

#### **14. Follow-on mechanisms**

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Follow-on mechanisms may appear a somewhat dry procedural section in the Outcome Document. However their importance is greatly appreciated by the IANSA community. Given that this document will significantly shape the parameters and pace of action of further implementation in the coming years, IANSA places great emphasis on follow-on mechanisms.

We welcome the proposed references in the President's non-paper and in proposals from various States. Strengthening follow-on is essential for the effective and full implementation of the PoA. Today I will touch on six key concerns and offer suggestions from the IANSA network.

##### **1. Making better use of national reports**

Firstly, while most States have submitted at least one national report, the scope, quality, and regularity of reporting has varied significantly. Developing a set of criteria for drafting national reports could help identify new developments in the implementation process and more systematically detect the gaps and challenges States face.

The reporting format developed by UNIDIR, UNDP and UNDDA provides a framework for building on, as one example. In this regard, paragraph 2, section IV provides a good basis for this possibility.

##### **2. Maximising the effectiveness and mandate of future meetings of States on a biennial basis**

Secondly, the two reporting meetings to date have been a useful rallying point for attention to the issue, stimulating information exchange, and identifying some of the challenges of full implementation. While there is certainly room for improvement, these meetings have helped spur action by many States to review their policies and regulations, and in some cases, strengthen their actions to implement the PoA. For example, the IANSA Red Book shows many successful efforts by civil society and States after 2003, such as in Eastern Europe and Asia, to strengthen regulations and to establish national commissions to improve controls and reduce inappropriate access to small arms.

Advance analysis of national reports, and other relevant developments, would provide a clear framework for discussions at future meetings, and therefore make better use of time and resources. Suggestions to provide meetings of States on a biennial basis with a mandate to make recommendations (section IV. para 3) are a positive example of building on lessons learnt in the last five years. We welcome a clearer and stronger mandate for Action Implementation Meetings, and suggest that the Chair's report of each meeting make concrete recommendations for consideration by the General Assembly and future review meetings.

##### **3. Sustaining dialogue and action through an inter-sessional programme of work**

Thirdly, IANSA supports the idea of an informal, inter-sessional programme of work to enhance and complement the proposed implementation meetings and encourages such a process to be included in the Outcome Document. This would provide an opportunity to enhance implementation efforts and information exchange. IANSA supports the proposals put forth by the Netherlands and Canada and urge States to take these into consideration. The UN process is well placed to learn from other processes such as the Mine Ban Treaty implementation effort, which has demonstrated the value of a flexible inter-sessional programme of work.

Consideration should be given to a voluntary sponsorship programme as envisaged in section III (para 14), which is crucial for ensuring consistent appropriate levels of engagement from a range of States and civil society at any future meetings. The UNDP led sponsorship programme in preparation for this meeting provides an excellent model to replicate.

#### **4 Moving forward on more developed policy issues**

The fourth priority is moving forward on developed policy issues. Experience has demonstrated that commitments to moving forward on particular issues adopted by this assembly can serve as springboard to launch parallel negotiating tracks on discrete issues ripe for such discussions.

This has happened with relative success on the issue of marking and tracing. It is the view of IANSA that GGE's serve an important purpose if convened and conducted in a time efficient and outcome oriented manner. However, experience to date suggests there is considerable room for improvement in this regard.

Issues such as stockpile management, weapons collection and destruction enjoy widespread support and are ready for detailed progress in discussion frameworks that are flexible, transparent, and enjoy broad support. Issues such as approaches to improving end-user certificates, and strengthening national firearms control regimes are also leading contenders for further focused discussion given their significance to meeting the goal of eradicating the illicit trade in small arms in all its aspects.

#### **5. Coordinating assistance and cooperation**

A further priority, and indeed a striking lesson from the last five years of implementation efforts is that international assistance and cooperation can be better coordinated to be more focused and appropriate to ensure the best possible use of limited resources. Developing a transparent assistance and cooperation mechanism, either within the UN system or through a combination of formal and informal mechanisms among groups of interested States and organisations, would provide such a vehicle.

This could also be complemented with both consolidating and bolstering the various small arms trust funds in existence. The reference to 'matching resources with needs' in section III (para 12) provides a basis for those interested actors to move ahead in the coming years to meet this particular challenge.

#### **6. Generating further profile and attention to implementing the PoA**

Finally, keeping the focus on this complex issue is yet another challenge for the coming period. It will require creativity and commitment, and therefore a range of possibilities worthy of discussion. One such suggestion is the appointment of a UN Special Representative on Small Arms.

Such Special Representatives have proven successful for keeping momentum alive on other equally difficult and important issues. Such a person could monitor and analyse implementation and act as a clearinghouse for information. It could also help maintain lines of communication between relevant UN processes and institutions, including for example the Peace-Building Commission.

These six suggestions are offered both in a spirit of commitment to the vision contained within the PoA and to provide practical suggestions for your deliberations in the coming days.

The engagement of the hundreds of NGOs that make up the IAN SA network is hopefully evident, and we want to work together with States to support future implementation contributions based on an efficient and outcome oriented set of follow-on mechanisms.

Thank you.