UNODC input to the Secretary-General’s report on ”Women; disarmament; non proliferation and arms control”
GA resolution 67/48

UNODC mainstreams the promotion of the role of women in arms control, particularly in preventing and combatting the illicit trade in firearms, through the development of holistic programmes aimed at the implementation of the UN Firearms Protocol. Since 2011, UNODC is implementing the Global Firearms Project, which comprises a wide range of activities and areas of work, such as legislative development, training and capacity building, institutional and technical support in marking, record keeping, transfer controls and related fields, as well as strengthening the participation and oversight functions of civil society and parliamentarians, to prevent and combat the illicit trade in firearms. The Global Programme has targeted (inter alia) women criminal justice practitioners. The programme also includes dedicated activities aimed at strengthening the participation and oversight function of civil society organizations and parliamentarians, where, again, the role of women is underscored. UNODC promotes the role of women through involvement and active participation in the review and analysis of national firearms control legislation. UNODC provided the framework for their contributions to become part of a regional legislative harmonisation process by organising two regional conferences where both female criminal justice practitioners and civil society representatives participated, presented, and defended their contributions. UNODC is developing a comprehensive firearms curriculum where the gender perspective is a cross-cutting issue. The planned capacity building activities, based on this curriculum, focus on developing skills for the prevention, detection, investigation and prosecution of illicit trafficking in firearms, and target both female and male criminal justice practitioners.

UNODC organised, together with the OSCE and the Geneva Academy of International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights, an expert group meeting on Promoting the Application and Implementation of the 1990 Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms by Law Enforcement Officials in Vienna on 10-11 April 2013. There were 14 women amongst the experts and the meeting recommended that the review of implementation of the Basic Principles also look at the need for specific guidance on the use of force with regard to women.