I. **Organization and focal point**

1. **Organization name**
   North Atlantic Treaty Organization
   a. **Address**
      Arms Control, Disarmament & Non-Proliferation Center
      Political Affairs and Security Policy Division
      NATO HQ
      1000 - Brussels, Belgium
   b. **Organizational email**
      acdc@hq.nato.int
   c. **Homepage (relevant website)**
      www.nato.int, https://salw.hq.nato.int/

2. **SALW Focal Point**
   a. Arms Control, Disarmament & Non-Proliferation Center
   b. Political Affairs and Security Policy Division
   c. acdc@hq.nato.int
   d. +3227074689

3. **Applicable (sub)region**
   North America and Europe

4. **Member States in the (sub)region**
   30 independent member countries

5. **General mandate / purpose of the organization**
   NATO’s purpose is to guarantee the freedom and security of its members through collective defense. It promotes democratic values and enables members to consult and cooperate on defense, security, and diplomacy-related issues to defend their populations, forces, and territories, and prevent war. NATO is committed to the peaceful resolution of disputes. If diplomatic efforts fail, it has the military power to undertake crisis-management operations. These are carried out under Article 5 of NATO’s founding Treaty – in full compliance with UN Article 51, alone or in cooperation with other countries and international organizations.

II. **Regional Instruments**
   NATO is not a custodian, depository or administrator of any global or regional small arms instruments or agreements.

6. **Regional instrument(s) relevant for the implementation of the Programme of Action (if applicable)**
   n/a
   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)

III. UN Programme of Action

7. Mandates and roles relevant for the implementation of the Programme of Action
In support of the implementation of the Programme of Action, the Alliance continues generating political and practical support among Allies and Partner nations to strengthen the control of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, and to combat their illicit trafficking through its partnership programs, including training and defence education, building integrity and defence education programs, Women, Peace and Security, and Counter Terrorism.

8. Meetings
a. participation in global UN PoA meetings
NATO has participated in UN PoA meetings, including its Review Conferences since the beginning of the PoA process.

b. regular meetings relevant to PoA process organized by your organization
NATO’s Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and other relevant political and expert committees meet regularly to discuss about small arms and light weapons related topics and projects, and the UN PoA process. Regular coordination with international organizations to discuss efforts that contribute to the implementation of the PoA.

i. frequency and timing of meeting(s) (e.g. once a year in April)
The EAPC meets three to four times a year.
Coordination with IOs every second month

ii. timing of meetings aligned with the UN PoA process
The EAPC meets to exchange information among Allies and Partner countries on UN PoA related issues and projects ahead of relevant UN PoA meetings.

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
NATO as an Alliance remains a committed partner in the support of the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons. The Alliance continues to generate political support among Allies and Partner nations on the importance of the implementation of the PoA as well as generates support in building local capacities in strengthening the control of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition, and combat their illicit trafficking. Through its partnership programs in regions such as the Western Balkans, Middle East North Africa, Central Asia, and the Caucasus, and in cooperation with international organizations, NATO has undertaken
comprehensive efforts to right size partners’ stocks of SALW and ammunition, to securely and safely store weapons and ammunition, to destroy excess, aged, and dangerous arms and ammunition and to clear contaminated areas from hazards including partially exploded military ammunition depots. NATO’s nation-specific mechanisms such as the Individual Partnership Action Plans and the Partnership for Peace (PfP) Planning and Review Processes (PARP) have been the means to ensure support for building relevant capacities. Furthermore, SALW related activities have been introduced into NATO’s programmes like Building Integrity, Defence Education, Women, Peace and Security, and Counter Terrorism to underline the importance of a cross-cutting and whole of government response to SALW challenges.

The Alliance also continues its work on comprehensive Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) process including a comprehensive set of integrated processes and activities to ensure sustainable and cost-effective management of arms and ammunition. The Alliance has also published relevant guidelines, such as the NATO guidelines on gender mainstreaming in small arms and light weapons activities, to give a better understanding of the implementation and use of gender mainstreaming in all aspects of SALW control, and for a more holistic and sustainable approach in NATO operations and projects. Furthermore, these guidelines provide clear and practical advice to Allies, Partner countries, policymakers and practitioners on how to undertaken small arms and light weapons activities with a gender perspective integrated from the outset.

NATO has developed over three hundred SALW related standards for Allies, which are also used to enhance partners’ capacities in ammunition lifecycle management. The standards have primarily supported Partnership for Peace, Mediterranean Dialogue and Partners Across the Globe and enabled them in achieving their pol-mil non-proliferation objectives. In the domain of ammunition accidents, NATO continues to update and further develop standards to improve partners’ capacities in developing effective ammunition accident investigation methodologies.

Within Kosovo, through NATO-led Kosovo Force (KFOR) mission mandated by UN, the Alliance’s support to Kosovo Police (KP) is limited to provision on a “case-by-case” basis explosive disposal of SALW&E involved in crime cases and cleared by court for final disposal. Final disposal of civil explosives which failed to meet technical safety requirements and technical assistance with combined disposal of Explosive Remnants of War (ERW) is also part of destruction support to Institutions in Kosovo (IiK) generally and to Kosovo Security Force (KSF) particularly. In 2019 through the process of monitoring the civil use of explosives, KFOR and IiK reached the goal of having “zero use” of electric detonators in legal civil explosives applications.

In the context of operations, NATO also supports relevant efforts. As part of UN-mandated efforts in Afghanistan, the Alliance joined efforts to support, train, and equip the Afghan National Army (ANA), and later the Afghan National Police (ANP). The focus was on the Afghan peace and reintegration process, and on disarming armed opposition groups and collecting their weapons on a smaller scale.

NATO conducts regular orientation and training courses on small arms and light weapons, ammunition assessment visits and DDR at the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany, and in Partner countries to provide students from Allies and Partner countries with
comprehensive knowledge on the significant substantive, political, and practical issues related to SALW and their ammunition.

b. needs for international assistance - technical/financial contributions
n/a

V. Relevant issues

12. Gender-specific considerations
NATO has acknowledged the importance of mainstreaming a gender perspective in the full spectrum of its activities, as established in the NATO/EAPC Action for the Implementation of the NATO/EAPC Policy on Women, Peace and Security. This system-wide commitment allows the organization to advance its comprehensive approach on SALW, and to renew its commitment to address not only legal and technical matters but also cultural, societal and functional issues.

c. policies/guidance documents for gender-specific actions by your organization
NATO developed concrete and practical guidelines to provide clear and comprehensive advice and guidance to Allies and Partner countries, practitioners, policymakers and other actors on the ground on the integration of gender perspectives when dealing with SALW issues. NATO’s guidelines for gender mainstreaming in SALW activities strengthen its leading role and ensures that the perspective of women, men, boys and girls are taken into consideration at all stages of SALW program cycle management.

d. gender-focused initiatives/projects implemented during the reporting period
The NATO guidelines for gender mainstreaming in SALW activities, developed in 2017, and revised in 2019, The guidelines were shared with the Allies and Partner countries as well as interested organizations. NATO is developing relevant training to make full use of the guidelines and to ensure a comprehensive inclusion of a gender mainstreaming perspective in future SALW activities while measuring successes and profiting from lessons learned.

e. gender-mainstreaming of SALW projects implemented during the reporting period
NATO’s annually held orientation courses on small arms and light weapons, ammunition assessment and DDR include focused sessions on gender mainstreaming and offers concrete training how to practically gender mainstream SALW activities.

13. Contributions to implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
f. SDG-related initiatives/projects implemented during the reporting period
n/a

g. regional indicator(s)
n/a

VI. Additional remarks
n/a

Date: 29 May 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.