</i><sup>19</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Address small arms violence across both conflict and non-conflict contexts in the development of National Action Plans for the implementation of UNSC 1325, by including gender responsive provisions in national legislation intended to control access to firearms (both licit and illicit).</li> <li>• Address small arms violence in national plans to implement SDGs 5, and ensure a gender responsive approach in implementation of SDGs 11 and 16 (especially with regard to 16.1 and 16.4).</li> </ul>	<p>The UN Security Council Resolutions that compose the WPS Agenda draw attention to the need for gender responsive small arms control and women's participation in small arms control at several points across its four thematic pillars and in particular focus can be found in resolution 2122 (2013) on women's participation, and 2242 (2015) which highlights the impact of arms and armed conflict on women, sexual violence against women, and the key role women have in small arms control (See further UN Security Council resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888 and 1889). ). Many states develop national action plans (commonly called 1325 or WPS NAPs) on a regular basis in response to a call by the UN Secretary General for states to make concrete plans for implementation of the WPS Agenda. Reviews of the implementation of UNSC 1325 in 2015 and 2020 have highlighted the need to address how firearms affect women's exposure to violence.<sup>20</sup></p>

## Sustainable Development Goals

Framework	Relevant aspects	Basis for action	Context
<b>SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions</b>	<p>SDG16.1 Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere<sup>21</sup></p> <p>Indicator 16.1.1 Number of victims of intentional homicide per 100,000 population, by sex and age</p> <p>Indicator 16.1.2 Conflict-related deaths per 100,000 population, by sex, age and cause</p> <p>Indicator 16.1.3 Proportion of population subjected to physical, psychological or sexual violence in the previous 12 months</p> <p>Indicator 16.1.4 Proportion of population that feel safe walking alone around the area they live</p> <p>Target 16.4<sup>22</sup> By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime</p> <p>Indicator 16.4.2: Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Integrate action on gender responsive small arms control into national plans for SDG implementation and violence reduction, and also assistance to partner countries in fulfilment of these goals.</li> <li>Include progress on gender responsive small arms control in national indicators for progress on SDGs and in Voluntary National Reviews.</li> <li>Ensure statistical data related to indicators of violence is disaggregated by sex and, where possible, indicates the use of firearms.</li> <li>Highlight progress on gender responsive small arms control in voluntary national reviews of SDG implementation.</li> </ul>	<p>Through Agenda 2030, states have committed to reduce violence, address illicit weapons flows, and empower women to participate in decision-making. Gender responsive small arms control is a way for states to act on all of these commitments at once.</p> <p>Multiple commitments within the SDGs are relevant to gender responsive small arms control and will also contribute indirectly to meeting other goals. These include women's empowerment, public health, quality education, decent work, reducing inequality and making cities safer.</p> <p>The Voluntary National Review process together with the annual High Level Political Forum held each year under the auspices of ECOSOC in New York create a forum for reporting on progress. Advocates can make use of the reputational effects associated with reporting, in order to argue for more gender responsive small arms policies.</p> <p>Many of the most relevant SDGs are based on gender-disaggregated indicators, which creates space for advocates to center women's experiences of safety and violence in SDG policy advocacy.</p>
<b>SDG 5: Gender Equality</b>	<p>Target 5.5<sup>23</sup> <i>Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life</i></p> <p>Target 5.2: <i>Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation</i></p> <p>Indicator 5.2.1: <i>Proportion of ever-partnered women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to physical, sexual or psychological violence by a current or former intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by form of violence and by age</i></p> <p>Indicator 5.2.2: <i>Proportion of women and girls aged 15 years and older subjected to sexual violence by persons other than an intimate partner in the previous 12 months, by age and place of occurrence</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Increase opportunities for women's participation in security policymaking and disarmament fora.</li> <li>Utilize public and school education campaigns to address damaging gender stereotypes and prejudices that affect demand and use of guns.</li> <li>Make small arms control and, in particular, domestic civilian gun ownership laws more gender responsive to reduce the rate of women at risk of violence from an intimate partner or outside the home.</li> </ul>	

# EXAMPLES OF INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR ACTION

<p><b>SDG 11: Sustainable cities and communities</b></p>	<p>Target 11.7: <i>By 2030, provide universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces, in particular for women and children, older persons and persons with disabilities<sup>24</sup></i></p> <p>Indicator 11.7.2: <i>Proportion of persons victim of physical or sexual harassment, by sex, age, disability status and place of occurrence, in the previous 12 months</i></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Focus national gender responsive small arms control efforts on urban environments, especially where high rates of fatalities or injuries are related to gang violence and high rates of male victims and perpetrators.</li> <li>• Engage municipal authorities, social services, security sector actors, and affected communities in developing gender responsive strategies for urban violence prevention that address the availability and use of small arms from a gender perspective.</li> </ul>	
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# EXAMPLES OF INTERNATIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR ACTION

## Human Rights Commitments

Framework	Relevant aspects	Basis for action	Context
<b>Universal Declaration of Human Rights</b>	<p>Art. 2: <i>Everyone is entitled to all the rights and freedoms set forth in this Declaration, without distinction of any kind, such as race, colour, sex, language, religion, political or other opinion, national or social origin, property, birth or other status (abridged).</i></p> <p>Art. 3: <i>Everyone has the right to life, liberty and security of person.</i><sup>25</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Argue for gender responsive small arms control as a way of preventing the violation of rights and practices of discrimination that involve misuse of weapons.</li> <li>Encourage states to adopt systems for arms control that recognize gendered patterns of abuse and trigger effective and impartial investigations of abuse.</li> </ul>	<p>Agreed in 1948, the Universal Declaration sets out fundamental rights that all states are bound to protect. It is the apex of a global body of international human rights law, and codified in many international and regional instruments.</p>
<b>International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights ICCPR 1976</b>	<p>Art. 3: <i>"The States Parties to the present Covenant undertake to ensure the equal right of men and women to the enjoyment of all civil and political rights set forth in the present Covenant."</i></p> <p>Art. 4: (abridged): <i>"Requires states to protect right to non-discrimination and right to life (among others) even in states of crisis or emergency"</i></p> <p>Art. 6: (abridged): <i>"Protects the right to life"</i><sup>26</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Encourage states to adopt international best practices and minimum standards for the use of firearms by the security sector. These should include gender responsive policies that reflect gendered patterns of recruitment and access to weapons among security personnel.</li> <li>Ensure effective gender responsive regulations are in place to control how weapons outside the security sector are held, used, and managed, for example in civilian homes or by private security providers.</li> </ul>	<p>The ICCPR is a cornerstone of the international system for protecting human rights, which small arms are often used to violate.<sup>27</sup> Implementation of the ICCPR is overseen by the Human Rights Committee, and all states must report regularly to the Committee on their progress in implementation.</p>
<b>Human Rights Council Resolutions on firearms acquisition and trade and associated reports by the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights</b>	<p>UN Human Rights Council Resolution 41/20 on the impact of arms transfers on human rights: <i>"2. Notes with alarm that such diversion of arms and unregulated or illicit arms transfers can have a severely negative impact on women's and girls' full enjoyment of all human rights, increasing the risk of sexual and gender-based violence, and of violence against children, as they may be disproportionately affected by the widespread availability of such arms;"</i><sup>28</sup></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Ensure gender responsive regulations of small arms at the national level as an integral component of national commitments to protect human rights.</li> <li>Build coalitions for action on gender responsive small arms control with National Human Rights Institutions.</li> <li>Make prevention of violence (including through small arms control) an aspect of national reporting in international fora on the protection of human rights, e.g., right to life and dignity.</li> </ul>	<p>The Human Rights Council regularly addresses the impact of arms transfers and civilian acquisition, possession and use of firearms on human rights. There are two relevant Human Rights Council resolutions, each of which comes up biennially: one on arms transfers, and one on civilian firearms acquisitions. Past resolutions have focused on the human rights impacts of weapons and arms transfers and in 2020 the specific impacts of the international arms trade on women and girls became the focus for the first time. In response to a request from the Human Rights Council, the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights produced a detailed report on the issue. Past reports have focused on firearms in a broader human rights perspective, which can be helpful for gender analysis. For example, the 2016 Report of the High Commissioner focused on how civilian acquisition, possession and use of firearms have been effectively regulated with a view to the protection of human rights, and in particular the right to life and security of person. The report highlighted a variety of economic, social and cultural human rights that are negatively affected by the availability of firearms and identified best practices that may guide states to further develop relevant national regulation.<sup>29</sup></p>

- 1 For a summary of evidence-based strategies for gender responsive small arms control that contribute to violence reduction, see “Gender Responsive Small Arms Control in the Decade of Action for the SGDs,” Pathfinders Initiative for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies, Center for International Cooperation, New York University, New York, 2021, [https://530cfd94-d934-468b-a1c7-c67a84734064.filesusr.com/ugd/6c192f\\_f747aaf0bc-8b42a9beadb12172677338.pdf](https://530cfd94-d934-468b-a1c7-c67a84734064.filesusr.com/ugd/6c192f_f747aaf0bc-8b42a9beadb12172677338.pdf).
- 2 Gender sensitive and transformative approaches are also worth exploring. For more information on these terms and practical guidance on making small arms control more gender responsive, please see Gender-responsive Small Arms Control: A Practical Guide, Edited by Emile LeBrun, October 2019. Small Arms Survey, Available at: <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/resources/publications/by-type/handbooks/gender.html>.
- 3 See for example, Small Arms Survey GLASS Program research on the role of women in cross border trafficking. Gender Lens for Arms Control Support and Sustainability, <http://www.smallarmssurvey.org/focus-projects/gender-lens-for-arms-control-support-and-sustainability.html>, accessed June 6, 2021.
- 4 UNODA, “Disarmament in the Security Council,” <https://www.un.org/disarmament/institutions/security-council/>, accessed June 6, 2021.
- 5 UNODA, “Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament,” 2018, <https://unoda-epub.s3.amazonaws.com/i/index.html?book=sg-disarmament-agenda.epub>, 39, accessed January 28, 2020.
- 6 The United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, UN Doc. A/CONF.192/15, <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N01/507/20/PDF/N0150720.pdf?OpenElement>, para. 14–15, accessed March 8, 2021.
- 7 United Nations General Assembly, Report of the third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, UN Doc. A/CONF.192/2018/RC/3, July 6, 2018, [https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/CONF.192/2018/RC/3&referer=/english/&Lang=E](https://www.un.org/en/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/CONF.192/2018/RC/3&referer=/english/&Lang=E), accessed January 28, 2021.
- 8 United Nations, The Arms Trade Treaty, [https://thearmstradetreaty.org/hyper-images/file/ATT\\_English/ATT\\_English.pdf?templateId=137253](https://thearmstradetreaty.org/hyper-images/file/ATT_English/ATT_English.pdf?templateId=137253), accessed March 8, 2021.
- 9 See “Treaty Status,” The Arms Trade Treaty, available at: <https://thearmstradetreaty.org/treaty-status.html?templateId=209883>.
- 10 Arms Trade Treaty, Fifth Conference of States Parties, Geneva, 26 – 30 August 2019, Final Report, ATT/CSP5/2019/SEC/536/Conf.FinRep.Rev1., available at: <https://reachingcriticalwill.org/images/documents/Disarmament-fora/att/csp5/documents/csp5-final-report.pdf>, accessed 5 June, 2021.
- 11 Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, UN Doc. A/75/133, <https://undocs.org/Home/Mobile?FinalSymbol=A%2F75%2F133&Language=E&DeviceType=Desktop>, 16, accessed January 28, 2020.
- 12 Commission on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Resolution 26/3, “Mainstreaming a gender perspective into crime prevention and criminal justice policies and programmes and into efforts to prevent and combat transnational organized crime,” [https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ\\_Sessions/CCPCJ\\_26/CCPCJ\\_Res\\_Dec/CCPCJ-RES-26-3.pdf](https://www.unodc.org/documents/commissions/CCPCJ/CCPCJ_Sessions/CCPCJ_26/CCPCJ_Res_Dec/CCPCJ-RES-26-3.pdf), arts. 2–3, accessed January 28, 2021.
- 13 Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials, Adopted by the Eighth United Nations Congress on the Prevention of Crime and the Treatment of Offenders, Havana, Cuba, 27 August to 7 September 1990, <https://www.ohchr.org/EN/ProfessionalInterest/Pages/UseOfForceAndFirearms.aspx>, Provision 11, accessed March 3, 2021.
- 14 United Nations Security Council Resolution 2220 (2015), UN Doc. S/RES/2220 (2015), [https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2220%20\(2015\)](https://undocs.org/en/S/RES/2220%20(2015)), para. 16–18, accessed March 8, 2021.
- 15 UN Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), General recommendation No. 30 on women in conflict prevention, conflict and post-conflict situations, UN Doc. CEDAW/C/GC/30, <https://www.refworld.org/docid/5268d2064.html>, accessed June 3, 2021. For further information, see United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women, <https://www.un.org/womenwatch/daw/cedaw/>, accessed March 8, 2021.
- 16 UN General Assembly, Declaration on the Elimination of Violence against Women, December 20, 1993, UN Doc. A/RES/48/104, <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3b00f25d2c.html>, art. 4(f), accessed March 3, 2021.
- 17 United Nations, Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, Fourth World Conference on Women, September 15, 1995, UN Doc. A/CONF.177/20 (1995) and A/CONF.177/20/Add.1 (1995), <https://www.refworld.org/docid/3dde04324.html>, para. 143(d), accessed March 5, 2021.
- 18 Commission on the Status of Women, Sixty-fourth session, March 9–20, 2020, E/CN.6/2020/1, review and appraisal of the implementation of the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action and the outcomes of the twenty-third special session of the General Assembly, Report of the Secretary-General, [https://beijing20.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/pfa\\_e\\_final\\_web.pdf](https://beijing20.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/csw/pfa_e_final_web.pdf), 78, accessed March 3, 2021.



- 19 UN Women, "Preventing Conflict, Transforming Justice, Securing the Peace – A Global Study on the Implementation of United Nations Security Council resolution 1325" (2015), 209, available at [https://wps.unwomen.org/pdf/en/GlobalStudy\\_EN\\_Web.pdf](https://wps.unwomen.org/pdf/en/GlobalStudy_EN_Web.pdf).
- 20 The WPS Agenda is highly relevant for more gender responsive small arms control. For an in-depth analysis, see Henri Myrntinen, "Connecting the Dots," UNIDIR, October 21, 2020, available at: <https://unidir.org/publication/connecting-dots>.
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