Enhancing Solomon Islands’ Arms Control System

1-2 August
Honiara, Solomon Islands

OUTCOME DOCUMENT

Recognising the fundamental principles of the UN Charter

Emphasising the contribution of Solomon Islands as an active and engaged member of the United Nations

Concerned about the illicit manufacturing, transfer and circulation of small arms and light weapons, which poses a serious threat to peace, safety, security, stability and sustainable development.

Determined to reduce human suffering caused by the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects

Recognising that the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons in all its aspects sustains conflicts, exacerbates violence, undermines respect for international humanitarian law, and fuels crime

Recognising the link between small arms accumulation and UN Resolution 1325 on gender and security

Concerned by arms flows between bordering nations and acknowledging that this is a global and regional issue which should be addressed for strengthened cross border collaboration

Reaffirming our respect for and commitment to international law and the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations

Noting the challenges faced in curbing the flows of illicit small arms and light weapons

The workshop recommends the following actions:

I. UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (UNPoA)

(i) Review and address the legislative gaps in view of the provisions outlined under the UNPoA, with a particularly focus on harmonizing the Firearms and Ammunition Act with the Police Act and Customs and Excise Act, provisions on manufacturing and new legislation relating to brokering with the next 2-3 years;

(ii) Clearly identify, in a formal process, the Focal Point on the UNPoA and the ATT;

(iii) To inform the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs of the nominated focal point of contact and a liaison officer who will be responsible for coordinating issues relating to UNPoA;

(iv) Resolve to collectively address the identified capacity needs and challenges relating to UNPoA implementation and reporting through collaborative means;
(v) Agencies to assist the focal point for the Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade in the preparation of a UNPoA report;
(vi) Develop a defined reporting process to streamline Solomon Islands reporting process to the UN on the UNPoA and ATT, including nominating the focal point as responsible coordinating person to collect information from relevant agencies for timely reporting;
(vii) Review and identify further areas for capacity building, including requirements for technical and policy assistance such as legislative review, import procedures, brokering legislation, international cooperation, policy drafting and training on UNPoA standards and ATT provisions and on new technologies for marking, and tracing.

II. Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)

7. The workshop recommends the following:

(i) Continue with nation-wide consultations on the ATT involving all stakeholders;
(ii) Continued awareness raising at the national level on UNPoA and ATT;
(iii) Consider new legislation or legislative amendments in relation to the ATT;
(iv) Seek cabinet approval to take necessary steps to accede the Arms Trade Treaty;
(v) Engage with relevant stakeholders and partners, including civil society, on the UNPoA and ATT;
(vi) Create an ATT and UNPoA working committee comprised on the Ministry of Police, National Security and Correctional Services and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and External Trade, and those responsible for overseeing the review of the ATT process;
(vii) Sharing and create dialogue for NGO stakeholders;
(viii) Recommend participation of Solomon Islands at relevant UN international disarmament and arms control meetings such as the UNPoA Biennial Meeting and the annual Conference of States Parties for the Arms Trade Treaty.

Honiara, Solomon Island
August 2, 2016