



OPPORTUNITIES FOR ACTION

on Gender Responsive
Small Arms Control in Existing
Regional Commitments

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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 experts in gender equality, women's empowerment, and conflict and security fields who seek a better understanding of the role of gender responsive small arms control in violence reduction.

About GENSAC

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

About the Pathfinders for Peaceful, Just and Inclusive Societies

The Pathfinders are a group of 42 UN member states, international organizations, global partnerships, civil society, and 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. Actions include 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).¹

We collaborate with at least one hundred 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

Reviving Commitments to Action

By endorsing SDG16.1, all states have committed to significantly reduce 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 the 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 is 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.²

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 firearms control frameworks 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 within the 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. Many 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. Nevertheless, some recent progress on a regional scale is noteworthy. For example, in the Western Balkans, authorities are making significant efforts and have shown a high level of commitment to implementing the Western Balkans Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Roadmap, which includes monitoring and funding mechanisms to facilitate implementation.³

The obstacles to new and better agreements on small arms control are well-known.⁴ States may have conflicting views about the legitimate need for arms control; political and financial interests; lack of gender-disaggregated data on small arms violence; or even corruption. These disagreements can trump commitments to peace, security, and human rights. Moreover, the technical details of regulating international arms production and trade can make reaching agreements both time-consuming and complicated. Further, every new agreement carries the risk of creating new loopholes or bringing unintended negative consequences. 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).

However, none of these challenges are insurmountable. Progress has been made at both national and international levels, as this brief will demonstrate. It thus remains essential to continue to push for further amendments, policy reforms, and meaningful innovations that will make existing international, regional, and national frameworks for small arms control more gender responsive and consequently more effective.

Recognizing that existing legal and policy commitments boast the enormous advantage of having already overcome the challenges that block new political consensus on small arms control, **this Issue Brief argues that existing regional agreements are currently underutilized in relevant advocacy strategies.**

This Issue Brief is the third in the series and builds on Issue Brief 1, which outlined ways to leverage *international* political commitments to advance gender responsive small arms control. This Issue Brief shifts the **focus to regional and subregional agreements in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Western Balkans.**

The brief makes the case that:

1 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.

2 Reviving the relevance of existing regional and subregional political commitments and applying them to argue for more gender responsive policies can create opportunities for advocacy—and ultimately progress—on implementation of effective control policies.

3 Encouraging states to act on the commitments they have already made regarding violence reduction, including gender-based violence, 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 and across different levels of multilateral governance. They also carry varying degrees of leverage to act. This Issue Brief suggests how advocates for gender responsive small arms control can identify relevant commitments in regional and subregional agreements to create leverage for national action. It also gives an overview of some of the most relevant agreements.

Gender responsive small arms control in this brief is understood as ensuring all policies, programs, or activities at every stage of a small arms control initiative are nondiscriminatory regarding gender identity, equally benefit all, and aim to correct gender imbalances and inequalities.⁵

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 small arms issues:



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.

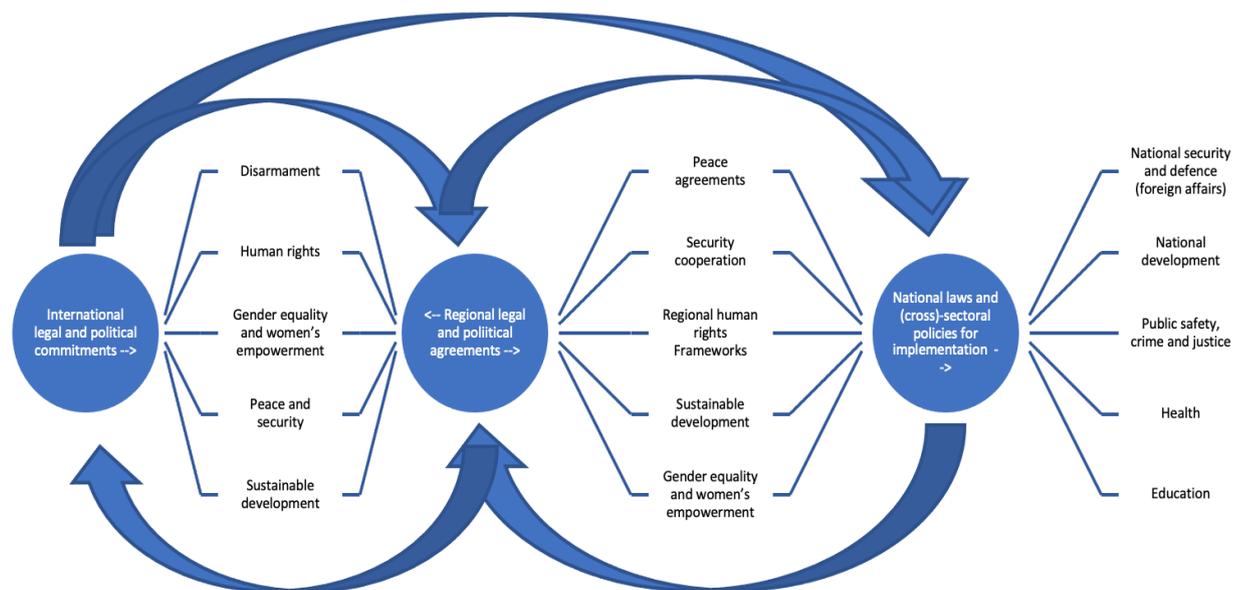


Figure 1: Legal and political commitments across issues and levels of decision making

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. The following is an outline of some key issue linkages:

Peace and security	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.
Disarmament	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. ⁶
Human rights	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.
Gender equality	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.
Women's empowerment	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.
Sustainable development	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, regional and subregional agreements provide detailed commitments to act on issues, norms, or policies that might have particular relevance at the national level. While Issue Brief 1 examined international agreements, this Issue Brief focuses on regional and subregional agreements and political commitments. For example, in Southeast Europe, a regional roadmap defines feasible benchmarks for Western Balkan jurisdictions in implementing their small arms control policies. In Africa, the Maputo Protocol provides comprehensive protections of women's rights specifically tailored to its regional context. The forum and context in which an agreement is made can influence its scope and the strength of commitment connected to it.

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 that the Secretary-General submit reports to the council on the use and misuse of small arms regarding their trade and brokering, marking, recordkeeping and tracing, stockpile management, and utilization in armed violence.⁷

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 as well as gender diversity in participation in processes 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—particularly 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. They also promote gender equality and women's empowerment, including through violence reduction and greater participation under SDG 5.
- The UN Secretary General's 2018 Agenda for Disarmament, which makes a strong case for gender responsive arms control, setting out practical measures for a range of disarmament issues including small arms control.
- The Secretary General's 2021 "Our Common Agenda" report looks to the next twenty-five years, presenting a vision of a future UN, including how to achieve effective multilateralism. The proposed actions are in line with and designed to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. Relevant to this brief is action area five, which places women and girls at the center and includes eradicating violence against women and girls. Action area three aims to promote peace and prevent conflict. One of its key proposals puts women and girls at the center of security policy while supporting regional prevention.⁸
- Both international human rights law and international humanitarian law 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) and the 1993 Declaration on the Elimination of Violence Against Women both 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 unparalleled normative and sometimes legal power. However, they are also captive to a process of consensus-based decision making. In conjunction with political factors such as changing priorities and implementation fatigue, this 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.

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 subregions. 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, rather than 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 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 and do inspire policy innovation at international levels. 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 example for regional (or international) standards or agreements.

The Secretary General's 2021 "Our Common Agenda" report, as stated above, promotes regional prevention regarding its action area to promote peace and prevent conflict. More broadly it promotes a regional approach to achieve set goals under action area ten to "Boost partnerships."⁹ While each region reflects its own history of security, peacemaking, and policy decisions, this Issue Brief examines relevant regional frameworks including:

- Regional and subregional instruments on aspects of small arms control and disarmament.
- 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.
- Regional agreements on security cooperation, e.g., on border security arrangements or transnational security threats.
- Regional frameworks for sustainable development and localizing the implementation of the SDGs.

In addition to the four types of instruments outlined above, the study also examined peace agreements, particularly those that include provisions for small arms control, often linked to programs for disarming, demobilizing, and reintegrating former combatants and reforming the security sector. While the study concluded that most relevant agreements were national in nature, several peace agreements may offer possibilities for the inclusion of gender responsive small arms control. Similarly, regional courts, commissions, and special rapporteurs working to protect human rights were analyzed. While not fitting the scope of regional or subregional instruments, these institutions can provide other paths for regional gender responsive small arms control.

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. Gender responsive small arms control might therefore find its most active policy advocates in sectors of government beyond its traditional remit.

National security and defense	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).
Public safety, crime and justice	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.
National development	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
Health	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.
Education	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

Translating relevant international and regional commitments into effective national programs touches areas of national governance beyond those outlined above. Other sectors to consult include those responsible for social affairs (youth issues, women’s affairs, or gender), sports, interior ministries, urban planning, and environmental issues where clear linkages have been established.

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 is its promise to act. A good starting point for analysis is to distinguish between political commitments and those that are legally binding:

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

Whether politically or legally binding, the most important effects of any commitment depend on how they are adapted into national legal and policy frameworks and how they meet specific needs and priorities. In this respect, it is useful to make a distinction between explicit and implicit promises of action. An explicit commitment addresses the issues of small arms and gender head on, and asks states to take clearly defined action on the issue, while an implicit commitment presents 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:

	Legally binding	Political commitment
Explicit	<p>A commitment to make small arms control more gender responsive, which states have agreed to under international law</p> <p>Ex. international: Art. 7 of the Arms Trade Treaty</p> <p>Ex. Africa region: Article 23 of "The ECOWAS Convention" on SALW¹⁰</p> <p>Ex. Latin America and Caribbean region: "The CIFTA Convention" on firearms¹¹</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. international: "The UN Programme of Action" on illicit SALW (specifically outcomes of the Review Conferences, not the original instrument itself), SDG 16.4 on illicit arms flows</p> <p>Ex. Africa region: The African Union "Silencing the guns in Africa"</p> <p>Ex. Latin America and Caribbean region: "The Caribbean SALW Control Roadmap"</p> <p>Ex. Western Balkan region: "The Western Balkans SALW Control Roadmap"</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. international: protection of the human right to life, prevention of gender-based violence, "The UN Firearms Protocol"¹²</p> <p>Ex. Africa region: "The Maputo Protocol" to the African Charter on Human and ¹³People's Rights, on the Rights of Women in Africa</p> <p>Ex. Latin America and Caribbean region: "The Belém do Pará Convention" on violence against women¹⁴</p> <p>Ex: Western Balkan region: "The Istanbul Convention" on violence against women¹⁵</p>	<p>Broad political agendas, which cannot be feasibly implemented without consideration of small arms control and its gendered dimensions</p> <p>Ex. international: SDG 16.1 on violence reduction; SDG 5.2 on reducing violence against women</p> <p>Ex. Africa region: "Africa's Agenda 2063", Aspiration 4: A Peaceful and Secure Africa</p> <p>Ex. Latin America and Caribbean region: "The Montevideo Strategy" on gender and development</p> <p>Ex: Western Balkan region: "The Berlin Process" to boost regional cooperation among the Western Balkan countries and their European integration.</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 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, including gender responsive small arms control. 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 examples of reputational effects

Building Strategies for Action on Existing Commitments

To date, although a gender perspective has now been mainstreamed in many instruments, there is no global agreement with sole focus on gender responsive small arms control. However, as argued in this Issue Brief series, action in this area 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 legal commitment has not been implemented can be an important starting point for creating an effective strategy for progress. Common factors include a lack of incentives; resources; technical capacity; knowledge or political urgency; low priority attached to gender equality within small arms control; low awareness among decision and policy makers; and insufficient operationalization of gender mainstreaming in small arms control, among other reasons. In addition, there is often a gap between international policy making and norm-setting and national practice, law, and implementation. Within and between national ministries responsible for implementation, poor communication can also 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 potentially difficult sustaining of resourcing. These barriers are even more challenging because each region of the world reflects its own unique cultural and values-based expectations of gender roles and power. At the same time, there are many similar challenges, such as unequal distribution of power and resources and violence against women. Progress can be made on gender responsive small arms control by identifying and working to help overcome such barriers.

Gender and Small Arms Control: Obstacles and Opportunities for Action

"...if our gender glasses are on, then it is hard to imagine an issue more gendered than the use and misuse of SALW."¹⁶

CIHAN SULTANOĞLU, FORMER ASSISTANT ADMINISTRATOR AND DIRECTOR REGIONAL BUREAU FOR EUROPE AND THE CIS
UNITED NATIONS DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

This section contextualizes gender and small arms control, and violence more broadly, in each of the three regions: Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Western Balkans. It aims to analyze obstacles as well as opportunities for action in these regions by leveraging regional and subregional commitments. In conclusion, it identifies the most relevant of these agreements and political commitments for the advancement of the gender responsive small arms control agenda.

A 2015 WILPF study¹⁷ identified some distinctly problematic tendencies in how women were categorized in international instruments such as the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPoA), in ways that focused on their vulnerability rather than their agency. It found that neither text engaged with the concept of gender, except in

reference to gender-based violence in the ATT. Since then, some rhetorical progress has been made. Commitments to gender equality were included in the 2018 Third Review Conference of the UNPoA (RevCon3) and the 7th Biennial Meeting of States in 2021 (BMS7), and the PoA framework now contains relevant language on disaggregating data to examine the effects of small arms and light weapons (SALW) use with respect to gender, as well as on mainstreaming gender perspectives.¹⁸

When it comes to several of the regional and sub-regional agreements, women continue to be defined as vulnerable victims, usually grouped together with children and the elderly. Therefore, the promotion of women and their agency in a variety of roles will be an important advocacy ask. Finally, lack of data constitutes an enormous challenge across the regions, especially in Africa. Following important developments at RevCon3, the PoA framework now contains language on disaggregating data to examine the effects of SALW use with respect to gender, age, and disability.¹⁹ This is an important step. However, given that the PoA is a politically binding agreement at the global level, advocacy on collecting, disaggregating, and analyzing data on gender and small arms at the regional level has the potential of fostering more ambitious or even legally binding agreements. The need for collection of data on psychological trauma, which often goes unreported, is also crucial to building an evidence base.

AFRICA

Africa is currently the world's fastest growing continent. A booming population means challenges but also opportunities for attracting investments. To boost development, peaceful and inclusive societies will be fundamental. Small arms proliferation has been devastating in Africa. Conflict, proxy wars, and intercommunal fighting characterize many regions of the continent, severely hampering development. At the same time, given the correlation between these conflicts and gender-based violence more specifically, gender inequality and gender-based violence remain prominent challenges across the continent.

The 50th anniversary of the African Union (AU) in 2013 marked the launch of Agenda 2063, a fifty-year plan to foster sustainable economic growth and development in Africa. The agenda identifies key flagship programs to boost Africa's development and includes "Silencing the Guns in Africa by the Year 2020," which was guided by the "AU Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns by Year 2020," also known as the Lusaka Roadmap of 2016.

While the AU's own Peace and Security Architecture (APSA) faces continuing funding challenges and relies heavily on support from donors,²⁰ there has been increased interagency cooperation between the AU and global partners such as the European Union and the United Nations. A strategic dialogue between the UN and AU to strengthen combined efforts led to the joint UN-AU Framework for Enhanced Partnership in Peace and Security. Meanwhile, the overview of conflict trends in Africa remains complex: the number of conflicts increased to record numbers in 2018 and conflicts are becoming more complicated by the involvement of transnational militant and extremist organizations. However, at the same time, the number of battle deaths have decreased considerably.²¹

In line with SDG 16.4, a fundamental step in “Silencing the Guns” is to reduce the illicit arms flow, with calls being made for African states to ratify and implement international²² as well as regional agreements. Linked to this, the role of external parties contributing to the flow of arms into Africa is more difficult for AU states to address. For example, the main arms exporters to the African continent—China, Russia and the United States—have not signed or ratified the ATT.²³

Ultimately, national implementation of agreements will rely on individual states. Important advocacy work will be essential to focus on building political will and the creation of mechanisms to hold member states accountable.

In terms of linking gender with the small arms agenda, the African Union’s gender architecture, enshrined in the AU 2009 Gender Policy, includes policies and legal instruments that address the issue of women, peace, and security. According to the AU, this has led to positive developments such as the number of women in senior-level positions within the Commission, and the nomination of women Special Representatives in countries in conflict or emerging from conflict, such as women mediators and Special Envoys.²⁴

At the subregional level, frameworks for controlling small arms have been adopted for Central Africa, East Africa, Southern Africa, and West Africa, all of which are legally binding. Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) took the lead in developing strategies, adopting a Moratorium in 1998 and later signing the ECOWAS Convention in 2006 which entered into force in 2009. Southern African states adopted the Southern African Development Community (SADC) Protocol in 2001, the same year that the global Firearms Protocol and the UNPoA were adopted. The Nairobi Protocol involving the East Africa Community (EAC) was adopted in 2004 and entered into force in 2006. The Kinshasa Convention covering Central African countries is the most recent regional small arms control and disarmament instrument, adopted in 2010 and entered into force in 2017. While several efforts have been made to control the proliferation of small arms in North Africa and the Sahel region, there is currently no regional agreement for this subregion.²⁵

In terms of gender equality and women’s empowerment mechanisms, the same subregions, including North Africa, have adopted or are making progress²⁶ in adopting instruments to address issues particularly relevant to gender-based violence. However, none of these instruments specifically mention small arms, and thus constitute important entry points to argue for gender responsive small arms control.

At a regional level, the Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People’s Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa—also known as the “Maputo Protocol,” as mentioned earlier is a legally binding instrument on comprehensive rights for women in Africa. Another important framework is the African Union’s Strategy for Gender Equality and Women’s Empowerment (GEWE) 2018–2028, which identifies and proposes practical steps to achieve the goals of Agenda 2063, specifically Aspiration 6: “An Africa where development is people-driven, relying upon the potential offered by people, especially its women and youth and caring for children.” This strategy is aligned to the global 2030 Agenda, specifically SDG5. It does not explicitly include measures on addressing small arms violence but is aligned with Aspiration 4: A peaceful and secure Africa, which includes “Silencing the Guns.”

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

One of the regions most affected by small arms-related violence, Latin America and the Caribbean has some of the highest global homicide rates.²⁷ Again, lack of available and reliable and gender-disaggregated data presents a key challenge when addressing the issue and developing relevant policies. At the same time, Latin American and Caribbean countries continue to face complex challenges in gender equality. The region has a Regional Gender Agenda which, together with the global 2030 Agenda, constitutes a frame of reference for proposals and goals.

To guide the implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda, the Montevideo Strategy was adopted in 2016 by the member States of the United Nations Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) at the 13th session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition to this, the Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women, known as the Convention of Belém do Pará, is an international human rights instrument adopted in 1994 by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States. It is the first legally binding international treaty that criminalizes all forms of violence against women, especially sexual violence. However, neither instrument specifically mentions small arms nor only refers to armed violence in relation to conflict.

With regards to instruments to control small arms and ammunition, the Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Material (CIFTA) was adopted in 1997 and entered into force in 1998. It was the first legally binding multilateral instrument on small arms and laid the foundation for the 2001 Firearms Protocol. Three key states in relation to small arms control and arms exports—Canada, Jamaica, and US—are yet to ratify the convention.

In January 2015, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) states adopted the Roadmap for Implementing the Caribbean Priority Actions on the Illicit Proliferation of Firearms and Ammunition across the Caribbean in a Sustainable Manner by 2030 (Caribbean Firearms Roadmap). This instrument was inspired by the Western Balkans' roadmap described below, and contains gender considerations. However, while Caribbean states were strong supporters of introducing gender considerations in the Arms Trade Treaty, attempts to do so at the regional level are not yet taking place. Seemingly, there is uncertainty about its relevance.

THE WESTERN BALKANS

Considering its violent past in the 1990s, significant progress has been achieved in the Western Balkans. The intergovernmental cooperation initiative known as the "Berlin Process" has since 2014 aimed to improve and intensify regional integration between the Western Balkans and the EU, including addressing security conditions.

In relation to gender responsive small arms control, a 2016 study from the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) confirmed that integration of the gender perspective was still lagging, as “gender patterns and unequal power relations between women and men play an important role in shaping and influencing prevailing small arms practices and the effects of SALW use and misuse.” Lack of gender-disaggregated data was also identified as a key challenge for the region.²⁸ Since 2016, SEESAC reports that this has changed significantly with a comprehensive set of activities it has undertaken.

To address this, in 2018, the “Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2024” was adopted. It represents the most comprehensive small arms control exercise in the region. It also places specific importance on the advancement of gender equality, and thus contributes to the achievement of Agenda 2030 and the implementation of both SDGs 5 and 16.²⁹ The Roadmap is operationalized through action plans adopted by the Western Balkans jurisdictions, and was reportedly instrumental in boosting gender responsiveness in small arms control. Similar to GENSAC Strategy 2, the Roadmap places strong emphasis on ensuring policies are evidence-based and that gender- and age-disaggregated data collection is carried out throughout the region.

Recent SEESAC analysis documented significant progress achieved by the relevant institutions in the Western Balkans in integrating the gender perspective into small arms control policies. This has mainly been the case with the implementation of the Roadmap, which foresees multiple paths to:

- Address linkages between firearms and domestic violence;
- Respond to gendered aspects of firearm demand, use, and misuse—including linkages between masculine norms and firearms;
- Increase the participation and representation of women in small arms control; and
- Improve institutional capacities for gender mainstreaming, gender-sensitive data collection, and record-keeping practices.

Examples of Regional Frameworks for Action

This section aims to identify relevant regional and subregional commitments. In addition to disarmament, small arms control, gender equality, and women’s rights commitments, it includes relevant peace agreements, security cooperation, regional courts, commissions, and special rapporteurs, as well as frameworks on sustainable development. As stated previously, the aim of this Issue Brief series is to provide concise and practical analyses of contemporary issues in gender responsive small arms control. This evolves into deeper insights into the proposed seven strategies for gender responsive small arms control, as outlined in the revised GENSAC Action Paper³⁰ and indicated in the table below. See Annex 1 for a summary of the seven strategies.

REGIONAL AND SUBREGIONAL INSTRUMENTS ON ASPECTS OF SMALL ARMS CONTROL AND DISARMAMENT			
Framework	Relevant aspects	Basis for action	Context
Africa			
<p>African Union's "Silencing the Guns in Africa" and the AU "Master Roadmap of Practical Steps to Silence the Guns by Year 2020," also known as the Lusaka Roadmap (2016)³¹</p>	<p>Agenda 2063 recognizes that violent conflict remains one of the foremost impediments to sustainable development. It stresses the imperative of ending all wars, civil conflicts, gender-based violence, and violent conflicts, and also preventing genocide, as part of Africa’s collective efforts to silence the guns in the continent by the year 2020.</p> <p>The AU’s Silencing the Guns initiative is a growing feature of the AU-UN partnership, with the UN considering how to advance the AU’s initiative beyond 2020.</p> <p>Regarding the UN Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, despite collaboration and progress, there are areas where partnership has largely been framed around the inclusion of women in mediation and peace processes. While this is an essential component, it is a narrow framing of the WPS agenda that cuts across all aspects of peace and security.</p>	<p>Advocate to advance gender responsive small arms control through the seven strategies outlined by GENSAC, with specific attention on collecting sex disaggregated data and evidence (GENSAC Strategy 2).</p> <p>Make use of opportunities for advocacy and policy dialogue to advance the objectives of the initiative, including through AU annual summits, regional high-level conferences, and ministerial-level events, 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 (GENSAC Strategies 1, 4, 5, 7).</p> <p>Ensure that state delegations working on small arms in connection with the initiative and the Master Roadmap reflect equal or at least strengthened participation of women, and also in national implementation processes (GENSAC Strategy 3).</p> <p>Engage in AU-UN partnership to support the growing recognition that implementing the WPS agenda must include action around small arms. The inclusion of gender responsive small arms control issues in the WPS agenda represents an opportunity for renewed momentum in both areas (GENSAC Strategy 5).³²</p> <p>Promote universalization of the ATT, which includes important gender provisions (GENSAC Strategies 1, 5).</p> <p>•With the AU underfunded, advocate for more or refocused resources to strengthen the APSA and Roadmap (GENSAC Strategy 7).</p>	<p>"Silencing the Guns in Africa" is a flagship project of the AU’s Agenda 2063, closely linked with the UN’s 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.</p> <p>The Agenda includes fifteen flagship projects, identified as key to enabling and accelerating progress in all areas of development.</p>

<p>The ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials³³</p>	<p>The Convention takes into account Security Council Resolution 1325 (2001) on women, peace, and security which recognizes the specific role of women in peace-building.</p> <p>Chapter V, Article 23, “Member States in this regard shall undertake to develop and/or strengthen their partnership with civil society organizations at local, national and regional level including women, youth and others, for better information and raising public awareness on the dangers of the proliferation of small arms and light weapons.”</p>	<p>For the five listed African subregional conventions and protocols:</p> <p>Make use of opportunities 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 (GENSAC Strategies 1, 5).</p> <p>Ensure that state national commissions working on small arms in connection with the instruments reflect equal or at least strengthened participation of women, including in national implementation processes (GENSAC Strategy 3).</p> <p>Follow up on the implementation of commitments to more gender-balanced representation and participation in implementation, as well as actions to increase understanding of the gendered impact of armed violence (GENSAC Strategies 1, 3).</p> <p>Link provisions and decisions to 1325 National Action Plans (NAP) frameworks and national action to control illicit arms flows under SDG 16.4 (GENSAC Strategy 5).</p> <p>Address problematic tendencies in how women are categorized in ways that focus on their vulnerability rather than their agency (GENSAC Strategies 1, 3).</p>	<p>ECOWAS took the lead in developing strategies to control the spread and misuse of small arms in Africa. Following the 1998 ECOWAS Moratorium, member states signed the ECOWAS Convention in 2006 and entered into force in 2009. It is a legally binding document.³⁴</p>
<p>The Kinshasa Convention – The Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and All Parts and Components That Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair and Assembly³⁵</p>	<p>The preamble includes:</p> <p>The importance of UNSCR 1325 (2000) and subsequent resolutions on women, peace, and security; the importance of the United Nations Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and the Windhoek Declaration and the Namibia Plan of Action on Mainstreaming a Gender Perspective in Multidimensional Peace Support Operations.</p> <p>Article 30 of the National Action Plans states that “plans shall be prepared using a data collection process involving all relevant national stakeholders, including civil society organizations, particularly associations of women and youth, who are considered to be the most vulnerable to the dangers posed by small arms and light weapons.”</p>	<p>Follow up on the implementation of commitments to more gender-balanced representation and participation in implementation, as well as actions to increase understanding of the gendered impact of armed violence (GENSAC Strategies 1, 3).</p> <p>Link provisions and decisions to 1325 National Action Plans (NAP) frameworks and national action to control illicit arms flows under SDG 16.4 (GENSAC Strategy 5).</p> <p>Address problematic tendencies in how women are categorized in ways that focus on their vulnerability rather than their agency (GENSAC Strategies 1, 3).</p>	<p>The Kinshasa Convention is the most recent legally binding regional small arms control and disarmament instrument elaborated within the United Nations framework.</p> <p>It was adopted in 2010 and entered into force in 2017.</p>
<p>The Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa (Nairobi Protocol)³⁶</p>	<p>There are no specific mentions of gender in the Nairobi Protocol.</p> <p>Article 2: “... the objective of the Protocol is to (c) promote and facilitate information sharing and cooperation between the governments in the sub-region, as well as between governments, inter-governmental organizations and civil society.”</p>	<p>Advocate to advance gender responsive small arms control with specific attention on collecting gender-disaggregated data and evidence (GENSAC Strategy 2).</p>	<p>The Nairobi Protocol, adopted in 2004, is a legally binding document that strengthens the Nairobi Declaration of 2000 and commits signatory states to concrete actions, including mandatory gun registration and a ban on the civilian ownership of military assault rifles (like the AK-47). It is one of the most comprehensive legally binding regional agreements on SALW.</p> <p>The Protocol is monitored and implemented by a Secretariat known as the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA), which works actively with civil society.</p>
<p>The SADC Protocol on Firearms, Ammunition and Related Materials³⁷</p>	<p>There are no specific mentions of gender or women in the SADC Protocol, including the amended version from 2020.</p>		<p>SADC member states adopted the SADC Protocol as early as 2001—the same year that the global Firearms Protocol and the UNPoA were adopted. Nearly twenty years later, in 2020, SADC member states renewed their commitment by approving the amended SADC Firearms Protocol.</p>
<p>The Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons³⁸</p>	<p>iii) has adverse effects on security and development, especially on women, refugees and other vulnerable groups, as well as on infrastructure and property.</p>		<p>The Bamako Declaration was adopted in 2000 and was a first step in the Africa region to regulating the illicit circulation of SALW. It demonstrated the willingness of African heads of state to join together during final debates over the UNPoA adopted in 2001.</p>

Latin America and the Caribbean			
<p><u>The Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Material (CIFTA)</u>³⁹</p>	<p>There are no specific mentions of gender or women in CIFTA.</p>	<p>Encourage the three signatory states (Canada, Jamaica, and the United States) to ratify and implement the Convention.</p> <p>See recommendations above related to African subregional instruments.</p>	<p>CIFTA is a legally binding instrument adopted in 1997 and entered into force on July 1, 1998. The text of the Convention served as model for the 2001 Firearms Protocol.⁴⁰</p>
<p><u>Caribbean Firearms Roadmap</u></p> <p>The Roadmap for Implementing the Caribbean Priority Actions on the Illicit Proliferation of Firearms and Ammunition across the Caribbean in a Sustainable Manner by 2030⁴¹</p>	<p>The goals of the Roadmap include ratifying, supporting, complying, and reporting on relevant regional and international instruments such as ATT, UNPoA, and CIFTA, and highlighting how the region has some of the highest femicide rates globally.</p> <p>Key performance indicators include, for instance, the number of males and females taking part in commissions, trainings, risk assessments vis-à-vis women, and gender considerations in national legislation.</p>	<p>In summary:</p> <p>Gender responsive action at national levels (Strategies 1, 5).</p> <p>National SALW commissions reflect equal participation of women (Strategy 3).</p> <p>Commitments to more gender balanced representation (Strategies 1, 3).</p> <p>Links to 1325 Nation NAPs and SDG 16.4 (Strategy 5).</p> <p>Vulnerability rather than their agency (Strategies 1, 3).</p> <p>Gender-disaggregated data and evidence (Strategy 2).</p>	<p>The Caribbean Roadmap is inspired by the Western Balkans' roadmap and was formally adopted in January 2021 by fifteen participating CARICOM States.</p> <p>The main drafters and implementing partners for the Roadmap are UNLIREC and CARICOM IMPACS.⁴²</p>
<p>MERCOSUR's Working Group on Firearms and Ammunition</p>	<p>The group seeks to provide a platform for dialogue and cooperation, including subjects related to the ATT. Gender has not been a strong topic in the discussions.</p>		<p>The aim of the group is to increase subregional controls on private security agencies, introduce legislation on stockpile controls, raise awareness of and public support for small arms issues, and establish convergent subregional security policies to facilitate information-sharing and cooperation.</p>
Western Balkans			
<p><u>Western Balkans' Small Arms and Light Weapons Control Roadmap</u></p> <p>Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of SALW and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2024⁴³</p>	<p>A gender perspective permeates the Roadmap and places specific importance on the advancement of gender equality, which is also understood as an essential part of small arms control and a precondition for effective arms control measures.</p> <p>Challenges that remain include further operationalization of existing commitments to gender mainstreaming in small arms control. SEESAC has launched a specific project to address this.⁴⁴</p>	<p>The Roadmap sets overall targets calling for full integration of gender concerns in small arms control policies, and aims to ensure meaningful participation of women in arms control (GENSAC Strategies 3, 4):</p> <p>Standardize and institutionalize data collection on firearms by gender and age, regarding legal and illegal SALW/firearms interdictions, armed violence incidents, ballistic evidence, and other firearms-related data (GENSAC Strategy 2).</p> <p>Increase national analytical capacities and institutionalize firearms data analysis. Of note, this also includes gender analysis (GENSAC Strategies 2, 4).</p> <p>Increase awareness among the general population, both women and men, on the dangers of misuse, illicit possession, and trafficking of firearms (GENSAC Strategy 1).</p> <p>Increase awareness among young men of the dangers of misuse of SALW/firearms, since they account for the majority of perpetrators and victims of firearm-related incidents (GENSAC Strategy 1).</p> <p>Increase awareness and reduce misuse of firearms in violence against women, domestic violence, and other forms of gender-based violence (GENSAC Strategy 1).</p>	<p>The Roadmap was developed by Western Balkans Authorities, supported by SEESAC's technical assistance. It aims to put in place comprehensive and sustainable mechanisms, fully harmonized with European and other international standards. The roadmap was adopted at the EU Western Balkans Summit in London on July 10, 2018.</p> <p>Action plans for the Roadmap implementation adopted by the WB jurisdictions foresee multiple measures to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> address linkages between firearms and domestic violence; respond to gendered aspects of firearm demand, use, and misuse, including linkages between masculine norms and firearms; increase the participation and representation of women in arms control; and improve institutional capacities for gender mainstreaming and improve gender-sensitive data collection and record-keeping practices.

<p><u>EU Strategy against Illicit Firearms, Small Arms & Light Weapons & Their Ammunition</u>⁴⁵</p>	<p>The Strategy includes strong references to UNSCR on WPS and other gender mechanisms, as well as incorporating gender and diversity aspects in SALW-control projects and actions.</p> <p>The EU will systematically mainstream gender considerations in the design of new projects relating to the fight against gun violence and SALW control in general, and the sharing of good practices in this regard.</p>	<p>See recommendations above for Western Balkans, particularly regarding GENSAC Strategy 1, related to continued awareness raising, but also Strategy 7 on sharing experience.</p>	<p>The Council of the European Union adopted a new EU strategy in 2018: "Securing Arms, Protecting Citizens."</p> <p>The latest strategy replaces the 2005 strategy, taking into account the evolved security context including the threat of terrorism inside the EU and developments in SALW design and technology affecting the capacity of governments to address that threat.</p> <p>The Strategy recognizes the quality of the comprehensive monitoring system developed under the Western Balkans' Roadmap⁴⁶</p>
<p><u>EU action plan on firearms trafficking (2020-2025)</u>⁴⁷</p>	<p>The Plan applied a comprehensive regional approach to control of firearms in the region, including improved marking, tracking, and record keeping; improved law enforcement; enhanced physical security and stockpile management; awareness raising and gender policy; and transparency of arms exports.</p>		<p>This Action Plan defines activities for a shared understanding and a common way forward on how to address the threat of illicit firearms. It includes the definition of performance indicators for the EU and member states, inspired by best practices developed by Western Balkans partners.</p>

GENDER EQUALITY AND WOMEN'S EMPOWERMENT MECHANISMS

Framework	Relevant aspects	Basis for action	Context
Africa-regional			
<p><u>Maputo Protocol</u></p> <p>Protocol to the African Charter on Human and People's Rights on the Rights of Women in Africa⁴⁸</p>	<p>Article II on the elimination of discrimination against women.</p> <p>Article IV on the rights to life, integrity, and security of the person includes several measures on all forms of violence against women.</p> <p>Article IX on the right to participation in the political and decision-making process.</p> <p>Article X on the right to peace.</p> <p>Article XI on the protection of women in armed conflicts.</p> <p>The Protocol does not mention small arms.</p>	<p>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 (GENSAC Strategy 5).</p> <p>Encourage states to adopt systems for small arms control that recognize gendered patterns of abuse and trigger effective and impartial investigations of abuse (GENSAC Strategy 4).</p> <p>Ensure implementation of Article IV, which includes language about small arms-related violence (GENSAC Strategy 5).</p> <p>Ensure implementation of Article II and Article IX, which include spheres related to security, defense, and disarmament (GENSAC Strategy 3).</p> <p>Avoid problematic focus only on women's vulnerability, rather than their agency (GENSAC Strategies 1, 3).</p>	<p>The Maputo Protocol is a legally binding framework on comprehensive rights for women in Africa.</p>
<p><u>African Union's Strategy for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) 2018-2028</u>⁴⁹</p>	<p>Pillar 2: Dignity, security, and resilience. Outcome 2.2 – VAWG & Peace Processes: All forms of violence against women and girls are reduced, criminalized, and condemned by society; women participate equally in peace processes.</p> <p>Pillar 4: Leadership, voice and visibility. Outcome 4.1 – Leadership: Equal participation and demonstrated influence of women and girls in all leadership and decision-making positions.</p> <p>The Strategy does not mention small arms.</p>	<p>Ensure implementation of Pillar 2, including language about small arms-related violence (GENSAC Strategy 5).</p> <p>Ensure implementation of Pillar 4, which includes leadership and equal participation in areas related to security, defense, and disarmament (GENSAC Strategy 3).</p>	<p>The GEWE strategy identifies and proposes practical steps to achieve the goals of Agenda 2063, specifically Aspiration 6: "An Africa where development is people driven, relying upon the potential offered by people, especially its women and youth and caring for children."</p> <p>The strategy is aligned to the global Agenda 2030, specifically SDG5.</p>

<p>The Banjul Charter – African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights⁵⁰</p> <p>Oversight and interpretation of the Charter is the task of the African Commission on Human and Peoples’ Rights (established in 1987).</p>	<p>Article 18: The State shall ensure the elimination of every discrimination against women and also ensure the protection of the rights of the woman and the child as stipulated in international declarations and conventions.</p> <p>Article 23: All peoples shall have the right to national and international peace and security. The principles of solidarity and friendly relations implicitly affirmed by the Charter of the United Nations and reaffirmed by that of the Organization of African Unity shall govern relations between States.</p>	<p>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 (GENSAC Strategy 5).</p> <p>Encourage states to adopt systems for small arms control that recognize gendered patterns of abuse and trigger effective and impartial investigations of abuse (GENSAC Strategies 2, 4).</p>	<p>The Banjul Charter, which came into effect in 2004, does not specifically address the issue of women’s rights, but incorporates them by reference. Since human rights are applicable to “Everyone and every human being,” women are implicitly accorded protection under instruments promoting human rights. Despite this, women suffer from specific limitations. In recognition of this, several international human rights instruments specifically addressing rights of women have been adopted.⁵¹</p>
Africa-subregional			
<p>Cairo Declaration for Arab Women and the Strategic Plan of Action for the Development of Women in the Arab Region 2030⁵²</p>	<p>The Declaration and the Strategy do not mention small arms.</p> <p>Armed violence is referred to only in the context of armed conflict.</p>	<p>Address small arms violence across both conflict and nonconflict contexts in the development of National Action Plans for the implementation of the Strategy. This can be achieved by including gender responsive provisions in national legislation intended to control access to firearms, both licit and illicit (GENSAC Strategies 4, 5).</p> <p>Address small arms violence in national plans to implement the Strategy (GENSAC Strategy 4).</p>	<p>The Council of Ministers of Foreign Affairs of the Arab League endorsed the Cairo Declaration for Arab Women and the Strategic Plan of Action for the Development of Women in the Arab Region 2030 during the 28th Arab Summit in Jordan in 2015.</p> <p>A review of the implementation is planned to be conducted in 2022.</p>
<p>EAC Gender Policy East African Community (2018)⁵³</p>	<p>Priority action areas:</p> <p>5.12 Gender-Based Violence and Harmful Cultural Practices;</p> <p>5.13 Gender, Peace and Security;</p> <p>5.13 Gender, Peace and Security.</p> <p>All Partner States shall:</p> <p>a. Develop, resource and implement the National Action Plans on UN Security Council Resolution 1325;</p> <p>b. Facilitate equal representation and participation by both men and women in key decision-making positions in conflict resolution, peace building and peace keeping initiatives.</p> <p>The Policy does not mention small arms.</p>	<p>Ensure gender responsive small arms control policies are integrated into National Action Plans for implementation of the Policy and violence reduction (GENSAC Strategy 4).</p> <p>Include progress on gender responsive small arms control in national indicators for progress on implementation of the Policy (GENSAC Strategy 4).</p> <p>Ensure statistical data related to indicators of violence is disaggregated by gender and, where possible, indicates the use of firearms (GENSAC Strategy 2).</p> <p>Highlight progress on gender responsive small arms control the monitoring system (GENSAC Strategy 2).</p> <p>Make use of opportunities at Council of Ministers and Summit of Heads of State to follow up on action to introduce and implement provisions for gender responsive action on small arms at national levels (GENSAC Strategy 7).</p>	<p>The EAC Gender Policy is anchored in Article 6(d) of the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community, wherein Partner States are committed to adhere to the principles of democracy, the rule of law, accountability, transparency, social justice, equal opportunities, and gender equality, as well as recognition, promotion, and protection of human and people’s rights.</p> <p>Progress on the implementation of the EAC Gender Policy is reported at EAC regional meetings (Council of Ministers and Summit of Heads of States).</p>
<p>DRAFT ECOWAS Regional Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence⁵⁴</p> <p>This is based on the earlier commitment made in January 2021 by heads of state in the “Declaration on Zero Tolerance to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence and the Elimination of all Forms of Violence against Women and Girls at all times and under all circumstances in the ECOWAS region.”</p>	<p>The draft is not yet available.</p>	<p>Advocate for the inclusion of gender responsive small arms control into the future ECOWAS Strategy (GENSAC Strategy 5).</p> <p>Make use of upcoming opportunities at ministerial meetings or summits to follow up on action to introduce and implement provisions for gender responsive action on small arms in the Strategy and at national levels (GENSAC Strategies 1, 4).</p>	<p>A meeting of experts and ECOWAS Ministers in charge of Gender and Women’s Affairs was held in October 2021 in Dakar, Senegal. The meeting focuses on the draft ECOWAS Regional Strategy for Preventing and Responding to Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.</p>

<p>SADC Protocol on Gender and Development (2008, revised 2016 to align objectives with global targets such as SDGs)⁵⁵</p>	<p>The Protocol identifies GBV as an area of concern and proposes several approaches to address this epidemic.</p> <p>The Protocol does not mention small arms.</p>	<p>Integrate gender responsive small arms control into national plans for implementation of the Protocol and violence reduction, and also assistance to partner countries in fulfilment of these goals (GENSAC Strategy 4).</p> <p>Include progress on gender responsive small arms control in national indicators for progress on implementation of the Protocol (GENSAC Strategies 2, 4).</p> <p>Ensure statistical data related to indicators of violence is disaggregated by gender and, where possible, indicates the use of firearms (GENSAC Strategy 2).</p> <p>Highlight progress on gender responsive small arms control in the SADC Gender and Development Monitor (GENSAC Strategy 7).</p>	<p>The SADC Protocol on Gender and Development investigates integration and mainstreaming of gender issues into the SADC Programme of Action and Community Building initiatives. The protocol entered into force in 2013.</p> <p>The SADC Gender and Development Monitor monitors the progress made by SADC Member States toward achieving the targets and goals of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.</p>
<p>SADC Regional Strategy and Framework of Action for Addressing Gender Based Violence 2018 - 2030⁵⁶</p>	<p>Part 6 on Gender Based Violence, Articles 20-25, in line with the target of reducing GBV incidences by half by 2030.</p> <p>The Strategy does not mention small arms.</p>	<p>Analyze the place of gender responsive small arms control in a comprehensive national approach to violence prevention covering legal, political, administrative, and cultural measures (GENSAC Strategy 4).</p> <p>Encourage the development of national mechanisms for the implementation of the Strategy that encompass gender responsive small arms control as a means of addressing violence against women (GENSAC Strategy 4).</p>	<p>Approved by SADC Ministers of Gender and Women's Affairs in July 2018.</p> <p>The development of the Regional Strategy aims to facilitate the implementation and monitoring of the SADC Protocol on Gender and Development.</p>
<p>SADC Regional Strategy on Women, Peace and Security (2018-2022)⁵⁷</p>	<p>The Strategy mentions the proliferation of small arms and light weapons as one of many human security challenges confronting women and the region.</p>	<p>Address small arms violence across both conflict and nonconflict contexts in the development of National Action Plans for the implementation of the Strategy. Approaches can include gender responsive provisions in national legislation intended to control access to firearms, both licit and illicit (GENSAC Strategy 5).</p> <p>Address small arms violence in national plans to implement the Strategy (GENSAC Strategy 4).</p>	<p>The Strategy aims to address challenges experienced by women and children through ensuring that they fully participate in peace and security activities, programs, and projects in the region.</p>
Latin America and the Caribbean			
<p>Belém do Pará Convention</p> <p>The Inter-American Convention on the Prevention, Punishment, and Eradication of Violence against Women⁵⁸</p>	<p>The Convention does not mention small arms. Armed violence is referred to only in the context of armed conflict:</p> <p>Article 9: With respect to the adoption of the measures in this Chapter, the States Parties shall take special account of the vulnerability of women to violence by reason of among others ... affected by armed conflict.</p>	<p>Analyze the place of gender responsive small arms control in a comprehensive national approach to violence prevention covering legal, political, administrative, and cultural measures (GENSAC Strategy 4).</p> <p>Encourage the development of national mechanisms for the implementation of the convention that encompass gender responsive small arms control as a means of addressing violence against women (GENSAC Strategy 4).</p>	<p>The Convention of Belém do Pará is an international human rights instrument adopted by the Inter-American Commission of Women (CIM) of the Organization of American States at a conference in 1994. It is the first legally binding international treaty that criminalizes all forms of violence against women, especially sexual violence.</p>

<p>The Montevideo Strategy for Implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda within the Sustainable Development Framework by 2030 (2016)⁵⁹</p>	<p>The Strategy does not mention small arms.</p> <p>Armed violence is referred to only in the context of armed conflict:</p> <p>Pillar 1 Normative framework: equality and the rule of law:</p> <p>1.d Adopt comprehensive and specific laws and regulations on gender equality and women's human rights, including legislation on the right to a life free of all forms of gender-based violence, and ensure their full and effective implementation.</p> <p>Pillar 9 Information systems</p> <p>9.c Develop and strengthen instruments to measure gender inequalities, such as surveys on time use, violence against women, sexual and reproductive health and use of public spaces, and ensure their funding and periodicity.</p>	<p>Identify opportunities for advocacy and policy dialogue to advance gender responsive small arms control, including through the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean, a subsidiary body of the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC). Use these opportunities to follow up on action to introduce and implement provisions for gender responsive action at national levels (GENSAC Strategy 1).</p> <p>Address small arms violence across both conflict and nonconflict contexts in the development of National Action Plans for the implementation of the Strategy, including gender responsive provisions in national legislation intended to control access to firearms, both licit and illicit (GENSAC Strategy 5).</p> <p>Address small arms violence in national plans to implement the Strategy (GENSAC Strategy 4).</p>	<p>The Strategy was adopted in 2016 by the member States of ECLAC at the 13th session of the Regional Conference on Women in Latin America and the Caribbean. Its aim is to guide implementation of the Regional Gender Agenda and ensure that it serves as a road map for achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the regional level, from the perspective of gender equality, women's autonomy and human rights.</p>
Western Balkans			
<p>The Istanbul Convention Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence⁶⁰</p>	<p>Article 46 – Aggravating circumstances</p> <p>g. the offense was committed with the use or threat of a weapon.</p> <p>Article 51 – Risk assessment and risk management.</p> <p>Parties shall take the necessary legislative or other measures to ensure that the assessment referred to in paragraph one duly takes into account, at all stages of the investigation and application of protective measures, the fact that perpetrators of acts of violence covered by the scope of this Convention possess or have access to firearms.</p> <p>SEESAC reviewed legislation in the West Balkans jurisdictions to assess their compliance.</p>	<p>Analyze the place of gender responsive small arms control in a comprehensive national approach to violence prevention covering legal, political, administrative, and cultural measures (GENSAC Strategy 4).</p> <p>Encourage the development of national mechanisms for the implementation of the conventions that encompass gender responsive small arms control as a means of addressing violence against women (GENSAC Strategy 4).</p>	<p>The Council of Europe Convention on preventing and combating violence against women and domestic violence is a human rights treaty working to counter violence against women and domestic violence in general.</p>

REGIONAL AGREEMENTS ON SECURITY COOPERATION

Framework	Relevant aspects	Basis for action	Context
Africa			
<p>Peace, Security and Cooperation Framework for the Democratic Republic of the Congo and the region⁶¹</p>	<p>The agreement mentions sexual violence as a weapon of war.</p> <p>The Government of DRC commits to continue and deepen Security Sector Reform (SSR).</p>	<p>Encourage the development of national mechanisms for implementation that encompass gender responsive small arms control as a means of addressing violence and specifically violence against women (GENSAC Strategy 4).</p>	<p>In the Framework, the signatories state their concern regarding the persistent violence in the eastern Democratic Republic of Congo. The document outlines principles of engagement on the national, regional, and international levels, including SSR.</p>

<p><u>Pact on Security, Stability and Development in the Great Lakes Region</u>⁶²</p>	<p>Article 17 c: Promoting interstate cooperation on general security issues including combating the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons, and preventing and combating organized transnational criminal activities and terrorism.</p> <p>Article 11: The Member States undertake, in accordance with the Protocol on the Prevention and Suppression of Violence Against Women and Children, to combat sexual violence against women and children through preventing, criminalizing, and punishing acts of sexual violence, both in times of peace and in times of war.</p>		<p>The pact, signed by eleven countries of the Great Lakes Region, aims at providing a legal framework governing relations between its signatories in several areas, including prevention and suppression of sexual violence against women.</p>
<p><u>East African Community Protocol on Co-operation in Defence Affairs</u>⁶³</p>	<p>The protocol does not mention small arms or include gender considerations. However, there is cooperation between the East African Community (EAC) and Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA), which are jointly responsible for implementing the Nairobi Protocol on small arms to enhance cooperation on cross-border security matters.</p>		<p>In 2012, five East African heads of state signed a protocol for cooperation in defense affairs. The four pillars include military training, joint operations, technical cooperation, and visits and exchange of information.</p>
<p><u>The Peace and Security Council for Central Africa (COPAX)</u>⁶⁴</p>	<p>Article 6 refers to small arms and ammunition proliferation but has no gender considerations.</p>		<p>Central African states signed a mutual assistance pact and a protocol establishing the Peace and Security Council for Central Africa (<i>Conseil de paix et de sécurité de l'Afrique centrale</i>, COPAX). They also set up a Regional Staff Headquarters.</p>
<p><u>The SADC Organ and Protocol for Politics, Defence and Security</u>⁶⁵</p>			<p>In 1996, SADC created the Organ on Politics, Defence and Security, an institutional framework for coordinating policies and activities on politics, defense, and security.</p> <p>In 2001, the Organ adopted the Protocol on Politics, Defence and Security Co-operation.</p> <p>This protocol provides the legal framework and establishes objectives; namely, promoting peace and security across Southern Africa.</p>
<p><u>Manu River Union</u></p> <p>15th Protocol to the MRU Declaration on Cooperation on Defence, Security, Internal Affairs, and Foreign Affairs⁶⁶</p>	<p>The Protocol marginally mentions women's representation. It does not mention small arms specifically.</p>		<p>The MRU 15th Protocol on Peace, Security and Defense, adopted in May 2000, marked a turning point toward concrete efforts to address threats to peace, security, and stability across the region.</p>
Latin America and the Caribbean			
<p><u>CARICOM – IMPACS</u></p> <p>The Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security⁶⁷</p>	<p>CARICOM IMPACS is one of the main drafters and implementing partners for the Caribbean Firearms Roadmap.</p>	<p>Encourage the development of national mechanisms for implementation that encompass gender responsive small arms control as a means of addressing violence and specifically violence against women (GENSAC Strategy 4).</p>	<p>CARICOM IMPACS was established in 2006 via an inter-government agreement from the 2006 CARICOM Heads of Government Conference. It provides member states with tools and capabilities to combat transnational organized crime and address regional security concerns.</p>
<p><u>OAS</u></p> <p>Organization of American States Secretariat for Multidimensional Security⁶⁸</p>	<p>Treaties and conventions for which the OAS is depositary include the CIFTA Convention and the Inter-American Treaty of Reciprocal Assistance (Rio Treaty)</p>		

Western Balkans			
Ministerial Declaration on Support for Gender Equality in Security Sector Reform in the Western Balkans ⁶⁹	The Declaration represents a concrete initiative for mainstreaming gender in security sector reform in the Western Balkans.	Encourage and facilitate regional cooperation and knowledge exchange through the Regional Security Sector Reform Platform, with the aim of enhancing capacities for evidence-based and gender responsive policymaking, integration of gender into military education, and combating gender-based discrimination in security institution (GENSAC Strategies 1, 2, 3, 7).	In December 2021, Western Balkans Ministers of Defense committed to further deepening cooperation to advance gender equality. This followed a decade of active engagement by the four Ministries through the project Strengthening of Regional Cooperation on Gender Mainstreaming in Security Sector Reform in the Western Balkans (SEESAC).

REGIONAL FRAMEWORKS FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Framework	Relevant aspects	Basis for action	Context
Africa			
Agenda 2063: The Africa We Want ⁷⁰	<p>Implicit in Africa's Agenda 2063 is the recognition that violent conflict remains one of the foremost impediments to sustainable development.</p> <p>Aspiration 4: A peaceful and secure Africa.</p> <p>Aspiration 6: Goal 1 – Full gender equality ensuring gender equality in all spheres of life and eliminating all forms of discrimination and violence against women and girls.</p>	<p>Integrate action on gender responsive small arms control into national plans for Agenda implementation and violence reduction, and also provide assistance to partner countries in fulfillment of these goals (GENSAC Strategies 4, 6).</p> <p>Include progress on gender responsive small arms control in national indicators for progress on set goals (GENSAC Strategies 2, 7).</p> <p>Ensure statistical data related to indicators of violence is disaggregated by gender and, where possible, indicates the use of firearms (GENSAC Strategy 2).</p> <p>Highlight progress on gender responsive small arms control in national reviews of implementation (GENSAC Strategy 4).</p> <p>Make use of opportunities at state meetings 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 (GENSAC Strategy 7).</p>	<p>African heads of state and government signed the 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration on the 50th anniversary of the formation of the OAU/AU in 2013.</p> <p>Agenda 2063 is the African continent's strategic framework for inclusive and sustainable development. It seeks to deliver on a set of seven aspirations, each with its own set of goals. Peace and security, sustainable development, and women's rights and security form part of the agenda.</p>
ECOWAS Vision 2020 and ECOWAS Vision 2050 Roadmap to promote Sustainable Development Goals, SDGs, in West Africa ⁷¹	<p>The Vision document makes several references to small arms; however, not in relation to gender.</p> <p>In developing the new Vision 2050, the ECOWAS Commission has called for more women's and youth participation.</p>	See recommendations for Agenda 2063 above, especially in relation to the development of the new Vision.	<p>ECOWAS Heads of State and Government adopted the ECOWAS Vision 2020 in June 2007 as a strategic framework for the transformation of ECOWAS into a borderless, peaceful, and prosperous region.</p> <p>In 2018, the Council of Ministers adopted a five-phase roadmap for the preparation of the Post 2020 Vision, referred to as ECOWAS Vision 2050.</p>
East African Community Vision 2050 ⁷²	The Vision includes strategies to address the proliferation of small arms, as well as gender-based violence. It also makes strong references to women's empowerment.	See recommendations for Agenda 2063 above.	The East African Community (EAC) is an intergovernmental organization mandated to lead the East African economic, social, and political integration agenda. The areas of cooperation are specified in the Treaty for the Establishment of the East African Community (2000). To guide the formulation of its five-year development strategies, the Community has developed EAC Vision 2050.

<p><u>Southern African Development Community (SADC) Vision 2050⁷³</u> and <u>SADC Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2020-2030⁷⁴</u></p>	<p>The Vision's foundation rests on ensuring durable peace and security but does not mention small arms.</p> <p>As a cross-cutting issue, it highlights enhanced gender equality as well as women's empowerment and development, and elimination of gender-based violence.</p> <p>The Strategic Development Plan includes a "Regional Law Enforcement and Anti-Poaching Strategy" which in turn includes implementation of the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition, and Other Related Materials.</p>	<p>See recommendations for Agenda 2063 above.</p>	<p>Southern African leaders approved the long-term vision that sets out the aspirations of the region until 2050.</p> <p>The SADC Vision 2050 and Regional Indicative Strategic Development Plan 2020-2030 were approved by the 40th Ordinary Summit of SADC.</p>
Latin America and the Caribbean			
<p><u>Organization of American States (OAS): The Inter-American Program for Sustainable Development (PIDS)⁷⁵</u></p>	<p>PIDS establishes strategic actions to ensure that the work of the General Secretariat on sustainable development is aligned with implementation in the hemisphere of the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development, including SDG5 and SDG16.</p>	<p>Integrate action on gender responsive small arms control into national implementation plans and violence reduction, and also provide assistance to partner countries in fulfilment of these goals (GENSAC Strategies 4, 7).</p> <p>Include progress on gender responsive small arms control in national indicators for progress on SDGs and in Voluntary National Reviews (GENSAC Strategies 2, 7).</p> <p>Ensure statistical data related to indicators of violence is disaggregated by gender and, where possible, indicates the use of firearms (GENSAC Strategy 2).</p> <p>Highlight progress on gender responsive small arms control in voluntary national reviews of SDG implementation.</p>	<p>The Inter-American Program on Sustainable Development establishes the priorities and policy guidelines of the Organization of American States (OAS) with respect to sustainable development and environment.</p>

Conclusion

This Issue Brief has examined regional and subregional agreements in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and the Western Balkans. Rather than promoting the creation of new policies and conventions, it aims to outline ways to leverage and revive already existing political and legal frameworks, as these represent a minimum political consensus to act on issues related to gender responsive small arms control.

The study concluded that most of the regional small arms control instruments examined already contain language on gender, which is an excellent place to continue advancing gender responsive small arms control. However, some instruments still have a narrow framing of the women, peace, and security agenda, while others merely refer to UNSCR 1325 or other instruments which address gender, such as the ATT or UNPoA. In other cases, a clear and present gender perspective is being used as a blueprint for work in other regions.

It should be noted that those instruments which do not mention gender are all legally binding. However, there are also examples of legally binding instruments which include language on gender. Nevertheless, this could merely mean referring to UNSCR 1325 in the preamble, while the subsequent legal text often has a narrower view referring to women as vulnerable, or more generally merely promotes awareness.

Only three of the gender policies examined mention small arms, presenting an important basis for action. There is also work to be done in relation to regional agreements on security cooperation, where gender is sometimes mentioned but not in prominent way. In terms of the regional frameworks for sustainable development, all regional and subregional frameworks included in this study have set goals to address peace, security, and gender equality in line with SDG5 and SDG16.

As identified by GENSAC, the disparity between international-level policy and action on the ground— as in many other development fields—remains a key challenge. This is the case with implementing existing instruments related to arms control and gender equality mechanisms, and also in terms of interacting agendas. As we have seen, while the two fields have long lived separate lives, there has been progress with integration in several international (ATT, UNPoA) as well as regional instruments. Challenges remain when getting the two fields to talk to each other on the ground. In many contexts, small arms control is still considered a masculine issue and women continue to be excluded. Discussions on small arms in these cases are absent from the gender debate or in relation to violence against women.

Finally, the challenge related to available and reliable data stands out as an enormous challenge across the regions. Developments within the PoA framework regarding the disaggregation of data are an important step forward. However, given that the PoA is a politically binding agreement at the global level, advocacy on collecting, disaggregating, and analyzing data on gender and small arms at regional level has the potential to promote more ambitious and even legally binding agreements.

In support of this, the Secretary General's 2021 "Our Common Agenda" report considers how the UN can promote a more inclusive multilateralism, involving the views of other stakeholders including regional organizations and their respective frameworks. This should enable more effective multilateralism, providing regional organizations the scope to make more ambitious agreements.

Annex I – Seven GENSAC Strategies

STRATEGY 1

Raise awareness about gender equality and why it is important

STRATEGY 2

Build the evidence base for results

STRATEGY 3

Champion women's representation and leadership

STRATEGY 4

Turn evidence into action at national and local levels

STRATEGY 5

Link gender responsive small arms control to broader violence prevention efforts

STRATEGY 6

Mobilize finance to support more gender responsive arms control

STRATEGY 7

Share international and regional experience and celebrate progress

These strategies provide a framework to guide the development of regionally, nationally, and locally tailored approaches. Each strategy is people-centered, must be implemented through inclusive partnerships, and is linked to broader platforms for prevention.

Endnotes

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