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# Statement from IM Swedish Development Partner

To the UNTOC Review Mechanism:  
Constructive Dialogue 2023-05-05

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Dear distinguished Mr. Chairman Miguel Ángel Reves Moncayo, and distinguished representatives,

My name is Marianna Campaldini, I am Humanium Metal Fellow at IM Swedish Development Partner.

On behalf of IM, as part of civil society, I want to thank you for this opportunity to contribute and engage in this constructive dialogue.

Today, I wish to drive the attention towards gender, human rights, and victim-based approaches.

Rights holders, particularly youth between 15-30 years old, living in non-conflictual settings, and urban spaces, face every day great personal, and life-threatening, risks due to the presence of small arms and light weapons around them. In particular, youths are at highest risk of firearms homicides, especially in situations in which access to illegal firearms is sustaining the power of organized criminal groups, and governmental corruption. In addition, several remain injured, facing lifelong injuries. Impacting them, and their relatives.

Gun violence is a phenomenon that has deep roots in social and economic issues, that feed upon several different factors, ranging from poverty to toxic masculinities; in turn, these reflect in gendered-power dynamics within societies, and households.

In fact, women tend to be disproportionately impacted by gun violence: we, women, are survivors of gun violence; caretakers of survivors; and within certain territories, are often left alone, at will of organized criminal groups. Among and alongside us, there are also people from the LGBTIQ+ community, who also often face greater risks of gun violence throughout their lives.

Despite this, we noticed that these groups, including survivors of gun violence, are often underrepresented in international forums, and excluded from the discussion upon the implementation of disarmament policies, control of illicit firearms trafficking; and overall issues of violence; and too often the gendered and survivor-focused dimensions of gun violence are neglected in the discussions, and left aside.

IM is a civil society organization working to promote social justice, economic justice, and climate justice. It recognizes that there are intersectional connections between gun violence, gender-based violence, and human security. Therefore, in order to reduce illicit firearms flows, and proactively contribute to address the underlying root causes of these issues, IM introduced Humanium Metal to complement the efforts.

Humanium Metal is an initiative that combines a transformative economics perspective with an innovative business model, and transforms illegal firearms into peaceful goods, to promote disarmament, gender equality, and ensure

human security. With Humanium Metal, illegal seized firearms from government destruction programmes are transformed into every-day life commodities, at a commercial scale; while the income generated from the sales of the products is reinvested into the local communities affected by gun violence, to work on the root causes of violence, and provide independency to survivors.

The mission of IM and Humanium Metal aligns with UNTOC and Firearms Protocol, offering to countries and partners a possibility to rethink and redress gun violence, by mainstreaming gender equality and social justice approach, while breaking the underlying connection between poverty and gun violence.

As IM, we want to shed a light on the importance of considering gender equality in policy making processes regarding gun violence, and we hope that the gendered dimensions of illegal firearms manufacturing and trafficking are mainstreamed in the implementation of the firearms protocol; and it should be considered the possibility to nominate focal points from local Civil Societies, and governmental experts, for the countries in the review process.

IM would like to express its gratitude for the opportunity to speak at this constructive dialogue and encourage the inclusion of all relevant and interested civil societies actors in the future.