

Preventing the proliferation of weapons from failed states into the global black market

- **Introduction**

Proliferation of weapons from failed and unstable states into the global black market has been an abiding issue for several decades now and the weapons thus obtained are responsible for the deaths of thousands of people every year.

Firearms trafficking affects all parts of the world and impacts on society in multiple ways. It is a major concern in the context of human security, and it is central in law enforcement efforts and activities. Firearms are instrumental in much violence, particularly homicide; they are often used by organized criminals and they support operations related to armed conflicts and terrorism. The most common form of weapons trafficking involves small arms and light weapons; however, the character of this trafficking can vary significantly in different geographical contexts and in relation to different weapons.¹

In recent years a large portion of the illicit weapons market moved to the online environment. This unregulated market mainly within the so-called "Dark Web" represents a profound threat for international security due to its global nature and challenge for law enforcing agencies.²

- **UN involvement and international cooperation**

Un address the issue of conventional weapons by adopting the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (PoA)* in 2001. In the instrument, governments agreed to improve national small arms regulations, to strengthen stockpile management, to ensure that weapons are properly and reliably marked, to improve cooperation in weapons tracing, and to engage in regional and international cooperation and assistance. Within the PoA framework, the General Assembly adopted the International Tracing Instrument (ITI)** in 2005, a global instrument for cooperation in weapons tracing. Together, both instruments constitute the normative framework on small arms and light weapons, which all UN Member States have agreed upon.³ Some other countries are also parties of Arms trade treaty (ATT)***.

For the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons is crucial Resolution 1540 (2004)**** adopted by the security council, that to take appropriate and effective actions against any threat to international peace and security caused by the proliferation of nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery

*more information about PoA: <https://smallarms.un-arm.org/international-assistanc>
**more information about ITI: <https://unidir.org/files/publication/pdfs>
***more information about ATT: <https://thearmstradetreaty.org/bureau.html?template>
****resolution 1540 (2004): <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/328/43/PDF/N0432843.pdf?OpenElement>

³UN office for disarmament affairs, Small arms and light weapons
<https://disarmament.unoda.org/convarms/salw/>

- **Questions to consider**

- Might your country be used as a source for weapons proliferation?
 - Does your country produce weapons?
 - How stable is your country?
 - How significant is corruption in the military?
- Does your country participate in international cooperation programs such as PoA or ATT?
- Is your country affected by the proliferation of weapons? If so, how?
- Does your country benefit from proliferation financially?
- Does your country benefit from destabilization of other countries caused by proliferation of weapons?
- How to prevent proliferation from failed and unstable states?

- **Useful links**

<https://disarmament.unoda.org/convarms/salw/>

<https://thearmstradetreaty.org/>

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/firearms-study.html>

<https://press.un.org/en/2016/sc12628.doc.htm>

<https://unidir.org/files/publication/pdfs/the-international-tracing-instrument-examining-options-to-support-operationalization-en-712.pdf>

[https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N23/287/99/PDF/N2328799.pdf?
OpenElement](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N23/287/99/PDF/N2328799.pdf?OpenElement)

[https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N16/442/57/PDF/N1644257.pdf?
OpenElement](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N16/442/57/PDF/N1644257.pdf?OpenElement)

[https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N01/507/20/PDF/N0150720.pdf?
OpenElement](https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N01/507/20/PDF/N0150720.pdf?OpenElement)

<https://press.un.org/en/2016/sc12628.doc.htm>

<https://front.un-arm.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/10/occasional-paper-32.pdf>
<https://smallarms.un-arm.org/international-assistance>

[https://unidir.org/files/publication/pdfs/the-international-tracing-instrument-examining-
options-to-support-operationalization-en-712.pdf](https://unidir.org/files/publication/pdfs/the-international-tracing-instrument-examining-options-to-support-operationalization-en-712.pdf)

<https://thearmstradetreaty.org/bureau.html?templateId=113738>

<https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/the-firearms-protocol.html>