



IANSA Statement on Assistance Needs for NGOs working on SALW - 5 May 2023

UNODC Second Constructive Dialogue on Firearms – Vienna, 5 May 2023

For agenda item IV (*Collection of inputs and suggestions from participants and provision of information on relevant activities, including those related to meeting technical assistance needs*)

(ii) Assistance needs and non-governmental stakeholders' engagement/participation

Distinguished Chair, dear colleagues,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the International Action Network on Small Arms, IANSA.

As has been conveyed by my colleagues, IANSA is a global network of about 500 non-governmental organisations working to reduce the human suffering from armed violence. Not all those NGOs are active but with our small secretariat and leadership team, and our limited resources, IANSA members are regularly encouraged to undertake activities to promote public awareness of the problems of the illicit trade in SALW and to constructively engage with governments to provide viable solutions. IANSA has produced a range of materials for carrying out such work, including a "*Tool for Strategic Advocacy*" which explains our methodologies. These are available on the IANSA website.

By "constructive engagement" we mean the use of relevant facts and reasoned arguments to persuade those in authority to abide by their international obligations and commitments to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW. For example, IANSA is calling on its civil society members and with the support of the Parliamentary Forum network of MPs, to start mobilising to strengthen the UNPoA commitments of governments in the lead up to the *Fourth Review Conference on the UNPoA (RevCon4)*, which is set to take place 17-28 June 2024.

IANSA has shown that it is possible for civil society to be trained, guided and resourced at local, national and international levels to carry out comparative and complementary research and analysis of their government's policies and legislation, identifying the strengths that international instruments bring to national legislation and identifying gaps in the national control systems. It is vital to support local NGOs in countries and areas suffering from pervasive gun violence because they can often help with research done in the field.

Civil society organizations can play a significant role in facilitating the exchange of experiences, identifying and sharing lessons learned and best practices, and contributing within intersectoral spaces, to put relevant issues on the agenda at different levels and feeds public policies. Awareness-raising campaigns and processes aimed at different audiences that contribute to the understanding of the impacts of the trafficking of arms and ammunition and the consequences it generates for the state, society, the family and individuals, as well as the implications for investment in prevention or the expense in addressing the aftermath of the use of firearms.

Additionally, civil society organizations can greatly contribute in creating awareness and assisting in ending the negative effects of gun violence in both men and women. We encourage our members to use the "gender mainstreaming" methodology for this purpose. For example, on one hand, by acknowledging the experiences of young men as both victims and perpetrators of gun violence, and on the other by recognizing the experience of women and girls, mainly as victims of gun violence, and how this can have a negative effect on their ability to fulfil their potential.

I would like to thank you for the opportunity to address you.