Reporting Template for International and Regional Organizations
Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)
International Tracing Instrument
(2020 report covering implementation period of 2018-2019)

I. **Organization and focal point**

1. Organization name – **INTERPOL Firearms Programme**
   a. Address – 200 Quai Charles de Gaulle, 69006 Lyon, France
   b. Organizational email – iarms@interpol.int
   c. Website (available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic) – https://www.interpol.int/en/Crimes/Firearms-trafficking/

2. **SALW Focal Point**
   a. Name – Joaquim Rodrigues
   b. Title – Coordinator
   c. Section/Department – INTERPOL Firearms Programme
   d. Email – l.guimaraesrodrigues@interpol.int
   e. Telephone – +33(0)4 72 44 71 55

3. Applicable (sub)region – **Worldwide**

4. Member States in the (sub)region – **194 INTERPOL member countries**

5. General mandate / purpose of the organization – *Fighting crime through enhanced cooperation and innovation on police and security matters* to make the world a safer place.

II. **Regional Instruments**

6. Regional instrument(s) relevant for the implementation of the Programme of Action (if applicable)
   a. title of instrument(s)
   b. scope, objectives and main provisions of the instrument(s)
   c. mandated function of your organization under regional instrument(s)
   d. requirement for national reports under regional instrument(s)
   e. national focal points for your organization under regional instrument(s)
   f. regional action plan under regional instrument(s)

To address the proliferation of illicit arms flow, INTERPOL with the financial support of the European Union (EU), through the Instrument Contributing to Stability and Peace, launched in 2013 the INTERPOL illicit Arms Records and tracing Management System project (iARMS). The project has the following key objectives: to extend the application and enhance the functionality of iARMS, to cross-reference iARMS with other INTERPOL Policing Capabilities and to provide related capacity building, criminal intelligence and analytical services that will contribute to curbing the accumulation and trafficking of illicit firearms. The surge in the use of all functionalities of the database evidences the added value of the tool to law enforcement around the world in investigations against firearms trafficking. During the six (6) years of its existence, countries have uploaded more than 1.4 million records of lost and stolen firearms into iARMS and have queried the database more than 600,000 times. Furthermore, more than 60,000 trace requests were submitted through the iARMS database by member countries.

In order to facilitate the identification of recovered illicit firearms and ensure a more efficient tracing, the INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table (IFRT) was incorporated into iARMS. IFRT contains more than
164,000 individual firearms references and more than 52,000 firearms images at the disposal of law enforcement practitioners.

In addition, in 2009, INTERPOL launched the INTERPOL Ballistic Information Network (IBIN) in order to provide INTERPOL Member States \(^1\) with the possibility to cross-compare ballistic information internationally. IBIN allows its member countries to link various crime scenes in different countries to a single firearm and develop precious new investigative leads on firearms trafficking, illegal firearms sale and/or transfers that otherwise would remain unknown. Initially launched in six pilot countries, today IBIN, is in 35 member countries and has entered over 1.3 million records. There have been over 41,000 IBIN searches proven IBIN's value with 70 international confirmed hits linking a minimum of 140 criminal cases and generating many investigative leads.

III. **UN Programme of Action**

7. Mandates and roles relevant for the implementation of the Programme of Action

The INTERPOL Firearms Programme supports Member States in their firearms trafficking and firearms related crime investigation through tracing and ballistic comparison of recovered/seized firearms and ammunition. We also assist countries in implementing the INTERPOL Firearms Recovery protocol in order to harmonize and systematize the procedures applied following the recovery/seizure of a firearm. Furthermore, the INTERPOL Firearms Programme coordinates the implementation of regional law enforcement operations against firearms trafficking in collaboration with national law enforcement agencies.

8. Meetings
   a. participation in global UN PoA meetings

   The INTERPOL Firearms Programme participated in the UN PoA RevCon3 meeting in June 2018.

   b. regular meetings relevant to PoA process organized by your organization
      i. frequency and timing of meeting(s) (e.g. once a year in April) – N/A
      ii. timing of meetings aligned with the UN PoA process – N/A

9. Challenges related to implementation of the PoA for States of your (sub)region – N/A

10. Targets/goals for States of your (sub)region and/or your organization, which are consistent with PoA implementation – N/A

IV. **International assistance**

11. International assistance (including regional assistance)
   a. assistance provided to member states during the reporting period

Besides conducting intelligence-led law enforcement operations, the INTERPOL Firearms Programme assist member countries in the fight against firearms trafficking and the illicit trade of firearms through capacity building courses including modules on firearms trafficking investigations, firearms identification and firearms tracing through the use of the iARMS database.

During the reporting period (2018-2019), the INTERPOL Firearms Programme conducted the following training courses:

---

\(^1\) Member States equipped with the IBIS\(^\circ\) technology
During the reporting period (2018-2019), the INTERPOL Firearms Programme coordinated and participated in the following operations:

- Operation Trigger IV - MENA, 17-26 September 2018
- Operation Trigger V - Central America, 22-28 February 2019
- Operation Tayrona (led by Europol), 11-15 June 2019
- Joint Action Days Western Balkans (led by EMPACT Firearms), 4-8 September 2019
- Operation Triple Frontera, South America (Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay), 18-22 November 2019
- Operation KAFO, Western Africa (Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Mali), in cooperation with UNODC, 11-17 November 2019

During the reporting period, member states worldwide uploaded more than 587,000 records of lost and stolen firearms into the iARMS database. Countries performed more than 540,000 queries and submitted more than 18,800 international trace requests through the system. During the reporting period, the number of hits increased by 836 and more than 6,000 trace requests were answered through iARMS.

b. needs for international assistance - technical/financial contributions

Due to budget restrictions, the work of the INTERPOL Firearms Programme is focused on the Americas and Africa. Additional budget is required in order to be able to expand the scope of the work and to offer equal substantial assistance to member states worldwide.

V. Relevant issues

12. Gender-specific considerations
   c. policies/guidance documents for gender-specific actions by your organization
   d. gender-focused initiatives/projects implemented during the reporting period
   e. gender-mainstreaming of SALW projects implemented during the reporting period

INTERPOL Firearms Programme promotes the integration of gender perspectives in all of its projects. The Programme activities ensure, where possible, equal participation of law enforcement practitioners, both men and women, thus providing an equal opportunity for their professional development and career advancement.

13. Contributions to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
   f. SDG-related initiatives/projects implemented during the reporting period
   g. regional indicator(s)

As the only global database of illicit firearms, the consistent use of iARMS database by member countries promotes the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 16.4 which links development to peace and security. The indicator “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” can successfully be assessed through reports available in iARMS database.
Date: 29 April 2020

An MS-Word or PDF version of your completed 2020 report should be sent via e-mail to conventionalarms-unoda@un.org by 31 May 2020.