



# Statement from IM Swedish Development Partner

to the UNTOC Review Mechanism:  
Constructive Dialogue on 2022-05-06

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Dear Mister Chair, Madam Secretary and distinguished representatives,

My name is Jacqueline Duerre, the Program and Advocacy Lead at IM Swedish development Partner and I would like to thank you for this opportunity to address the meeting and the opportunity for civil society to contribute to this dialogue.

Small arms and light weapons pose the greatest risks to right-holders in non-conflict settings in which young men aged 15-29 are at highest risk to firearm homicides, especially in situations in which access to illegal firearms is sustaining the power of the organized criminal groups. In addition to being disproportionately victimized by gun violence, young men are often driven to gun violence by a variety of factors, including poverty and toxic masculinity, which associates stereotypes of manhood and strength with firearm possession.

In contrast, women are disproportionately impacted by gun violence in intimate partner relationship, are often caretakers of survivors of gun violence while also suffering at the hands of organized crime groups exercising territorial control. And people from the LGBTQ+ community are at a high risk of experiencing gun violence in many aspects of their life's. Despite this, women and the LGBTQ+ community are often underrepresented in international forums on disarmament and gendered dimensions of illegal arm flows and its negative impact are too often neglected.

In order to reduce the illegal arms flow while also working on the underlying root causes in the long-term, including gendered dimension, IM Swedish Development Partner has introduced [Humanium Metal](#) as a tool to complement existing efforts. With Humanium Metal, illegal seized firearms from government destruction programmes are transformed into peaceful commodities at

commercial scale. The income generated from the sale of the products is then re-invested into communities affected by gun violence, working on the root causes of violence.

The mission of Humanium Metal thus aligns with UNTOC and the Firearms Protocol, and offers partner countries and regions a way to redress gun violence by mainstreaming gender equality and a social justice approach in conjunction with breaking the underlying relationship between poverty and gun violence. It is based on this experience, that IM would like to highlight the **importance of gender equality** and hopes that the gendered dimension of illegal firearms manufacturing and trafficking, are mainstreamed in the implementation of the firearms protocol and is taken into consideration, for example, in the **nominations of focal points and governmental experts and as thematic area in the country 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 society actors in the future.**