



**UNODC**

United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**Countering Illicit Arms Trafficking and its  
Links to Terrorism and Other Serious Crime  
UNODC's Global Firearms Programme**

**« Preventing Terrorists from Acquiring Weapons »  
Briefing to Member States organized by CTED  
May 17, 2017, UNHQ, New York**



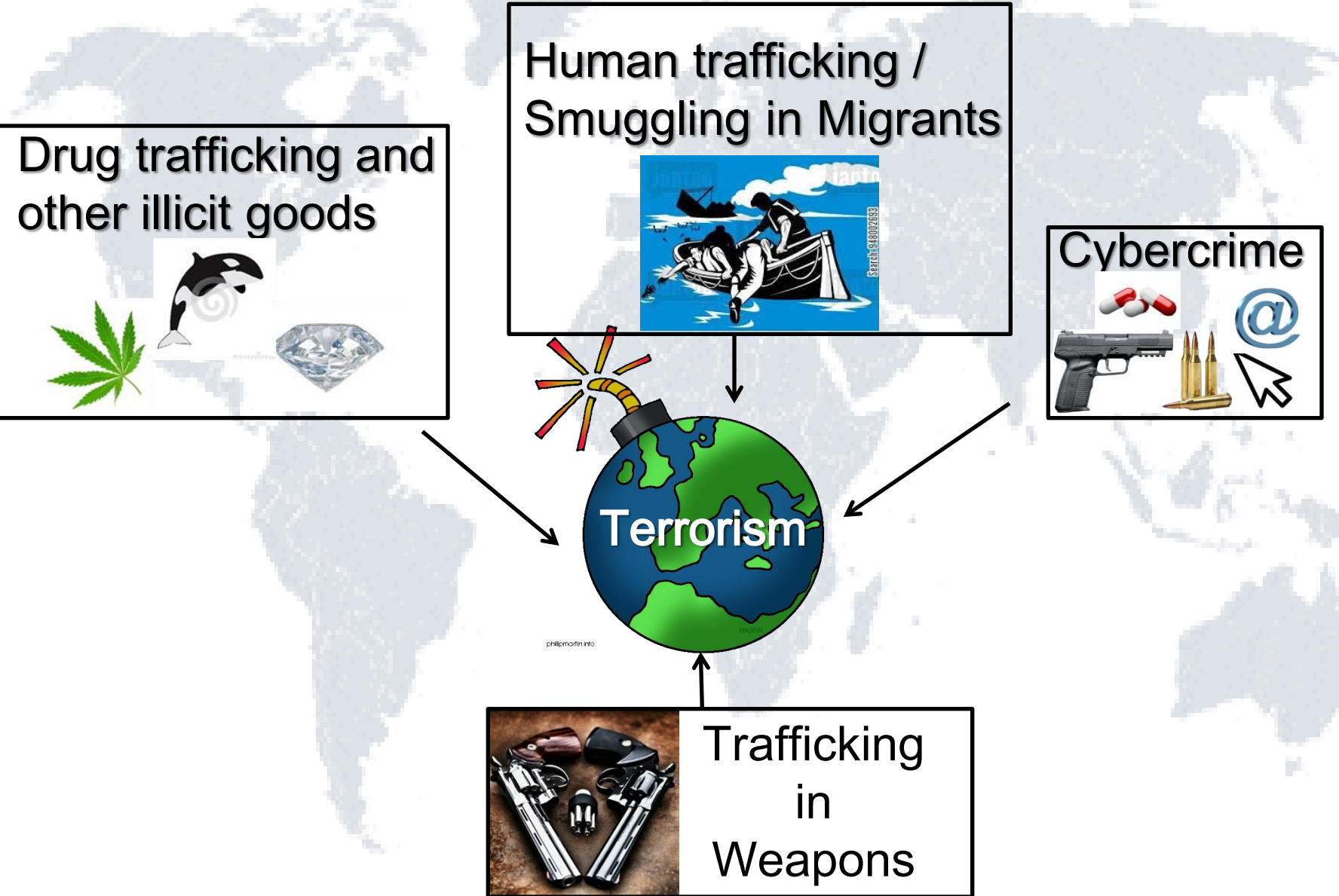
## GA resolution A/RES/55/25 adopting UNTOC (2000)

- “The General Assembly calls upon all States to recognize the links between transnational organized criminal activities and acts or terrorism, [...] and to apply the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime in combating all forms of criminal activity, as provided therein”

## SC Resolutions 2322 (2016)

- The resolution express “concern that in some cases terrorists or terrorist groups **profit from involvement in TOC**, and **benefit from transnational organized crime** in some regions, including from the trafficking of arms, persons, drugs, and artefacts, and from the illicit trade in natural resources [...], as well as from kidnapping for ransom and other crimes including extortion and bank robbery”

# Links between organized crime and terrorism





## Links between trafficking in weapons and terrorism

- Firearms used for Charlie Hebdo attack and attacks of November 2015 in France were reported to be originating from a disused arsenal, and bought on internet.
- Munich Shooting in July 2016, the shooter hacked a girl's Facebook account to lure people to McDonald's with an offer of free food. The reactivated pistol was bought on the darknet.
- In March 2017, the investigation of a terrorist organization in Bahrein resulted in the seizure of large quantities of explosives, detonators, grenades, firearms, automatic machine guns, guns, and ammunition.
- Experts say that most of the weapons used by the Islamic terror group Boko Haram are either stolen from military stocks in Nigeria, or purchased in the thriving Central African arms black market.



## Overall difficulties to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute these crimes

### Prevention

- **Weak preventive, regulatory and security measures in place** to control weapons and their movements (eg. Transfer controls; management of stocks, collection and disposal of weapons) to prevent their theft, loss, or diversion;
- Lack of comprehensive **registries and systematic marking**
- Rising of **artisanal / unlicensed manufacturing** of weapons

### Detection

- **Hidden activity, no regular flows**
- **Complex and dynamic**
- **Porosity of borders and weak border control capacity**
- **Insufficient specialised skills**
- **Use of modern technology and new trends and modalities of trafficking** (3D guns; trafficking in parts; use of parcel services; hidden / dark market places; illicit reactivation or converted arms>..



## Overall difficulties to prevent, detect, investigate and prosecute these crimes

### Investigation

- Lack of specialized skills to investigate complex cases of firearms trafficking and its links to terrorism
- Need for more proactive investigative approaches: focus not only on main offence but also to origin of the weapons
- Need to use and apply investigative techniques to new criminal environment
- Need for systematic recording and tracing of seized arms;
- Insufficient information exchange and coordination among LE agencies and prosecutors;

### Prosecution

- Weak and outdated legislative and institutional frameworks
- Lack of specialised skills of prosecutors notably on firearms crimes
- No or low (and late) cooperation responses in international tracing
- Insufficient judicial cooperation and bilateral agreements for prosecution and extradition for cases of arms trafficking



**Objective:** To counter illicit arms trafficking and related serious and organized crime, and foster effective international cooperation and information exchange.

## Global and Trans-regional dimension

Since 2011

- Latin America
- **West Africa & Sahel region**

As of 2017:

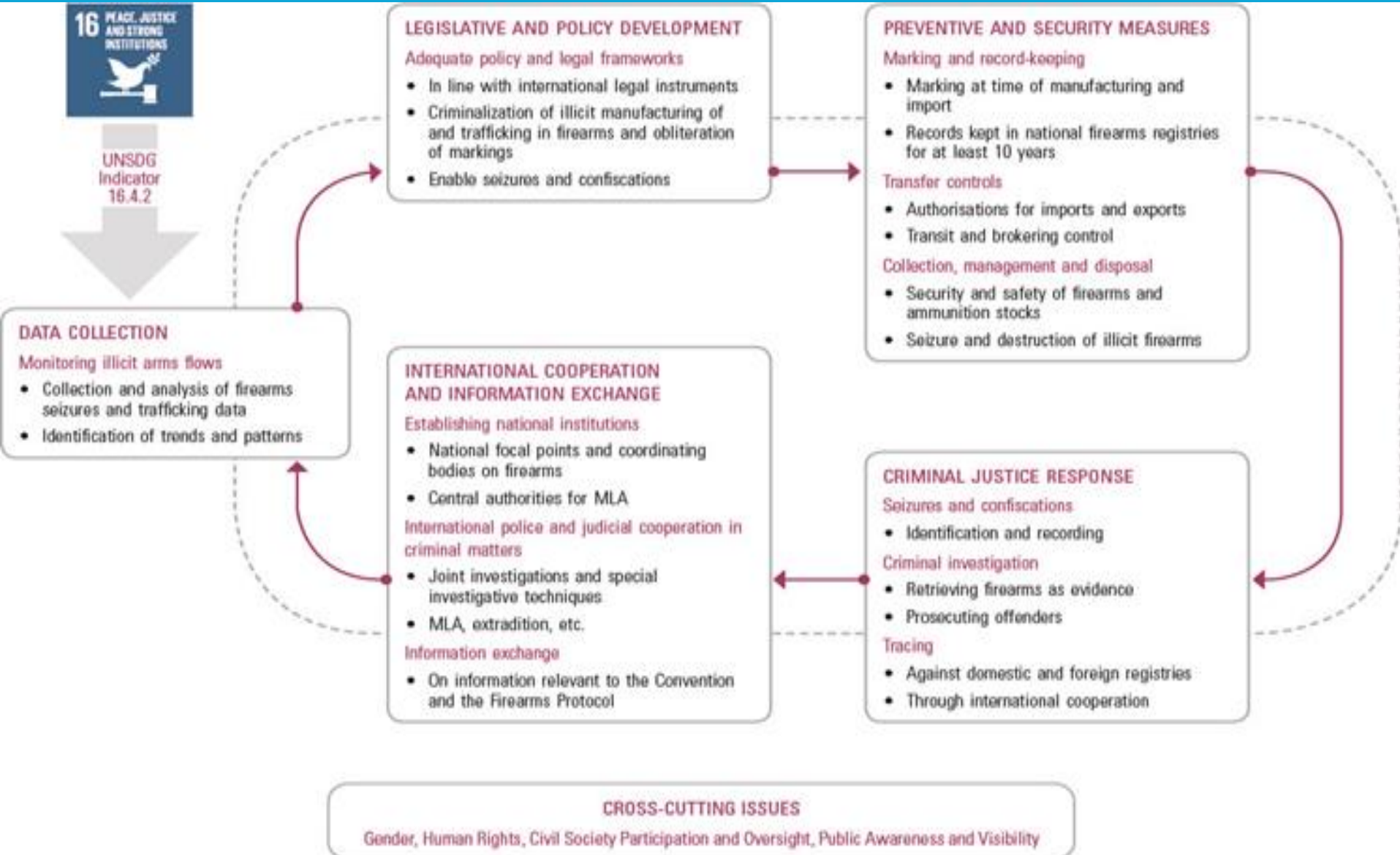
- **Western Balkans**
- **Sahel-Maghreb**
- Panama

## Donors





# Need for an integrated approach







## Pillar 1: Legislative and policy development

- Support ratification and implementation of UNTOC and Protocol
- Comprehensive assessment of legislative regime & gap analysis.
- Support to legal drafting committees and enactment of new laws and regulations
- Promotion of synergies between international and regional instruments (ATT, FP, PoA and regional ones)
- Development of legal tools (Model Law, Issue papers...)



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## Pillar 2: Implementation of Preventive and Security Measures

- Support for **marking** of firearms and effective **record keeping**
- Security and safety of firearms and ammunition **stocks**
- Support for firearms **collections** and **destruction** activities
- Support for **transfer controls**





## Pillar 3: Strengthening Criminal Justice Response

- Strengthen national capacity **to detect, investigate and prosecute firearms trafficking** and its links to terrorism and organized crime
- Need to promote more proactive investigative approaches, greater use of special **investigative techniques**, more operational cooperation and inter-disciplinary actions at law enforcement and judicial level
- Comprehensive training curriculum
- Delivery of **specialized training courses** with practical involvement of stakeholders; (soon also e-learning)



**Cooperation with other  
Global programmes  
and projects of  
UNODC**

- **TPB, GPML, GPC,  
CrimJust, judicial  
cooperation etc**



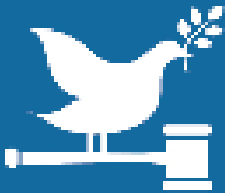
## Pillar 4: International cooperation and Information exchange

- GFP supports exchange of information and good practices among **Community of Firearms Experts and Criminal Justice Practitioners**
- Support cooperation through **regional and cross-regional meetings**, and/or along specific trafficking routes; including expert participation in **Working Group on Firearms** meetings;
- Promote international cooperation in tracing and criminal investigations (cooperation with partners eg. EMPACT and INTERPOL)
- Collect and develop a **digest of significant / interesting cases of firearms trafficking and good investigative / cooperation practices**



## 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

**16** PEACE, JUSTICE  
AND STRONG  
INSTITUTIONS



### GOAL 16

Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels



### Target Goal 16.4

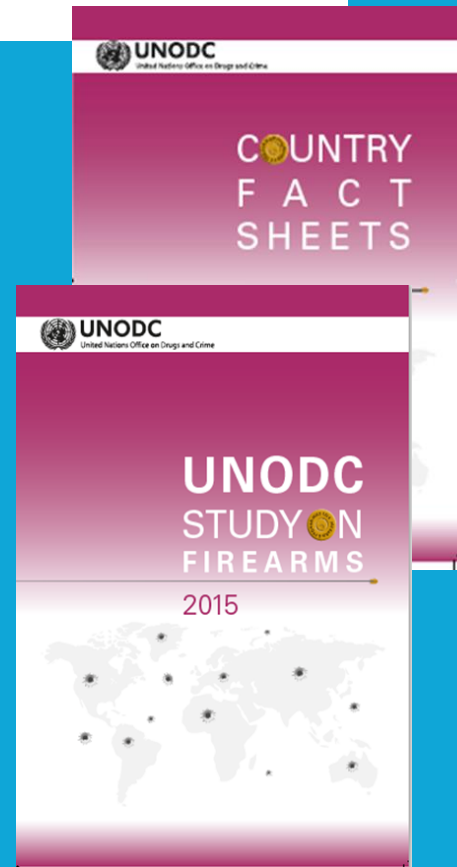
By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime

#### Refined Indicator 16.4.2

Proportion of **seized, found or surrendered** arms whose illicit origin or context has been **traced** or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments

## Pillar 5: Data Monitoring Illicit Arms Flows Collection and Analysis

- **2015 Study on firearms**
  - Developed in cooperation with Member States on transnational nature routes and modus operandi of firearms trafficking
  - First effort to collect & analyse standardized data on firearms seizure at global level (Period 2010 – 2013)
- **2016: UNODC mandate to collect on regular basis data on firearms**
  - Currently developing a questionnaire for an annual data collection on firearms starting in 2017
- **Monitoring SDG16.4: jointly UNODC /UNODA**
- EU-UNODC project to support global data collection work







## Joining efforts...

### Coordination with other internal programmes

- Cryptocurrency investigation training (GPML)
- Digital evidence and more (Cybercrime Programme)
- Terrorism Prevention Branch's actions for ratification and legislative implementation and incorporation, capacity building and legislative assistance,
- Border Control and Risk Assessment projects
- Etc.



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**Thank you!**

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