



Written submission on the CSP7 president's draft thematic paper

23 June 2021

The Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) appreciates the significant work involved in producing the draft working paper, "Strengthening efforts to eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and ensure efficient stockpile management."

The international community speaks often of there being synergy between the multilateral instruments relating to conventional arms, particularly those which include small arms and light weapons (SALW) and as such, diplomatic and practical efforts to identify and act on those synergies should be encouraged. There are multiple other actions found within the draft, including around mapping relevant overlapping commitments across diverse fora and instruments (p.3) and post-delivery verification activities (p.5) that would build on existing discussion and work being undertaken in Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) working groups.

The two UN Security Council resolutions on SALW (S/RES/2117, 2013 and S/RES/2220, 2015) include several references to, and recommendations for, improving effective stockpile management practices, including through the application of voluntary guidelines. These could also be noted in the list on page 3, given the legally binding nature of UNSC resolutions.

WILPF welcomes the addition of multiple references to relevant reports, decisions, and resolution language that describe in various ways the gendered impact of arms including those diverted from stockpiles; and identifies gender into practical small arms control work including stockpile management. There are a few minor factual errors in this section relating to the number and sequencing of Human Rights Council (HRC) resolutions on arms transfers and on firearms acquisition, and corresponding reports issued by the Office of the High Commissioner on Human Rights. As well, there are additional references to the impact of arms transfers on the human rights of women and girls found in other HRC resolutions¹ which could be cited in a

¹ These would be: *Impact of arms transfers on human rights in armed conflicts*, A/HRC/RES/24/35, 8 October 2013 ("Expresses its deep concern at the fact that arms transfers to those involved in armed conflicts may seriously undermine the human rights of civilians, especially women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and vulnerable groups;" and "Notes with alarm that such arms transfers can have a seriously negative impact on the human rights of women and girls, who may be disproportionately affected by the widespread availability of arms, as it may increase the risk of sexual and gender-based violence, and may also contribute to the recruitment and use of children in armed conflicts;"); *Human rights and the regulation of civilian acquisition, possession and use of firearms*, A/HRC/RES/26/1, 16 July 2014 ("Alarmed that hundreds of thousands of human beings of all ages around the world, including women and children, continue to have their human rights, in particular their right to life and security of person, negatively affected by the misuse, intentional or unintentional, of firearms, and that a significant number of such killings of women have occurred as a result of inter-partner violence;" and "Expresses its deep concern at the fact that hundreds of thousands of human beings of all ages around the world, including women and children, have lost their lives or suffered injuries and psychological harm by the misuse of firearms by civilians, thus having their human rights, in particular their right to life and security of person, negatively affected;"); *Human rights and the regulation of civilian acquisition, possession and use of firearms*, A/HRC/RES/29/10, 22 July 2015 ("Alarmed that hundreds of thousands of human beings of all ages around the world, including women and children, continue to have their human rights, in particular their right to life and security of person, negatively affected by the misuse, intentional or unintentional, of firearms, and that a significant number of such killings

footnote. Finally, point 4 in the section on “Possible outputs” neatly advances the recommendation found in paragraph 22c(ii) of the Final Report of the Fifth Conference of States Parties to the ATT. We suggest adding the words “on GBV prevention” into point four after the reference to the Treaty article and hope this action point will be retained by ATT states parties.

of women have occurred as a result of inter-partner violence;” and *Reiterates its deep concern* at the fact that hundreds of thousands of human beings of all ages around the world, including women and children, have lost their lives or suffered injuries and psychological harm by the misuse of firearms by civilians, thus having their human rights, in particular their right to life and security of person, negatively affected;); *Impact of arms transfers on human rights*, A/HRC/RES/32/12, 15 July 2016 (“Expresses its deep concern at the fact that arms transfers, particularly those that are illicit or unregulated, may seriously undermine the human rights of individuals, especially women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities and other vulnerable groups;” and “Notes with alarm that such arms transfers can have a seriously negative impact on the human rights of women and girls, who may be disproportionately affected by the widespread availability of arms, as it may increase the risk of sexual and gender-based violence, and of violence against children;”); *Human rights and the regulation of civilian acquisition, possession and use of firearms*, A/HRC/RES/38/10, 18 July 2018 (“*Alarmed* that hundreds of thousands of human beings of all ages around the world continue to have their human rights, in particular their right to life and security of person, negatively affected by the misuse, intentional or unintentional, of firearms, which has direct links to violence, including violence against women and children, and domestic violence;”)

General Recommendation 35 of the CEDAW Convention would also be relevant.

