



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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PARLIAMENTARY FORUM
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

World Future Council



GCSP
Geneva Centre for
Security Policy



Disarmament that saves lives

Curbing uncontrolled flows of Small Arms and Light Weapons: the role of parliaments

Webinar co-organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union, the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons (PFSALW), Parliamentarians for Nuclear Non-proliferation and Disarmament (PNND), the Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), and the World Future Council (WFC).

**The fourth international parliamentary event in follow-up to the publication of
*Assuring our Common Future***

Session 1 - Timed for Asia/Pacific: 10 March 2022 - 7:00 – 8:30 CET

Session 2 - Timed for the Americas/Europe/Africa: 10 March 2022 - 16.30 – 18:00 CET

Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) cause over 223,000 casualties yearly, three quarters of whom die in a non-conflict setting. In addition, uncontrolled SALW proliferation increases insecurity in impacted regions and has a rippling effect on every sector of society - including an estimated economic cost of violence in society of \$14 trillion per year (UNODA, 2020; IEP, 2021). SALW have been the subject of multiple IPU resolutions, calling on parliaments to actively engage in efforts to combat their proliferation and misuse. Along with partners at PFSALW and PNND, the IPU is committed to assisting parliamentarians to take meaningful steps towards ridding their societies of uncontrolled flows of weapons and their misuse.

In light of the contemporary challenges like the COVID-19 pandemic, military budgets increasing to historical heights, and growing tensions around the world - preventing and reducing SALW-related violence is more important than ever. Parliamentarians have a core responsibility towards their constituents' security, there is a plethora of good practices, policies, and treaties that can be used by parliamentarians to reduce the impact that uncontrolled arms flows have on society. The establishment of effective legislative frameworks to implement international commitments at national level, the voluntary participation in transparent networks of information sharing, as well as budget setting and efficient oversight of the broad security sector are few examples of how parliamentarians can become regional champions for the fight against armed violence. These different points of action will be explored in greater depth in this webinar.

Leaning on recommendations from the [small arms and light weapons chapter](#) of the joint publication "[Assuring our Common Future](#)", this webinar will further highlight the role, opportunities and challenges that parliamentarians have to combat the uncontrolled proliferation of SALW.

Objective of the event:

1. Increase the awareness of participants on uncontrolled small arms and light weapons flows, and the negative impacts they sustain in societies.
2. Highlight good parliamentary practices relating to the eradication of uncontrolled arms flows and reduction of military spending.
3. Showcase the initiatives of the IPU and the PFSALW, notably the tools and guidance that they developed, to assist parliamentarians with addressing various stages of uncontrolled SALW proliferation.

Language: The event will take place as an online webinar. Session 1 in English and Session 2 in English, Spanish, and French via simultaneous interpretation.

The registration links are:

10 March, Session 1: Timed for Asia/Pacific 7:00 - 8:30 CET (English):
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_HpCTFsbIQ5mWnm3H9TzT8g

10 March, Session 2: Timed for Africa, Europe and America: 16.30 - 18:00 CET (10:30 – 12:00am CST)
(English, French, and Spanish):
https://us02web.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_MiRyIGOtSKSBb9tmIG9qkw