

RECOMMENDATIONS

UNODC CONSULTATION

*Defining the engagement of the Non-governmental Stakeholders in the implementation of the
UNODC Global Strategy on illicit firearms and interconnected threats*

2023-2030

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1. How UNODC can promote, support, and foster the whole of society approach

- Explain and commit to a whole-of-society approach is in Strategy: Have a clear mind of what does the new approach of UNODC's strategy will be looking for. First, is necessary not to confuse a victim-centre approach with that of whole-of-society approach, as the former is a subcomponent of the latter, i.e., the aim is to cover more than just one category of the society. Second, in relation with the previous remark, is necessary to remind that the United Nations implies **"We the people", instead of "We the States", therefore the priority should be to include different parties within the civil society to respect the basic social contract between States and people.**
- **Reach out to umbrella organizations:** to translate grassroots issues and to serve as communication channels.
- **Consult with Civil society alliance:** between lawyers, academia, private sector, and the State to advance public policies on firearms and provide guidance.
- **Clearly define UNODC's partnership approach and methodology** on the subject matter.
- **Create follow up mechanisms:** Platform to communicate would be interesting especially for emergency response.
- **Tailor language when communicating with civil society:** to translate diverse civil society's needs and effectively communicate UNODC's policies.
- **Position UNODC as an agent** between national security forces and civil society organizations.

- **Tackle the element of mistrust:** to foster trust between civil society and security forces. Counter corruption.
- **Technical assistance:** invite CSO, media, or private sector representatives to national trainings and workshops delivered to national authorities to foster communication between CSO and Governments; develop specific training and activities for Non-governmental Stakeholders, especially media.
- **Building on existing institutional framework:** like UNODC National Rule of Law Roadmaps, which include civil society components.
- **Risk reduction:** filtering or vetting NGOs and other stakeholders to prevent any sort of external manipulation

2. How UNODC can promote, support more people-centered, human rights-based and gender sensitive approach.

- **Education and training:** in addition to the regular training and education on firearms risks and on de masculinisation of it that can be provided to the youth and women through their learning journey, UNODC could conduct awareness raising meeting with governments on the sociological and anthropological cause of the DBV and the recruitment by organised crime groups, gangs and terrorist (i.e. promoting equal access to education, jobs as an enabler against DBV and OC) .
- **Communication and awareness raising** to advocate for the domestication of international commitments and recommendations in international fora, and ensure accountability: the following cooperation could be envisaged: cooperation with grassroot associations and community radios to raise awareness of the issue, to engage population at ground level in e.g. surrender campaigns, knowledge on the justice system and everyone's rights to be able to report violations of them; cooperation also at larger level with the media, to reach a larger audience.
- **Justice for the victims and collateral victims:** Considering also the socio-economic impact and how that affects men and women differently, and design local programmes that reach them and respond to their needs. UNODC could also provide compensations. Assistance from states to have some special provisions on compensation and protection for victims. Counter corruption.
- **Research:** Collaborate with local NGOs and take advantage of the knowledge and research they do to be better informed of the root causes of firearms criminality, as well as the consequences. And work together to develop together this better understanding that may inform more adequate measures or programmes.

3. How can UNODC and its partner be more responsive to society needs and contexts specificities, including by tailoring it to diverse organised crime dynamics on the ground?

- **Promote government-civil society dialogue on firearms an interconnected threat:** Issue of security is often taboo and difficult to access for civil society sometimes because governments do not always accept dialogue with civil society.

- **Create regional desks:** in some communities, arms are part of the culture, therefore it would be interesting to talk to and share information to elderly authorities because they are often encouraging the use of small arms to accumulate a cache. Such links with the civil society is important because even the police cannot act and is attacked.
- **Look at root causes when talking about disarmament:** Address the issue of very young kids and teenagers having arms for drug trafficking. More than cultural factors, some communities would refuse to give up their arms because it is their only way to ensure security.
- **Consider regional dynamics:** In particular, the issue of monitoring and evaluating the protocol when neighbouring countries are not part of the protocol has been raised as gaps in the legislation are used.
- **Advocate** for a safe working environment for civil society to work effectively and be able to collect and share data as a precondition for an active civil society.