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Addressing Firearms Trafficking in the Context of Organized Crime and Terrorism – A Multipronged Approach

Organized Criminal Groups and Terrorists' Access to Firearms: Addressing
Firearms Trafficking in the Context of Organized Crime and Terrorism

Side event to the 27th session of the CCPCJ

16 May 2018, Vienna



- Framing the issue
- Addressing the threats at policy level
- Addressing the threats at programming level - A multipronged approach

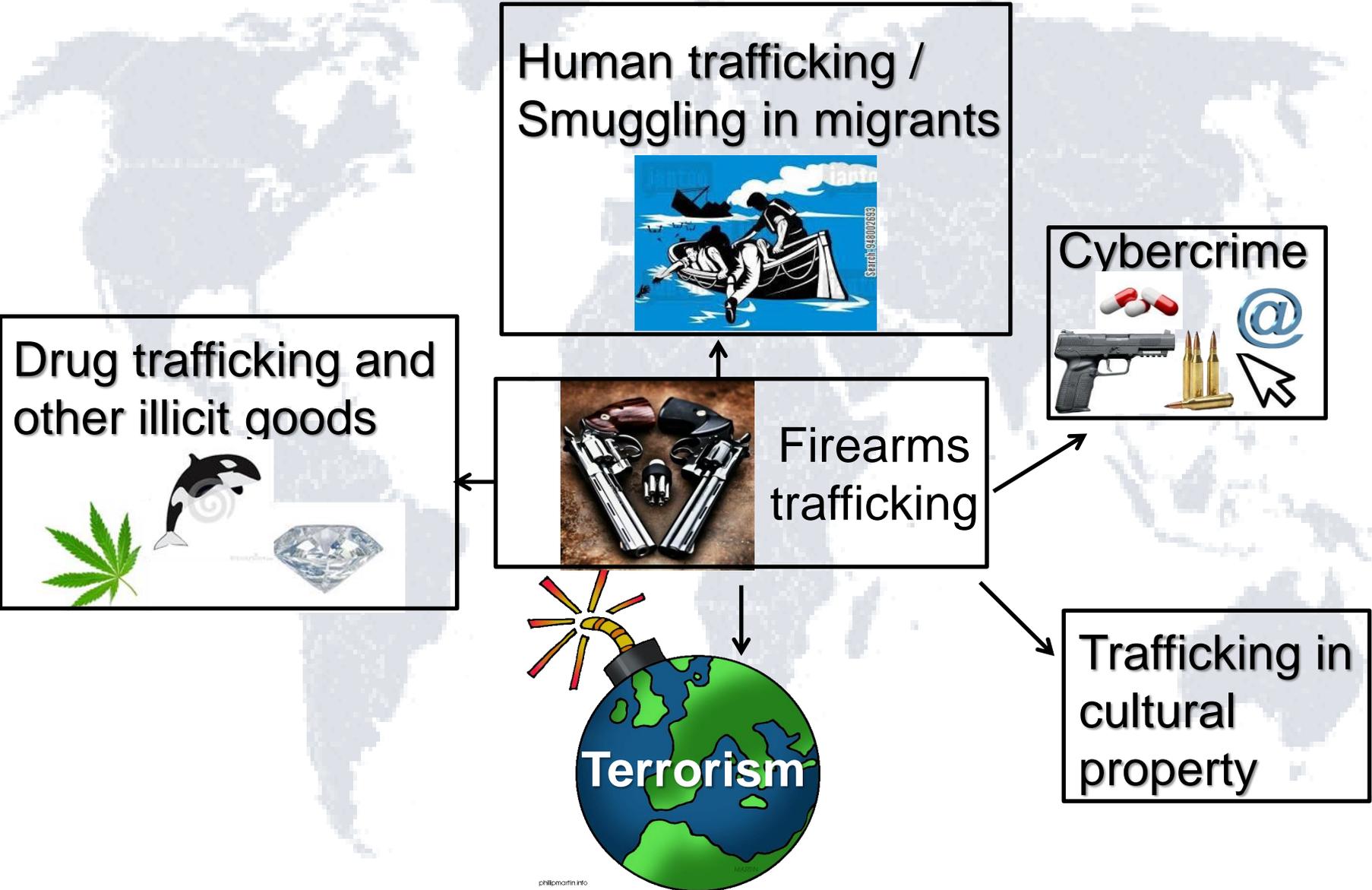


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Framing the issue

Illicit Firearms – A Crosscutting Element in Organized Crime and Terrorism





- **Procurement of illicit firearms**

Perpetrators exploit established networks and connections as well as trafficking channels and modalities

- **Level of violence**

Firearms increase the destructive power and violence level of organized criminal and terrorist groups

- **Financing of activities**

Organized criminal and terrorist groups increasingly engage in transnational organized criminal activities, including firearms trafficking, to finance their terrorist activities



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Hindrances to addressing Firearms as Crosscutting Element in Organized Crime and Terrorism

- **Lack of integrated approaches**

Illicit firearms trafficking and other forms of organized crime as well as terrorism are often addressed in isolation, both at the policy and the operational levels

- **Need for proactive investigations**

Weapons involved in organized criminal or terrorist acts are often treated as mere instrumentality to the main offence, and are not subject of criminal investigations



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Addressing the threats at policy level



UN Security Council Resolution 2370 (2017) on preventing terrorists from acquiring weapons

Recognizing the need for:

- Adoption of **adequate laws, regulations and administrative** procedures to exercise effective control over the **production, export, import, brokering, transit or retransfer** of SALW;
- **Physical security and stockpile management;**
- Implementation of **marking** and **tracing** procedures;
- Strengthening **law enforcement** and **border control** capacity;
- Collection and analysis of detailed **data** on illicit SALW trafficking to terrorists.

Target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals



16 PEACE, JUSTICE
AND STRONG
INSTITUTIONS



Target 16.4

By 2030, significantly reduce **illicit financial and arms flows**, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and **combat all forms of organized crime**

→ Combatting illicit financial and arms flows as essential and crosscutting elements of countering organized crime



Sixth session of the Working Group on Firearms, May 2018

The WG acknowledges that

- firearms trafficking is a **transnational threat oftentimes linked to organized crime, including drug trafficking, and terrorism;**
- the availability and accessibility of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition to these groups **increases their destructive power** and provides them with the material and financial means to **pursue their goals** and to **perpetuate their existence.**

Sixth session of the Working Group on Firearms, May 2018

The WG recommends that Member States

- Develop **integrated and holistic approaches, national strategies or action plans** to prevent and counter firearms trafficking, in particular in the context of transnational organized crime and terrorism;
- Establish **national legal frameworks** that address the interconnected challenges posed by illicit firearms trafficking, other forms of organized crime and terrorism;
- Consider establishing **multidisciplinary pools of prosecutors** in charge of organized crime, terrorism and arms trafficking, in order to better address these interconnected threats.



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Addressing the threats at programming level

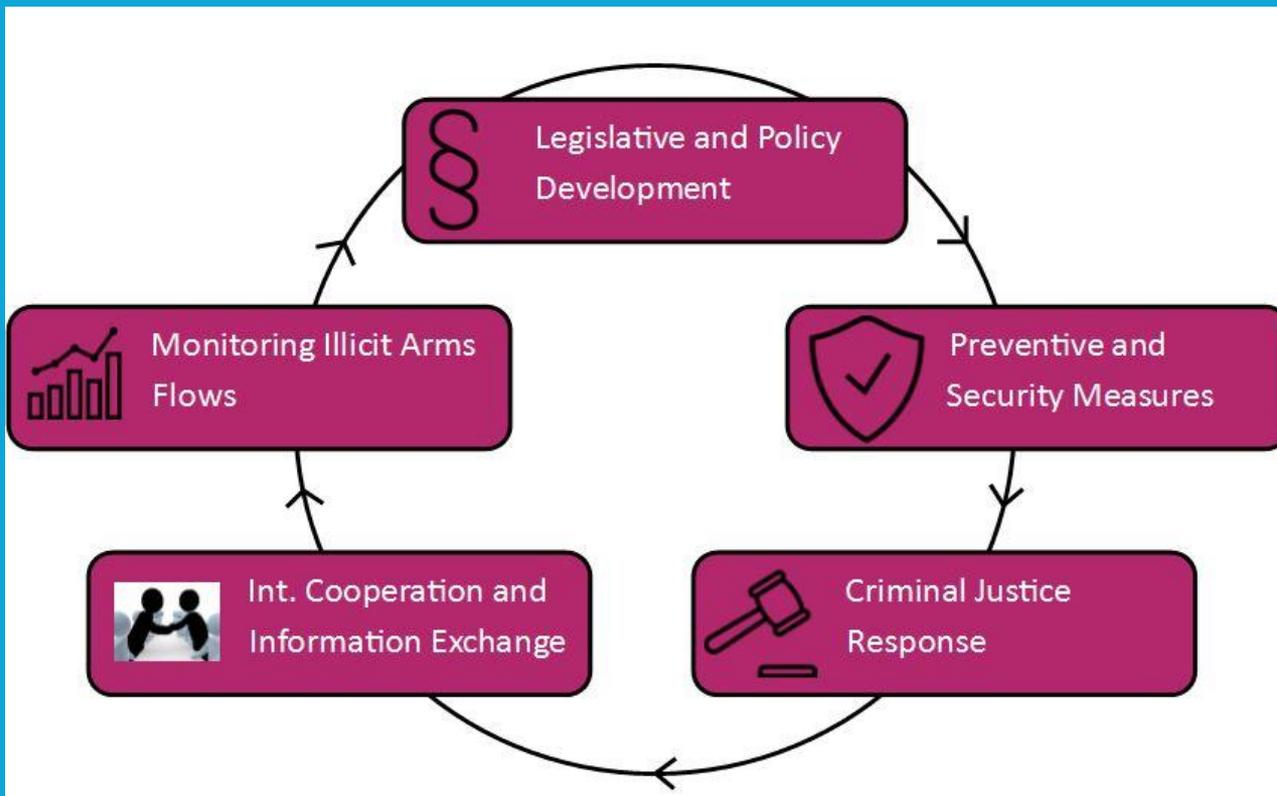
- A multipronged approach



Objective: To counter illicit arms trafficking and related serious and organized crime, and foster effective international cooperation and information exchange

Donors:         **UNSCAR**
United Nations Trust Facility
Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation

GFP follows an integrated approach to prevent & counter firearms trafficking



How to adapt this approach to address the specific links between firearms trafficking – organized crime – terrorism?



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Addressing these interconnected threats - At programming level

Need for an **integrated approach** that addresses:

- **Legislative measures and normative frameworks:** Implementation and adherence to firearms and terrorism instruments; Normative support to enhance risk assessments;
- **Preventive measures:** Prevent criminals and terrorist groups from acquiring firearms;
- **Law enforcement:** Enhance special investigative techniques and investigative strategies that focus on illicit firearms trafficking; Support to specialized units on terrorism and organized crimes on firearms investigations; Support the establishment of “Firearms Hubs”;



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Addressing these interconnected threats - At programming level

Need for an integrated approach that addresses:

- **International cooperation and information exchange:** Create platforms for exchanges, such as dedicated Community of practitioners meetings; Provide material support to cross border investigations; Develop a digest of organized crime and terrorism cases involving firearms
- **Data collection:** Ensuring that seizure data includes information on the criminal context and the potential links to terrorism or organized crime; Ensuring that data from terrorism or other serious crime databases are cross checked with firearms databases; Continued research and analysis on the subject.
- **Develop resilience to armed violence and radicalization:** Address the demand side for firearms – through (civic) education and awareness raising activities

Developing the multipronged approach

May 2017
The GFP participates in the **briefing to Member States** organized by CTED

May 2018
The **WG on Firearms** discusses preventing organized criminal and terrorist groups from acquiring firearms

September 2018 [tbc]
GFP and Wilton Park organize an **expert meeting** to support the development of a comprehensive strategy

April 2018
The Secretariat to the COP-UNTOC issues a **background paper** on preventing organized criminal and terrorist groups from acquiring firearms

May 2018
The **Illicit Arms Flows Questionnaire** requests data on the criminal context in which firearms are seized

2019 [tbc]
Launch of a **strategy and project on addressing firearms trafficking in the context of organized crime and terrorism**



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Thank you!

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