

## Position Paper for the United Nations General Assembly

The topics presented before the General Assembly are: (1) Controlling and Limiting the Use and Impacts of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs); and (2) Addressing the Rampant Issue of Transnational Crime through Intergovernmental Cooperation. The United States of America is committed to creating feasible solutions in addressing issues of international peace and security through multilateral collaborative development.

## I. Controlling and Limiting the Use and Impacts of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs)

The illicit use, trafficking and proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) continue to be of critical concern to all Member States. According to the 2015 Annual Report of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), SALWs are responsible for over 761,000 deaths each year. It is in this context that the United Nations has adopted a Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (PoA), which takes measures to improve national SALW laws, specifically through the enhancement of import and export controls and the destruction of illegally-sold weapons. Apart from this, the United States of America recalls A/RES/70/29 and A/RES/70/49 adopted in December 2015, which highlight the widespread availability of SALWs especially in conflict zones.

The United States of America continues to be a global leader in efforts to mitigate the illicit trafficking and destabilizing accumulation of SALWs. As of September 2015, the State Department's Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (PM/WRA) has destroyed over 2,100,000 SALWs in 38 countries, 76% of which have been concentrated in conflict areas across the Middle East. In addition, the United States has worked collectively with other Member States and the UNODA to implement 7 benchmark projects against the illicit trafficking of SALWs, including the Establishment of Sub-Regional Registers and Databases on SALW Project in 2012 that allowed a trans-border network of information sharing between Member States to efficiently source and register sold weapons. The United States of America continues to invest in demilitarizing efforts in conflict zones, to which it has donated a sum-total of \$23,000,000 in 2015 and, along with the Small Arms Advisory Network, has released over 75 mandated intelligence reports about SALW safety culture and practices.

The United States of America emphasizes that a practical, integrated process is necessary in order to control the illicit use and proliferation of SALWs. As such, the United States urges Member States to reinforce all existing systems and practices for SALW trading which include, among others, the following: (1) strengthen restrictive regulations of arms traders through: (a) licensing and registration, so as to ensure that all active SALW brokers, manufacturers and traders are effectively monitored by respective authorities, and (b) implement a proper system at national and regional levels to mark, trace and keep information of SALWs; (2) enhance border security through counter-terrorism and counter-insurgency training, as well as the adoption of sub-regional trans-border customs, cooperation and networks for information sharing similar to the model of the Establishment of Sub-Regional Registers and Databases on SALW Project; (3) report respective intelligence to the Small Arms Advisory Network so that information can be readily available for all nations seeking to adopt modern practices which would contribute to the complete eradication of the illicit trade of SALWs. The United States of America calls upon the international community and the UNGA to utilize all instruments in order to control the illicit use and impacts of SALWs.

## II. Addressing the Rampant Issue of Transnational Crime through Intergovernmental Cooperation

The creation of the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, adopted by the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) as A/RES/55/25, is considered to be a major leap to address the crucial threats of transnational organized crime and its underlying repercussions to international peace and security. This benchmark treaty has been further enhanced with the adoption of the United Nations Standards and Norms in Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice (E/CN.15/2003/10 and E/CN.15/2003/10/Add.1) which enhances judiciary regimes at national and regional levels and recognizes transnational criminals as legitimate threats to a State's security affairs. However, 2015 reports of the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) indicate that activities of transnational organized crime still account for a sum-total of \$870 billion in 2015, 48% of which involves the sex and human trafficking industry as specified in the UNODC's 2015 Global Trafficking in Persons Report.

The United States of America underscores the dire need for robust intergovernmental action in order to completely eradicate the threat of transnational organized crime. The United States of America reiterates its full support on the continuous mitigation of transnational crime through concerted international efforts, to which it has, in accordance with the Andean Counterdrug Initiative (ACI), deployed over 10,000 counternarcotics operatives to eradicate foreign crops and gain information about drug traffickers. Moreover, The United States has uncovered money laundering schemes from 2010-2015 through its Financial Action Task Force (FATF), one of which sought to illicitly wire in \$5 billion coming from Asia and the South Americas. Being a leader of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO), the United States of America staunchly advocated for the inclusion of transnational organized crime in the 2014 NATO Rules of Engagement Framework and has directed 13 military operations to dismantle transnational criminal networks in the Middle East and African regions.

The United States of America underlines the necessity of preventing further casualties and strengthening both national and regional capacities. In doing so, the United States of America recommends the following: (1) implement applied criminal justice responses in accordance with the standards of A/RES/55/25, which will result in the proper identification and protection of victims and in the prosecution and conviction of traffickers, smugglers and other transnational criminals; (2) establish robust implementation mechanisms between regional blocs and the UNODC to: (a) pinpoint and dismantle all existing transnational criminal networks, and (b) form a sound multilateral cooperation framework through capacity building measures that include the exchange and deployment of experts on research and development (R&D), transnational crime trends and conflict management; (3) consider declaring all those involved in transnational organized crime as *hostis humanis generis* ("enemy of mankind"), which under customary international law is subsequent to enforcing the most severe form of judicial punishment. The United States of America is fully alarmed by the grave threats caused by transnational organized crime to international peace and security.