



The International combat against the  
illicit trade in and misuse of small arms  
and light weapons

# **Switzerland's strategy 2013–2016**



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft  
Confédération suisse  
Confederazione Svizzera  
Confederaziun svizra



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# List of abbreviations and acronyms

ATT	Arms Trade Treaty
BMS	Biennial Meeting of States
COCOM	Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Strategic Export Controls
CSO	Civil Society Organizations
DAC	Development Assistance Committee
DCAF	Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces
DDPS	Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport
DDR	Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration
DIL	Directorate for International Law
DSP	Division for Security Policy
D&D	Destruction and Disposal
EAPC	Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council
EFE	European Firearms Experts
EAER	Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research
FDF	Federal Department of Finance
FDFA	Federal Department of Foreign Affairs
FDJP	Federal Department of Justice and Police
GBAV	Global Burden of Armed Violence
GD	Geneva Declaration
GGE	Group of Governmental Experts
GICHD	Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining
HSD	Human Security Division of the FDFA
IATG	International Ammunition Technical Guidelines
IDAG SALW	Inter-departmental Working Group on Small Arms and Light Weapons
IHEID	Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies
ISACS	International Small Arms Control Standards
ITI	International Tracing Instrument
MANPADS	Man-portable Air-Defence Systems
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MGE	Meeting of Governmental Experts
MSAG	Multinational Small Arms and Ammunition Group
NATO	North Atlantic Treaty Organization
NGO	Non-governmental Organisation
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OSCE	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe
PfP	NATO's Partnership for Peace
PSSM	Physical Security and Stockpile Management
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SAS	Small Arms Survey
SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation
SECO	State Secretariat for Economic Affairs
SSR	Security Sector Reform
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNIDIR	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
UNODA	United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs
UN PoA	United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons
UNTOC	United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime

# Preface



After six years of diplomatic negotiations and a public campaign lasting over 10 years, United Nations Member States voted in April 2013 by an overwhelming majority in favour of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The treaty enshrines in international law a set of clear rules for all transfers of conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons. Switzerland welcomes this treaty as an important step forward for international law. It sets new standards for the responsible transfer of all conventional weapons. We are convinced that the broad ratification and rapid implementation of the treaty by UN Member States will help to significantly reduce the impact on security and development resulting from the misuse of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition.

It has long been clear that the accumulation and proliferation of small arms and light weapons poses a threat to peace, security and stability in numerous regions. Throughout the world, deaths, injuries and untold human suffering are caused by the illicit trade in and the misuse of light weapons. And it is those regions which are the most vulnerable and those populations which are the most fragile that are the hardest hit by this problem. It is Switzerland's duty to work on their behalf by resolutely combating the proliferation of light weapons.

The challenges ahead remain huge. The uncontrolled circulation and proliferation of small arms and light weapons after the uprisings in North Africa remains, therefore, a major concern of Switzerland's peace policy in the region. Regions in Central- and South-America are also experiencing turmoil due to armed clashes between gangs struggling to control the drug trade or consolidate their spheres of influence.

Although levels of violence may be very different, the issues of armed violence and insecurity always affect a population in its entirety. About 500,000 people die as a result of armed violence in the world every year. The death of nine out of every ten victims occurs outside of a conflict setting, a fact which illustrates the need to take major action against the spread of small arms.

Being a neutral country with a long humanitarian tradition, Switzerland strives to facilitate peace efforts. Any serious peace policy must include efforts to resolve the problems of small arms and light weapons. Switzerland will thus continue to actively pursue its efforts in this domain.

Switzerland stands out as one of the first States to seriously take into consideration aspects of supply and demand of small arms. It has successfully initiated and supported various diplomatic initiatives against both the misuse of small arms and armed violence.

In 2014, Switzerland will take over the OSCE chairmanship. It will place strong emphasis on the combat against light arms in various geographical contexts.

The strategy outlined here describes Switzerland's objectives in the international combat against the illicit trade in and misuse of small arms and light weapons. Switzerland will engage on a normative as well as a programme level and will continue its support for policy and research activities. Without any doubt, this strategy for the period 2013 – 2016 will be a valuable contribution to efforts to diminish the human suffering, in particular that of women, caused by the misuse of small arms and light weapons.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Didier Burkhalter'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Didier Burkhalter  
Federal Councillor  
Head of the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs

# Introduction

Small arms and light weapons<sup>1</sup> (SALW) (see Box 1) are primarily designed and produced for the enforcement of security. They are used on a daily basis, in a variety of different contexts. They are easy to acquire, simple to use, portable, durable and easily concealable. Through the pervasiveness of illegal holdings and trafficking, they exacerbate human insecurity. The availability of SALW fuels cultures of violence and undermines the security of women and men and stability of States and entire regions. The trafficking and misuse of small arms and light weapons contributes to terrorism and organized crime. Easy access to these weapons is a major factor in triggering and spreading conflicts. There is a growing understanding that individual welfare and livelihood are jeopardized, and sustainable development opportunities are undermined by the impact of small arms and light weapons.

The international community has realized that the challenges posed by the unrestrained proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons, as well as the various problems of small arms and light weapons related violence worldwide, represent significant challenges, and has taken action in order to address them. For this purpose, during the past decades it developed a broad range of initiatives at the national, regional and global levels.

Mindful of the primary responsibility of States for preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in and misuse of small arms and light weapons, Switzerland did not remain indifferent to the threat posed by small arms. It joined the endeavours of many other countries, international organizations and civil society in the development and implementation of a broad spectrum of practical measures aimed at reducing the negative effects related to small arms and light weapons.

Given the traditional hallmarks of its foreign policy, Switzerland engages in peace-building, arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation activities. Switzerland is committed to promoting human security both in conflict and non-conflict settings, by protecting individual women, men and children against the effects of uncontrolled proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons. To this end, several federal departments coordinate their activities within the framework of Switzerland's commitment in this area.

The present strategy focuses on the problem at hand and spells out Switzerland's international action and contribution since the late 1990s. It constitutes a revised and updated version of the strategy adopted for the first time in 2008 for the period 2008–2011, and puts forward the strategy of action agreed at federal level for the period 2013–2016. It was defined by all stakeholders of the Swiss Federal Government, using the principles of whole of government and the 3C<sup>2</sup> approach, and involved consultation with important partner organisations.

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1 For the purpose of this strategy and unless otherwise stated, 'small arms' also includes light weapons.

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2 Coherent, co-ordinated and complementary approach.

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## Box 1: Definition of small arms and light weapon

Although there is no internationally agreed definition of small arms and light weapons, they are generally defined as meaning weapons that can be used by one or a maximum of three people.

The 1997 Report of the Panel of governmental Experts on Small Arms used guidelines for the definition of small arms and light weapons. The mandate assigned by the General Assembly to the Panel was to consider the types of small arms and light weapons actually being used in conflicts. Based on this broad requirement, the Panel established the following categories:

### a) Small arms:

- i) Revolvers and self-loading pistols;
- ii) Rifles and carbines;
- iii) Sub-machine-guns;
- iv) Assault rifles;
- v) Light machine-guns;

### b) Light weapons:

- i) Heavy machine-guns;
- ii) Hand-held under-barrel and mounted grenade launchers;
- iii) Portable anti-aircraft guns;
- iv) Portable anti-tank guns, recoilless rifles;
- v) Portable launchers of anti-tank missile and rocket systems;
- vi) Portable launchers of anti-aircraft missile systems;
- vii) Mortars of calibres of less than 100 mm;

### c) Ammunition and explosives:

- i) Cartridges (rounds) for small arms;
- ii) Shells and missiles for light weapons;
- iii) Mobile containers with missiles or shells for single-action anti-aircraft and anti-tank systems;
- iv) Anti-personnel and anti-tank hand grenades;
- v) Landmines<sup>3</sup>;
- vi) Explosives.

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<sup>3</sup> This strategy does not cover those weapons categories covered in the Mine Action Strategy of the Swiss Confederation 2012–2015 which is available here: [http://www.eda.admin.ch/etc/medialib/downloads/edazen/doc/publi/ppese.Par.0008.File.tmp/Humanitaere\\_Minenraeumung\\_Strategie\\_EN.pdf](http://www.eda.admin.ch/etc/medialib/downloads/edazen/doc/publi/ppese.Par.0008.File.tmp/Humanitaere_Minenraeumung_Strategie_EN.pdf)

# 1. Legal basis and other instruments of reference

Switzerland's international policy regarding the fight against the illicit trade in and misuse of small arms and light weapons is guided by the Swiss Federal Constitution, and is based on Swiss federal legislations and on a series of framework and strategic documents adopted by the Government and / or the Parliament. The principal documents are:

## 1.1 Swiss legislation

- Federal Constitution, article 54, para. 2
- Federal Act and Ordinance on Weapons, Weapons Accessories and Ammunitions
- Federal Act and Ordinance on War Material
- Federal Act and Ordinance on the Control of Goods Usable for Civilian and Military Purposes and Specific Military Goods
- Federal Act on Peacebuilding Measures and the Strengthening of Human Rights

## 1.2 Strategic national policy documents and international instruments

- Foreign Policy Report 2012
- Report on Security Policy (2010)
- Federal Council Report on Switzerland's Arms Control and Disarmament Policy 2012
- Report on the Armed Forces 2010
- Federal Council's Message to Parliament concerning the continuation of measures relating to civilian peacebuilding and the promotion of human rights (2012–2016)

In addition to these national documents, Switzerland's policy and action is also based on legally or politically binding international instruments [see chapter 2] that Switzerland has ratified, adopted or acceded to. The following list contains an overview of the most important international instruments, guidelines and best-practice documents that Switzerland is part of or has contributed to since the early 2000s:

- United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (2001)
- United Nations International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (2005)

- United Nations Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition (2001)
- United Nations International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) (2011)
- United Nations International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) (2012)
- Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Principles Governing Conventional Arms Transfers (1993)
- The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons (2000)
- The Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition (2003)
- OSCE Standard Elements of End-user Certificates and Verification Procedures for Small Arms and Light Weapons Exports (2004)
- OSCE Principles on the Control of Brokering in Small Arms and Light Weapons (2004)
- OSCE Principles of Export Controls of MANPADS (2004, updated 2008)
- OSCE Handbook of Best Practices on Small Arms and Light Weapons (2003)
- OSCE Handbook of Best Practices on Conventional Ammunition (2008)
- OSCE Best Practices to Prevent Destabilizing Transfers of Small Arms and Light Weapons through Air Transport (2008)
- The Wassenaar Arrangement Best Practice Guidelines for Exports of Small Arms and Light Weapons (2002)
- The Wassenaar Arrangement Best Practice Guidelines to Prevent Destabilizing Transfers of Small Arms and Light Weapons through Air Transport (2007)
- Council Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons.
- Directive 2008/51/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council of 21 May 2008 amending Council Directive 91/477/EEC on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons

At the national level, Switzerland has made the necessary amendments to its national legislation in order to be in line with the provisions of the aforementioned documents. It has implemented the provisions of the UN Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition (UN Firearms Protocol) and the UN International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable





#### Afghanistan, Herat

A former Taliban militant holds an AK 47 assault rifle during a weapons decommissioning ceremony organised by the Afghanistan Reconciliation Commission as part of a peace and reconciliation program in Herat Province.

© Hossein Fatemi / Panos

Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons. The main amendments focused on improving the tracing of weapons, marking procedures and creating more stringent penalties for the violation of national legislation. Further, Switzerland is fulfilling the provisions of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UN PoA) and has as well adopted the Wassenaar Arrangement Best Practices for Small Arms Exports. Switzerland has also strengthened its legislation on service weapons held by soldiers or those who have finished their military service. Additionally, procedures for the transfer of the service weapon to private property at the end of compulsory military service have been reinforced. Switzerland is committed to a transparent small arms policy and activities related to its small arms exports. The Small Arms Survey Transparency Barometer on Small Arms Exports - published annually - has identified Switzerland being the most transparent country on its small arms exports for five consecutive years (2009, 2010, 2011, 2012, and 2013). Switzerland is to date the only State that publishes a separate national small arms export report<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>4</sup> The reports are available here: <http://www.seco.admin.ch/themen/00513/00600/00614/02414/index.html?lang=de>

## 2. Challenges and responses

### 2.1 Illicit trade in and misuse of small arms: a major challenge

#### Goma, North Kivu

A Medecins Sans Frontieres (MSF) medical team working with local staff operate to remove bullets from the leg of a wounded female patient at Virunga Hospital. On 20 November 2012 a force, mainly made up of disaffected Tutsi soldiers (calling themselves M23) who deserted from the Congolese Army earlier in the year, marched into Goma causing many of its panicked inhabitants and the Government Army to flee. Staff at the hospital have been overwhelmed by many civilians caught in the crossfire.

© Sven Torfinn / Panos

Unquestionably, small arms play a legitimate role in the military as well as among law enforcement agencies and civilians. However, when they are deployed for illicit ends, their proliferation and misuse contribute to international terrorism and organized crime, as well as undermine respect for human rights, the rule of law, and international humanitarian law. Although they are not the sole cause of insecurity and armed violence, the proliferation and the uncontrolled access to small arms may trigger or exacerbate existing conflicts, make their peaceful resolution more difficult, and facilitate the recourse to violence for economic, social or political gain.

Small arms and light weapons are the weapons of choice for armed and security forces, but regrettably also for criminals and terrorists. An approximate 875 million small arms are in circulation worldwide.

About three quarter of them are owned by civilians<sup>5</sup>. They are traded globally through licit and illicit networks. It is estimated that the authorized international transfers of small arms, light weapons, their parts, accessories, and ammunition are worth at least USD 8.5 billion annually<sup>6</sup>. The value of the illicit trade in small arms has yet to be determined. The later is a challenging and probably also impossible estimation to make.

The damage inflicted by small arms falls into two broad categories: direct and indirect impact. Direct impacts caused by small arms availability and misuse of small arms include the number of deaths and injuries they account for. On average, an estimated 526'000 people died violently each year in the period 2004–2009<sup>7</sup>. This figure includes an estimated 55'000 direct conflict deaths, 396'000 intentional

5 Small Arms Survey 2007, p. 39

6 Small Arms Survey 2012, p. 242

7 Data from the Global Burden of Armed Violence 2011 (GBAV), Geneva Declaration Secretariat.



homicides, 54'000 "unintentional"<sup>8</sup> homicides, and 21'000 killings during legal interventions. Hence, far more people died violently in non-conflict settings than were killed in conflicts. The indirect impact of small arms is harder to quantify, but the effects are profound and wide-ranging. They include a broad array of indirect socio-economic impacts with health, security, education and economic aspects.

The illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is as intensive as it is lucrative and harmful. The social and human cost of the proliferation and misuse of small arms goes beyond its toll in dead and wounded. The threat of use and misuse of arms is a hindrance to the provision of humanitarian aid to civilians and a challenge to peace-keeping and security operations. It is the cause of psycho-social trauma among civilians and promotes a culture of violence, thus jeopardizing hopes of sustainable development.

## 2.2 Political response at the international and regional levels

In light of the changing nature of armed conflicts around the globe during the 1990s, the arms control community of the United Nations and the OSCE recognized the illicit trafficking of small arms as a grave threat to peace and security. This led to special policies and programs aimed at stemming the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons. Most of the initiatives launched focused on checking the availability of small arms, in economic terms known as the "supply" side. These measures are aimed at improving management of existing stockpiles, implementing export control systems, and stemming the flow of arms from the legitimate market into illicit channels.

The UN conference on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons held in 2001 resulted in the adoption of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UN PoA) by all UN Member States, and subsequently to a range of other international and regional instruments and activities. The UN PoA, although not a legally binding instrument, was the first global document on the subject matter. It provides the international community with a political basis to tackle the issue at the national, regional and international global levels (Box 2).

Already at the time of the adoption of the UN PoA, UN Member States identified the need for further work on tracing, which entails that measures be taken as regards marking, record keeping, and co-

operation. As a result, the designated UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) came to the conclusion that an instrument was both desirable and feasible, and recommended that it be negotiated under UN auspices. Switzerland chaired the negotiations of the UN Open-ended Working Group on Small Arms Tracing which led to the adoption by the UN General Assembly of the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons, also called the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) (Box 3), at the end of 2005. The document was adopted by consensus and is politically binding on all UN Member States.

The UN Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, also known as the Firearms Protocol, supplements the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime (UNTOC). It is one of three protocols that address the multiple dimensions of transnational organized crime and was adopted in 2001. It entered into force in 2005 and is the first and to date the only global instrument on small arms which is legally binding. The Firearms Protocol addresses the harmful effects of illicit manufacture and trafficking in firearms. Its purpose is to promote, facilitate and strengthen cooperation among States Parties in order to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition

The Wassenaar Arrangement (1995), one of four international export-control instruments, aims to contribute to international security and stability by combating the accumulation of conventional arms and dual-use goods used in their manufacture. Participating States agreed to control on a national basis the export of the items listed in the commonly established control lists and to exchange information on national policies as well as authorized or denied exports. Since small arms and light weapons, ammunition, and related components are included in the Arrangement's Munitions List, Best Practice Guidelines on the export of small arms and light weapons were adopted in 2002 and 2007 in order to strengthen the respective export controls.

For a number of years, a significant number of States as well as civil society have been campaigning for an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). Switzerland, together with other like-minded States, supported the inclusion of small arms and light weapons as well as conventional ammunition into the ATT. The Arms Trade Treaty was adopted by a large majority in the General Assembly on 2 April 2013. With this landmark treaty, a significant loophole of the international arms control system is closed. When the identified export criteria are respected by all Member States, lives will be saved and the immense human suffering caused by firearms around the world will be eased. These standards are needed more than ever in order

8 Unintentional homicides can be defined as unlawful, unjustifiable, and/or inexcusable killing of one human by another, under circumstances lacking premeditation, deliberation, and express or implied malice.

to promote responsible arms trade and curb illicit trafficking in arms.

The OSCE adopted its first document on SALW in 2000. This was supplemented by the Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition Document in 2003 and several additional principles and best practices. With this approach, the OSCE was able to establish a comprehensive tissue of politically binding instruments to tackle the illicit spread of SALW. In order to ensure that the documents are also applied in structurally weak countries, a strong and efficient assistance mechanism has been established through

which participating States can assist in destroying surplus SALW and improving their physical security and stockpile management (PSSM)<sup>9</sup>.

#### Libya, Tripoli

A rebel fighter chases Gaddafi loyalist snipers in the neighbourhood of Abu Salim. After a six month revolution, rebel forces finally managed to enter Tripoli and have taken control of Bab al-Aziziyah, Col Gaddafi's compound and residence. Few fighters loyal to Gaddafi remain in the city; it appears that Gaddafi's 42 year rule over Libya has ended. Gaddafi is currently on the run.

© William Daniels / Panos

<sup>9</sup> With reference to the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines the definition of PSSM includes two aspects:  
1. Physical security is the result of measures taken to prevent the theft of explosive ordnance, entry by persons into weapons and/or explosive storage areas, and acts of malfeasance, such as sabotage. 2. Stockpile management encompasses procedures and activities regarding safe and secure accounting, storage, transportation and handling of weapons, ammunition and explosives.



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## Box 2: The UN Programme of Action (UN PoA)

The Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, also known as the UN Programme of Action (UN PoA), provides the international community with a political basis to curb the phenomenon of illicit small arms trade at the national, regional and global level. It covers a broad spectrum of issues and activities.

The main commitments under the UN PoA are:

- To establish a National Coordination Agency responsible for policy guidance, research and monitoring efforts.
- To establish a national point of contact to coordinate efforts regarding small arms between States.
- To put in place laws, regulations and administrative procedures as well as sanctions for activities such as the illicit manufacture and illicit brokering.
- To apply appropriate and reliable marking on each small arm and light weapon.
- To establish adequate and detailed standards and procedures for the management and security of stockpiles, as well as for record-keeping.
- To recover and destroy confiscated, seized, and collected small arms unless another use has been officially authorized.
- To regularly review stockpiles held by armed forces, police, and other authorized bodies to identify surplus arms.
- To improve and standardize controls and regulations relating to the export, import and transfer of small arms.
- To develop and implement effective DDR programs including specific provisions for DDR programs in peace agreements and special needs for children.
- To strengthen States' abilities to cooperate in identifying and tracing small arms and light weapons.

Since its adoption, the UN PoA has been an important instrument in setting norms, gaining political commitment, and raising awareness of the problematic of small arms. The UN PoA has triggered a more coordinated approach and some changes in certain countries willing to do so. There is general agreement to continue the diplomatic process. However, Switzerland together with other countries interested in making the UN PoA a more efficient instrument, aims at improving the implementation assistance mechanisms.

The implementation of some provisions of the UN PoA often occurs through regional organizations or in combination with other treaties. This is because many of the UN PoA provisions are fairly general. The commitments under the UN PoA are supplemented through a wide range of documents concluded either during Biennial Meetings of States, at Meetings of Governmental Groups of Experts, as a result of regional initiatives to combat the illicit trade in small arms, or at the latest review conference. A good example provides the outcome document of the 2008 UN PoA Biennial Meeting of States. It recommends considering to integrate physical security and stockpile management (PSSM) activities in the mandates of international peace operations. This recommendation has been implemented in the latest Peace-Support Operation (PSO) mandates adopted by the UN Security Council (e.g. the mandate of United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilization Mission in Mali – UN Security Council Resolution 2100 of 25 April 2013). PSSM has hence also become part of the regular PSO-related activities.

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### Box 3: The International Tracing Instrument (ITI)

The International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons complements norms on small arms marking, record-keeping and tracing of the UN PoA, and the United Nations Protocol Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition. In contrast to the UN PoA, which does not define small arms and light weapons, the ITI offers a detailed definition of small arms and light weapons, incorporating language from the law enforcement and arms control communities. The main commitments under the ITI are:

- To designate one or more national points of contact to act as liaison(s) on all matter relating to the ITI.
- To submit national reports on their ITI implementation every two years.
- To mark, at production and on an exposed surface, small arms and light weapons.
- To ensure that essential or structural components of weapons have unique markings.
- To mark each imported arm.
- To ensure that State-held arms are duly marked.
- To ensure that when arms are transferred from government stockpiles to civilians for permanent, the transfer is recognizable by their marking.
- To uniquely mark, record and store, or destroy arms found or seized.
- To encourage manufacturers to develop measures against the removal or alteration of markings.
- To keep records of all weapons marked on national territory indefinitely or as long as possible.
- To keep manufacturing records for at least 30 years.
- To keep records of transfers for at least 20 years.
- To establish laws, regulations, and administrative procedures.

Conclusions similar to those for the UN PoA can be drawn for the impact of the ITI. The latter has been instrumental in raising awareness of the need for marking, record keeping and tracing activities. However, its effectiveness could be reinforced with more performing implementation mechanisms. The implementation of the ITI needs to be strengthened at all levels. If this is achieved, the provisions of the ITI will have particular significance in practical terms.

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While disarmament and arms control initiatives are important, acting only on the “supply” side will not resolve underlying causes of armed violence. In addition to controlling the availability of small arms, the sources of violence and reasons for weapons-use need to be understood and addressed.

The international community has become increasingly aware of the importance of a holistic approach that takes into account both supply and demand for small arms and light weapons. In 2008, for example, the UN GA voted the resolution A/63/23<sup>10</sup> with the aim to promote development while preventing and reducing armed violence. This resolution led to the UN SG Report<sup>11</sup> on promoting development through

the reduction and prevention of armed violence the following year. The report emphasises that the excessive accumulation of small arms plays a role in the onset, severity and duration of armed violence and its negative consequences. Likewise, the 2011 World Development Report highlights the complex relationships between criminality, underdevelopment and armed violence, as well as the challenges of breaking the vicious circle of violence. These documents illustrate that armed violence cannot be reduced without bringing together development, the rule of law, and social cohesion aspects. Switzerland and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in this respect launched a diplomatic initiative in 2006 called the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development (Box 4).

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10 <http://www.genevadeclaration.org/fileadmin/docs/UNGA-Resolution-AVD-2008-final-english.pdf>

11 <http://www.genevadeclaration.org/fileadmin/docs/UNSG-Report-Armed-Violence.pdf>

## 3. Vision

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In the long term, Switzerland envisions a world in which armed violence is significantly reduced and destabilising accumulations and irresponsible transfers of small arms and light weapons are prevented. This is tackled with concomitant benefits for peace and security at the national, regional and global level.

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Switzerland actively promotes the development and implementation of new and established arms control mechanisms as a contribution to conflict prevention, security, peace and stability, as well as to social and economic development. Switzerland works towards enhancing human security and reducing armed violence facilitated by the misuse and illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons, without impairing the security of States and of their citizens.

### **Mozambique, Maputo**

The Tree of Life was made by four Mozambican artists. It is a product of the Transforming Arms into Tools (TAE) project and is made from decommissioned weapons.

© David Rose / Panos



# 4. Strategic objectives

After giving consideration to the current challenges as well as to its expertise and its own lines of action, Switzerland will pursue the following three strategic objectives during the period 2013–2016:

1. **Normative framework:** Switzerland contributes to the universalisation, full implementation and consolidation of existing multilateral instruments and documents related to small arms and light weapons. It supports the further development and implementation of norms, standards and measures at the national, regional and global levels of existing small arms regimes and instruments, and will actively contribute to the development of new instruments, policies, and activities in the domain.
2. **Programming measures:** Switzerland reinforces national and international implementation of measures and instruments for conflict preven-

tion, security, peace and stability as well as for the enhancement of human security and the prevention and reduction of armed violence, including sexual and gender based violence. Hence, it will aim at addressing the causes of armed violence, and improving the living conditions of persons and populations affected by the illegal trade in and misuse of small arms and light weapons.

3. **Policy and research:** Switzerland promotes Geneva as a platform for political action and research on conventional disarmament and the integration of small arms and light weapons related issues into other relevant policy fields and operational activities. The development of instruments to measure and monitor the impact of small arms and light weapons as well as armed violence shall be supported.

## Great Britain, UK

A child's drawing displayed at Code 7 project in Brixton. The facility was established to encourage young people from different estates to work together and produce music. The drawing shows smoking people with guns and baseball bats shooting and threatening each other.

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# 5. Switzerland's commitment – action plan for 2013–2016

Switzerland has played an active role in combating the illicit trade in and misuse of small arms and light weapons since the emergence of the threat on the international scene. It will pursue the realization of its vision and strategic objectives as an integral part of its foreign, development and peace policy as well as its national security policy and policy on arms control and disarmament.

Over the coming four-year period, Switzerland is going to continue its commitment to reducing the illicit trade in and misuse of small arms, in order to counter their proliferation, to contribute to risk and threat reduction, and to stem the damage small arms cause particularly to international and regional stability and security, and to human security.

Switzerland will remain a solid and reliable partner to international and regional organizations as well as to civil society organizations dealing with the subject matter, and will make available its human and/or financial resources through various assistance and cooperation measures.

## 5.1 Political and multilateral commitment : developing and promoting the implementation and consolidation of existing and new international instruments

In the past, Switzerland has actively contributed to the development and adoption of multilateral instruments (such as the UN PoA, the ITI, and a variety of regional documents such as the OSCE Documents on Small Arms and Light Weapons or the Wassenaar Arrangement Best Practice Guidelines for Exports of SALW) that now provide a key normative and programmatic foundation for combating the illicit trade in small arms at the international, regional and national level.

The entire community of States now has the duty to ensure their full and proper implementation. However, in certain cases, the norms and measures set out in these instruments require further clarification or they need to be further developed and strengthened. Switzerland will, together with other States, work towards the implementation, strengthening and development of these instruments. In addition,

Control Arms  
Switzerland signing  
the ATT  
© Control Arms



Switzerland will contribute proactively to the establishment of new instruments, policies and other activities in the domain where they are lacking at this point. Hence Switzerland will:

- Continue to play a key role within the United Nations, international and regional organizations to develop and reinforce existing norms, as well as to see them implemented and, where appropriate, launch or support new initiatives. This includes in particular promoting and implementing the UN PoA, the ITI, the UN Register on Conventional Arms and the Firearms protocol.
- Continue during its three OSCE Troika years (2013 – 2015) including its OSCE Chairmanship (2014) to actively support PSSM activities in the priority regions of the chairmanship and to strengthen the SALW regimes in the framework of its flagship topic “Security Sector Governance”.
- Continue to concentrate its attention on arms and export control - in other words, on supply of SALW.
- Work towards the ratification and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty which sets legally binding international standards in arms trade.
- Continue to raise international awareness on the issue of the demand for SALW and ensure that it is paid sufficient attention, in order to develop a better understanding of the behaviour of those who have recourse to SALW for perpetrating crimes and committing violence.
- Promote and adopt cornerstone principles in the interest of reducing State fragility, conflict and armed violence, and their harmful effect on development.
- Remain committed to a rigorous discussion of the implication for development and security of fragile, conflict and armed-violence affected States. As a signatory State of notably the Geneva Declaration<sup>12</sup>, which aims at increasing the security of people, Switzerland links the aspects of security and development in its daily work. Hence, Switzerland will work together with like-minded States to include a “security for development” goal in the post-2015 Millennium Development Goals (MDG) framework.
- Promote gender issues in all relevant international instruments on the illicit proliferation of small arms and their misuse in accordance with UN Security Council Resolution 1325 (UN SCR 1325), on women peace and security and Switzerland’s National Action Plan 2013 – 2016 on UN SCR 1325.

## 5.2 Operational undertaking: reinforcing international and national capacity, cooperation and assistance

For many States which are particularly affected by small arms and light weapons, the implementation of national measures and international instruments to combat the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and their misuse, is challenging. These States require assistance in fulfilling their commitments and obligations. Assistance can be provided through dedicated multilateral instruments and on a bilateral basis for instance.

Since the late 1990s, Switzerland has financed a range of activities and projects and will also play an active role in the future by integrating the combat against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and their misuse into its regional and country cooperation strategies, and by deploying both its expertise as well as its financial and human resources. Activities include:

- Pursuing a two-pronged approach where Switzerland will continue supporting preventive and non-proliferation activities in exporting countries. At the same time, it will support stabilization measures and surplus destruction programmes in affected States.
- Providing in-kind and financial support for a variety of activities, including: awareness raising, training of institutions/capacity building, staff development, physical security and stockpile management (PSSM), collection, destruction and disposal (D&D) of SALW, and operational research. This includes providing expertise for capacity building (training and counselling) to requesting States in the aforementioned fields.
- Supporting the development of standards and best practices in the field of PSSM and D&D.
- Providing in-kind and financial support to arms control and disarmament projects such as those under the aegis of NATO Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) / Partnership for Peace (PfP) Trust Fund, OSCE Assistance Mechanism, and UN Projects.
- Supporting a broader arms control and disarmament role in peace support operations and sanctions-monitoring groups, as they should be a part of the international combat against the proliferation and misuse of SALW and their ammunition.
- Continuing to conduct, develop and support training courses for international experts in the field of PSSM in the framework of the Multi-national Small Arms and Ammunition Group (MSAG).
- Taking into account gender issues, especially in view of capacity building and the strengthening of women’s participation in the planning of disarmament, non-proliferation and arms control measures.

<sup>12</sup> This includes for example the *New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States* which is complementary to the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development.

- Supporting national authorities and civil society organisations (CSO), and carrying out collaborations with UN agencies as well as international and national CSOs.
- Reinforce the unique network of institutions involved in the SALW issue present in Geneva.
- Continue providing support to the Geneva Forum which contributes to international peace and security by building partnerships among and between governments, international organisations and NGOs on disarmament and arms control issues of common concern.

### **5.3 Support for action-oriented research, awareness-raising and reinforcement of the role of Geneva as a centre for political action and as a key platform in the combat against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and their misuse**

Geneva is one of the main international centres for disarmament issues. Therefore, Switzerland is committed to undertake even more in order to promote and strengthen the role Geneva plays in this area, including in the field of small arms and light weapons. With the presence of numerous international organisations, the city constitutes an ideal platform for furthering the dialogue on small arms and light weapons and finding innovative solutions to the many challenges small arms pose. In the same line, Switzerland will continue to support awareness-raising and action-oriented research relating to the combat against the illicit trade in and misuse of small arms. In particular, Switzerland will:

- Promote dialogue in Geneva on both the normative and operational dimensions of the small arms and light weapons issue and related questions. Hence, it will systematically bring together participants from diplomatic missions, international organisations, NGOs and specialised institutions in order to foster and promote the processes linked to small arms.
- Continue supporting the Small Arms Survey (SAS), an independent and transparent research programme based at the Graduate Institute of International and Development Studies (IHEID) in Geneva, and the Geneva Declaration Secretariat, which became principal international sources of public information on small arms and armed violence in all aspects. Both are renowned centres of competences for governments, policy makers, researchers and civil society actors.
- Strengthen its collaboration with the three Geneva Centres: Geneva Centre for Security Policy (GCSP), the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining (GICHD) and the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF).
- With the establishment of the “Maison de la Paix”, Switzerland provides a platform which offers a competence cluster for peace and security policy. Switzerland will ensure that research and policy on small arms and light weapons can benefit from this centre of excellence.
- Advocate and support research by academic institutions and civil society organisations on both the supply and the demand for small arms and the impact of armed violence in line with the tenets of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development (Box 4).

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## Box 4: The Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development

At a ministerial summit in 2006, 42 States adopted the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development and committed themselves to progress in efforts to achieve measurable reductions in armed violence by 2015. To date, 112 States have endorsed the Declaration and given their assurances of support to this diplomatic initiative. Since the adoption of the Geneva Declaration, Switzerland, at the head of a Core Group of 14 States, is guiding the implementation of the Geneva Declaration.

The Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development defines armed violence as follows: “Armed violence is the intentional use of illegitimate force (actual or threatened) with arms or explosives, against a person, group, community, or State that undermines people-centred security and/or sustainable development.”

Under the Declaration, signatories have agreed to strengthen their efforts to integrate armed violence reduction and conflict prevention programmes into national, regional, and multilateral development frameworks and strategies. The goal is the measurable reduction of armed violence by 2015 and the improvement of living conditions of affected populations. The initiative’s three main objectives are:

- To raise global awareness about the correlation between armed violence and development (advocacy, dissemination and coordination);
- To improve the international community’s collective ability to quantitatively demonstrate the types and extent of the linkages between armed violence and development (measurability and monitoring);
- To develop and carry out the commitments enshrined in The Geneva Declaration so as to make a measurable difference in the lives of individuals (programming).

National or transnational criminal organisations can thrive in situations of fragility, State weakness and economic marginalisation with disastrous impact on the lives of ordinary citizens. The Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development addresses the same challenges: Countries affected by fragility, conflict and armed violence are furthest from achieving the Millennium Development Goals.

The second review conference of the Geneva Declaration took place at ministerial level in Geneva on 31 October and 1 November 2011. In addition to the high-level segment, the focus of this important event was on questions also raised by the 2011 World Development Report, which highlights the complex relationships between criminality, underdevelopment and armed violence, as well as the challenges of breaking the vicious circle of violence. As a result, some States have produced national armed violence prevention and reduction strategies<sup>13</sup>.



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<sup>13</sup> These states are: France, Norway and Peru.

# 6. Guiding principles

Switzerland's policies and operational activities are guided by the following (general) principles, which find also application within the framework of this strategy. They are steered by Switzerland's and the recipient country's interests in areas including security policy, human rights, development and peace promotion:

1. The commitment or the progress made by a State towards ratification and/or implementation of the relevant international and/or regional instruments and documents related to small arms and light weapons, as well as the fight against corruption, are decisive factors for the provision of Swiss assistance and donations. Switzerland encourages enhanced domestic engagement and national ownership.
2. Humanitarian or socio-economic needs and the principle of "do no harm" as well as gender- and conflict sensitivity are important criteria. Switzerland will take into account respect for and promotion of human rights and an inclusive approach to the combat against the illicit trade in and misuse of small arms and light weapons with the direct involvement of the affected populations.
3. Switzerland focuses its support on areas in which it has a distinct and recognized expertise and may provide assistance for projects with a high level of local ownership and visibility.
4. Assistance will be provided for capacity building in which South-South as well as triangular co-operation is encouraged and supported, taking into account the local context and local priorities. Whenever possible, Switzerland engages in commitments of mid- and long-term duration.
5. The combat against the illicit trade in small arms as well as the prevention and reduction of armed violence continue to be undertaken in regions and countries where Switzerland is already active. Opportunities for cooperation and assistance with new countries, which are of particular interest to Switzerland, will be seized as they arise.
6. Exploiting possible synergies of small arms and light-weapons-related activities with development cooperation, humanitarian aid and peacebuilding activities is crucial. The combat against the illicit trade in and misuse of small arms and light weapons is an important element of development cooperation, peace promotion and human including women security.
7. Switzerland promotes the mainstreaming of gender issues in its policy and operational activities, in line with the UN Security Council Resolutions on women, peace and security: UN SCR 1325, 1889, 1820, 1888 and 1960.
8. Switzerland uses multilateral and bilateral instruments to promote the combat against the illicit trade in and misuse of small arms and light weapons as appropriate in a specific context. Its positions and actions are led by the relevant frameworks and/or action plans of third countries where they exist.

## Democratic republic of congo, Kinshasa

A policeman hands in a rifle to a specially adapted shipping container used to securely store weapons. The containers were developed by MAG (Mines Advisory Group) with the explicit function of reducing the leaching of small arms and light weapons from state controlled armories onto the black market.

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# 7. Implementing Switzerland's commitment

## 7.1 Distribution of labour tasks within the Swiss federal administration

According to a coherent, coordinated and complementary (3C) approach<sup>14</sup>, various governmental departments are working together to cumulate and build up their efforts towards a “whole of government approach” in Switzerland's combat against the illicit trade in and misuse of small arms and light weapons. In this respect, the Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA), the Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sports (DDPS), the Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER), the Federal Department of Justice and Police (FDJP) and the Federal Department of Finance (FDF), take on the following assignments in a coordinated manner (CHART 1):

### Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA)

The FDFA is the coordinating ministry for questions related to conventional arms control and disarmament in general, and questions of small arms and light weapons and armed violence more specifically. Five divisions within the ministry have clear, but distinct tasks:

*Human Security Division (HSD):* The Human Security Division is responsible for the coordination of all activities related to small arms and armed violence within the FDFA and the federal administration. Its activities are to undertake political and diplomatic initiatives to fight against illicit small arms and to counter adverse effects of armed violence on development, and to reform the security sector as well as promote DDR.

*Division for Security Policy (DSP):* While not primarily responsible for small arms and light weapons issues, the DSP supports the HSD with specific security-policy expertise and a broader arms control and disarmament perspective. In addition, DSP has the lead for General Assembly First Committee processes and in the NATO/EAPC framework.

*Directorate of International Law (DIL):* The Directorate of International Law provides support to the HSD in terms of legal expertise on international law.

*Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC):* in contexts where the security situation narrows down the space for development, SDC integrates measures to reduce and prevent armed violence in its programmes as part of its commitments to implement the New Deal on Engagement in Fragile States.

*The Swiss Missions to the UN in Geneva and New York and as well as the Swiss Representation to the UN and to the other International Organisations, along with the Swiss Delegation to the OSCE in Vienna:* Swiss missions promote and represent Swiss policies, and act as liaison agents for activities and policy development. Further, they actively take part in consultations and political processes.

As part of its task of implementing Switzerland's foreign policy, the FDFA's role in the present strategy is to perform the following principal activities:

- Functions as National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons.
- Chairs the inter-ministerial working group on small arms and light weapons (IDAG – SALW).
- Coordinates Swiss positions in international negotiations and conferences, and presence in or chairing of Swiss delegations (such as UN PoA Review Conferences, BMSs, MGEs, etc.).
- Develops - and supports development of - political initiatives aimed at improving human security, consolidating peace, and arms control and disarmament (such as the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development).
- Supports the adoption at the international level of legally binding instruments regulating the trade and control of SALW.
- Supports projects undertaken by international, regional and non-governmental organisations, as well as public and private partners.
- Supports research on all aspects of small arms and armed violence and includes the impact of small and light arms proliferation on violence in the domestic sphere.
- Supports among other things Disarmament, Demobilisation and Reintegration (DDR), PSSM, and Security Sector Reform (SSR) programmes.

<sup>14</sup> For more details visit: [http://www.3c-conference2009.ch/en/Home/The\\_Conference/Conference\\_Report](http://www.3c-conference2009.ch/en/Home/The_Conference/Conference_Report)

## **Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS)**

DDPS has the following responsibilities:

- Implements the interests of the DDPS and the Swiss Armed Forces in the field of arms control and disarmament.
- Provides expertise in international arms control and disarmament negotiations.
- Provides for the security and management of all SALW kept by the Swiss Armed Forces.
- Deploys experts of the Swiss Armed Forces in the field of PSSM and D&D.
- Manages, coordinates and engages experts from the Small Arms Experts Pool.
- Coordinates deployments with partner nations within the framework of the Multinational Small Arms and Ammunition Group (MSAG)
- Provides in-kind and financial support within established arms control and disarmament regimes (e.g. EAPC/PfP Trust Fund and OSCE Assistance Mechanism).
- Contributes to standards development and standard-setting in the field of PSSM and D&D.
- Develops, conducts and contributes to international PSSM and D&D training.
- Ensures that national activities and project do not contradict agreed initiatives of international and multilateral partners.

## **Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER)**

As the authority in charge of export controls, the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO), which is part of the EAER, has the following responsibilities:

- Implements the respective national legislation and international commitments on export controls.
- Publishes a report on Swiss exports of small arms and light weapons on an annual basis. Switzerland has been consecutively named the most transparent country by the Small Arms Survey.
- Continuously develops further high standards on the export control of small arms and light weapons in the context of the Wassenaar Arrangement.
- Engaged, with the assistance of the FDFA, DDPS, and FDJP, in the efforts to obtain a strong and robust legally binding ATT.

## **Federal Department of Justice and Police (FDJP)**

The Federal Police (fedpol) based within the FDJP has the following responsibilities:

- Manages the information platform ARMADA (on certain firearms licence holders).
- Implements the national law and national ordinance on weapons.
- Deals with all questions related to the circulation and detention of weapons and ammunition within Switzerland.
- Exchanges information with other States regarding technical aspects of weapons.
- Provides import licence authorisations for all imports to Switzerland.
- Establishes and develops the national weapons classification list.
- Represents Switzerland at European Firearms Experts (EFE) meetings.
- Functions as National Contact Point for tracing requests for small arms

## **Federal Department of Finance (FDF)**

The Federal Customs Administration within the FDF is the competent authority at the border to monitor compliance with the regulations of the various weapons acts on importation, exportation and transit of commercial goods. Together with the Swiss Border Guard (BG) as the armed and uniformed corps of the Federal Customs Administration (FCA), they have the following responsibilities:

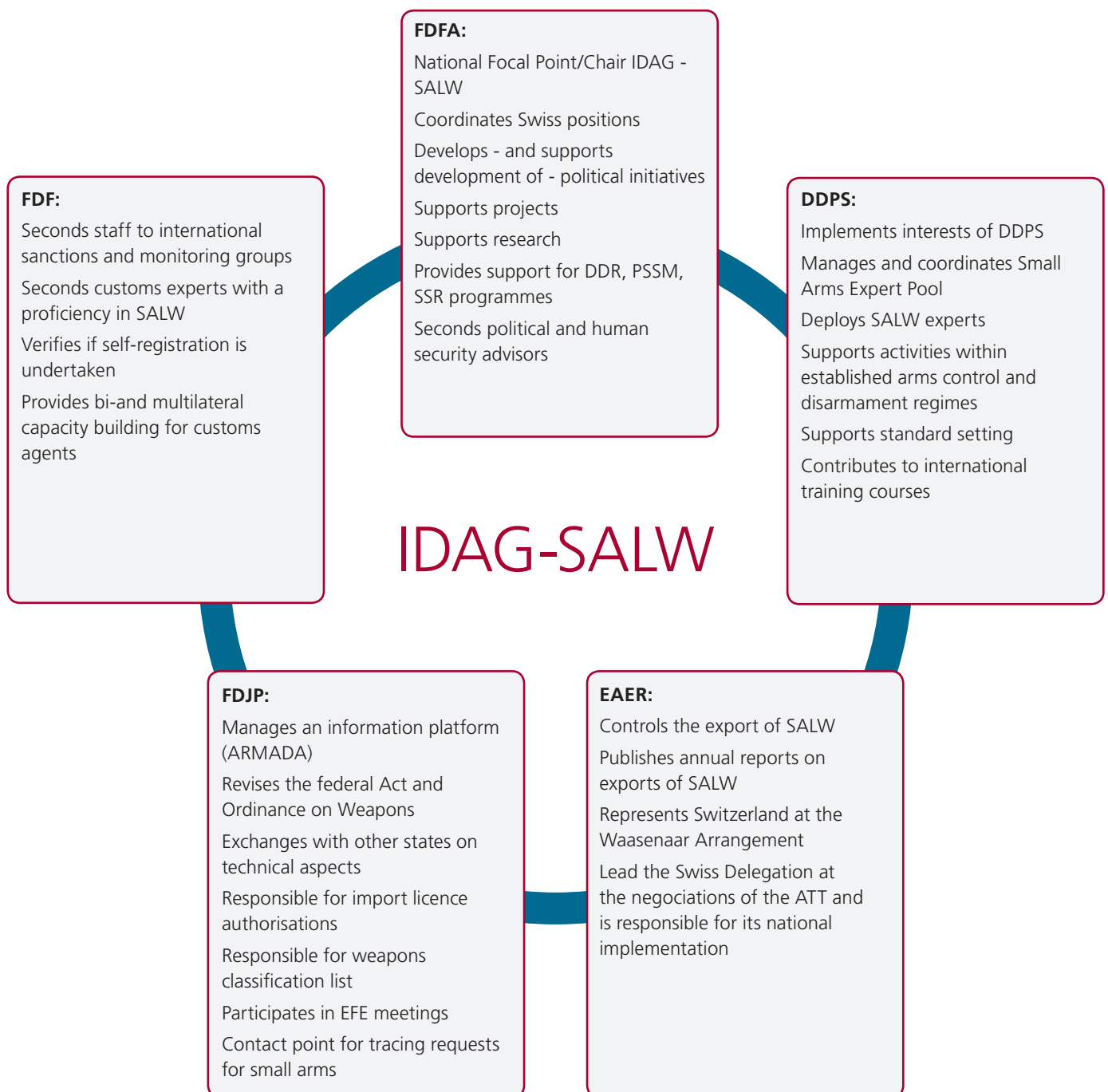
- Promote peace through the secondment of FCA staff to international organisations, mainly for embargo and sanctions monitoring groups.
- Second customs experts with a proficiency in small arms and light weapons who can provide expertise on border enforcement.
- Verify if the obligation for self-registration at the border of all weapons, parts of weapons, ammunition and parts of ammunition with the customs office on import, export, and transit is respected.
- Apply national and international law when carrying out checks.
- Bi- and multilateral capacity building for customs agents for efficient customs control which has an impact on the combat of illicit small arms and light weapons.
- Access the ARMADA data base, which is managed by the Federal Police, in order to fulfil their tasks and duties.
- Implement service orders.

## 7.2 Coordinating body

The FDFA's Human Security Division is tasked with the inter-ministerial coordination. Its objectives are to ensure a coherent, coordinated and complementary approach in terms of security, diplomacy and development, as regards Swiss policy on the combat against the illicit trade in and misuse of small arms and light weapons. It is also in this unit where Switzerland's national focal point on small arms is located.

The inter-ministerial working group established is charged with coordinating Switzerland's international policy on the subject matter. The group meets three to four times a year and encompasses all offices of the FDFA, DDPS, EAER, FDJP, and FDF involved in the combat against the illicit trade in and misuse of small arms at both the political as well as the operational level.

Figure 1: Inter-ministerial coordination





### **7.3 External partners of the federal administration**

As in the past, Switzerland will continue to work and cooperate with the United Nations, in particular with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), the United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS), as well as with the Organisation for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), as well as Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) and NATO's Partnership for Peace (PfP) program. Moreover, it will continue to support various research institutes, foremost among them the Small Arms Survey (SAS), and non-governmental organizations capable of contributing to the implementation of the present strategy in a competitive manner. As in the past, the Swiss Armed Forces will coordinate with partner nations within the framework of the Multinational Small Arms and Ammunition Group (MSAG) with the objective of optimising international contributions of military experts on SALW.

### **7.4 Resources**

To make a general estimate of financial resources committed by Switzerland in the fight against small arms and light weapons is a challenging task. On the one hand, projects are often multidimensional and not just about small arms and light weapons and, on the other hand, the number of human resources involved is difficult to estimate as employees perform multiple duties. Nevertheless, this section summarises provided resources during the previous period (2008 – 2011) and highlights resources to be deployed over the next four year period.

#### **Financial resources**

The FDFA (Human Security Division, HSD, and the Agency for Development a Cooperation, SDC) spent from 2008 – 2011 on average, approximately CHF 3.5 million per year in the fight against small arms and light weapons and armed violence. Since 2008, the contributions have steadily increased from CHF 2.9 million in 2008 to around CHF 4 million in 2011. The DDPS and the FDJP are also heavily involved in the fight against small arms and light weapons although their contribution is harder to quantify in monetary terms.

Over the next four year cycle, Switzerland plans to contribute some CHF 5.0 million per year for combating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and their misuse. This amount shall be spent on contributions to research, policy and operational activities. The DDPS will endeavour to quantitatively

and qualitatively increase its financial and in-kind contributions as established by the Report on Security Policy and the Report on the Armed Forces.

#### **Human resources**

Regarding human resources, it is difficult to make an accurate estimate as the tasks related to the fight against small arms and light weapons are only one part of all the tasks performed by employees of the different offices concerned. The FDFA has maintained an average of two full-time staff positions during the four years (2008-2011). It has also seconded two to three experts to international or regional organisations at different levels. This commitment shall remain unchanged in the foreseeable future. The political adviser at the Swiss Mission to the United Nations in Geneva and the military adviser at the Swiss Mission to the United Nations in New York and to the OSCE in Vienna, also deal with aspects of small arms and light weapons and armed violence.

The DDPS has a pool of experts on small arms and ammunition which it employs whenever needed. These experts are mostly federal employees working on all aspects of the life-cycle management of weapons and ammunition. They have a high level of expertise and are mobilized for short engagements on specific tasks. The pool was established in 2006 and currently includes some 50 experts. Additionally, the Federal Council decided in 2011 to deploy experts for PSSM within the Operation EUFOR ALTHEA in Bosnia and Herzegovina and in 2013 within the United Nations Multidimensional Integrated Stabilisation Mission in Mali (MINUSMA).

For the implementation of the International Tracing Instrument, it is proposed to create two new full-time positions within the FDJP (fedpol).

### **7.5 Controlling / Evaluation**

The inter-ministerial working group on small arms and light weapons is responsible for the implementation of the present strategy. The group will report by 2016 on the state of implementation of the strategy. The evaluation will have to assess political and operational progress along the lines laid out by this strategy, as well as the financial resources committed. The evaluation will also serve as a basis for the up-dating of the strategy for the subsequent period.

**This strategy has been approved by the following high-level government representatives:**

**Federal Department of Foreign Affairs (FDFA):**

Yves Rossier



Directorate of Political Affairs  
State Secretary

Martin Dahinden



Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC)  
Director

**Federal Department of Defence, Civil Protection and Sport (DDPS):**

Christian Catrina



Security Policy  
Chief

Peter Wanner



International Defence Relations  
Chief

**Federal Department of Economic Affairs, Education and Research (EAER):**

Erwin Bollinger



Bilateral Economic Relations  
Head a.i.

**Federal Department of Justice and Police (FDJP):**


Adrian Lobsiger



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Federal Customs Administration (FCA)  
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Sculpture of decommissioned and confiscated weapons taken from gang members in the army barracks of the Zona Militar 21 in Morelia.

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