

Regional instruments and organizations

Table 6 provides an overview of some of the main regional organizations and instruments relevant to small arms control. Instruments that are legally binding are highlighted in red.²⁷

Table 6 Selected regional instruments and organizations addressing small arms control

Region	Scope	Regional organization	Year	Instrument
Americas	Regional	Organization of American States	1997	Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials (CIFTA) (in force since 1998)
			1999	Inter-American Convention on Transparency in Conventional Weapons Acquisitions (in force since 2002)
			2003	Model Regulations for the Control of the International Movement of Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition (updated)
			2003	Amendments to the Model Regulations for the Control of the International Movement of Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition—Broker Regulations
			2005	Guidelines on Controls and Security of MANPADS
			2007	Model Legislation on the Marking and Tracing of Firearms
			2008	Proposed Model Legislation and Commentaries for Strengthening Controls at Export Points for Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials
			2008	Draft Model Legislation and Commentaries on Legislative Measures to Establish Criminal Offenses in Relation to the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials
	Sub-regional	Andean Community of Nations	2002	Andean Chart for Peace and Security and Limitation and Control of the Expenditure on Foreign Defense (Lima Commitment)
			2003	Andean Community Decision 552: Andean Plan to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (adopted 2003)
		Caribbean Community and Common Market (CARICOM)	2011	Declaration on Small Arms and Light Weapons

²⁷ For a comprehensive list of all relevant regional instruments and organizations, see Berman and Maze (2016).

Region	Scope	Regional organization	Year	Instrument
Americas (continued)	Sub-regional	Central American Integration System (SICA)	2005	Code of Conduct of Central American States on the Transfer of Arms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materiel (SICA Code of Conduct)
		Inter-American Drug Abuse Control Commission (CICAD)	1998	Model Regulations
		Southern Common Market (MERCOSUR)	1998	Common Market Council Decision No. 7/98: Joint Register Mechanism of Consumers and Sellers of Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials
			1998	Southern Cone Presidential Declaration on Combating the Illicit Manufacture and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition and Related Materials
			2004	Common Market Council Decision No. 15/04: Memorandum of Understanding for Information Exchange on the Manufacture and the Illicit Traffic of Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Other Related Materials
Africa	Regional	African Union (formerly the Organization of African Unity)	2000	Bamako Declaration on an African Common Position on the Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons
	Sub-regional	Eastern Africa Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (EAPCCO)		n/a
		Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)	2010	Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition, Parts and Components that Can Be Used for Their Manufacture, Repair or Assembly (also known as the Kinshasa Convention) (not yet in force)
		Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)	1998	Declaration of a Moratorium on Importation, Exportation and Manufacture of Light Weapons in West Africa (ECOWAS Moratorium) (renewed in 2001, 2004)
			2006	ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition and Other Related Materials (in force since 2009)
		Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States (RECSA) (formerly the Nairobi Secretariat)	2000	Nairobi Declaration on the Problem of the Proliferation of Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa
			2004	Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control, and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa (in force since 2006)
		Southern African Development Community (SADC)	2001	Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials in the SADC Region (SADC Protocol) (in force since 2004)
		Southern African Police Chiefs Cooperation Organisation (SARPCCO)		n/a

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Asia	Regional	Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)	1999	ASEAN Plan of Action to Combat Transnational Crime
			2002	ASEAN Work Programme to Implement the 1999 Plan of Action
Europe	Regional	European Union (EU)	1991	Council Directive of 18 June 1991 on control of the acquisition and possession of weapons (91/477/EEC) (updated and amended in 2008 by Directive 2008/51/EC of the European Parliament and of the Council)
			1998	EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports
			1998	Joint Action on the EU Contribution to Combating the Destabilising Accumulation and Spread of Small Arms and Light Weapons (repealed and replaced in 2002, with ammunition included in the scope)
			1999	EU Development Council Resolution on Small Arms
			2000	EU Plan of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects
			2003	EU Common Position 2003/468/CFSP on the Control of Arms Brokering (in force since 2003)
			2005	EU Strategy to Combat Illicit Accumulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and Their Ammunition
			2008	EU Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP Defining Common Rules Governing Control of Exports of Military Technology and Equipment (updated and replaced 1998 Code of Conduct; in force since 2008)
			2010	EU Council Decision 2010/765/CFSP on EU Action to Counter the Illicit Trade of Small Arms and Light Weapons by Air
			Euro-Atlantic	Sub-regional
South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC)		n/a		
Stability Pact for South Eastern Europe		n/a		
Euro-Atlantic	Regional	North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) —Euro-Atlantic Partnership Council (EAPC) —Partnership for Peace (PfP)	2009	EAPC Workshop on Combating Illicit Brokering in Small Arms and Light Weapons

Region	Scope	Regional organization	Year	Instrument
Euro-Atlantic (continued)	Regional	Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE) ²⁸	2000	OSCE Document on Small Arms and Light Weapons
			2003	OSCE Document on Stockpiles of Conventional Ammunition
			2003	OSCE Handbook of Best Practices on Small Arms and Light Weapons
			2004	OSCE Principles for Export Controls of MANPADS
			2004	OSCE Principles on the Control of Brokering in Small Arms and Light Weapons
			2004	OSCE Standard Elements of End-user Certificates and Verification Procedures for Small Arms and Light Weapons Exports
			2006	FSC Decision 7/06 Combatting the Illicit Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons by Air
			2008	OSCE Handbook of Best Practices on Conventional Ammunition
			2010	Plan of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons
Middle East and Northern Africa	Regional	League of Arab States (LAS)	2002	LAS Arab Model Law on Weapons, Ammunition, Explosives and Hazardous Material
			2004	LAS Resolution 6447: Arab Coordination for Combating the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons
			2006	LAS Resolution 6625: Arab Coordination for Combating the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons
Pacific	Regional	Oceania Customs Organisation (OCO)		n/a
		Pacific Islands Chiefs of Police (PICP) (formerly the South Pacific Chiefs of Police Conference (SPCPC))		n/a
		Pacific Islands Forum (PIF)	1992	Declaration by the South Pacific Forum on Law Enforcement Cooperation (Honiara Declaration)
			2000	Nadi Framework
			2003	Weapons Control Bill (updated in 2010)
			2009	Cairns Communiqué
Multilateral		Wassenaar Arrangement on Export Control for Conventional Arms and Dual-Use Goods and Technologies ²⁹	1996	Initial Elements (amended in 2001)
			2002	Best Practice Guidelines for Exports of Small Arms and Light Weapons (amended in 2007)
			2003	Elements for Export Controls of MANPADS (amended in 2007)

28 A complete list of relevant documents is available at OSCE (n.d.).

29 A complete list of relevant documents is available at WA (n.d.b).

Region	Scope	Regional organization	Year	Instrument
Multilateral (continued)			2003	Elements for Effective Legislation on Arms Brokering
			2007	Best Practices to Prevent Destabilising Transfers of Small Arms and Light Weapons through Air Transport
			2011	Best Practice Guidelines on Subsequent Transfer (Re-export) Controls for Conventional Weapons Systems contained in Appendix 3 to the Wassenaar Arrangement Initial Elements
			2011	Elements for Controlling Transportation of Conventional Arms between Third Countries

Relationships among organizations

Regional initiatives have generally responded to regional needs while seeking to complement established international instruments. Many identify their relationships to the Firearms Protocol, ITI, or PoA through preambular language; others continue to declare their support for certain international instruments or processes, such as ASEAN and the Pacific Islands Forum. At the same time, the PoA and other international processes are responsive to—and, to some extent, seek to explore—synergies with regional small arms processes.

Many regional instruments address the same issues, such as the illicit trade, transfer, and possession of small arms and light weapons; marking, tracing, and record-keeping; harmonizing national legislation; securing stockpiles and destroying surplus stockpiles; implementing amnesty and weapon collection programmes; establishing national points of contact and national coordination agencies; and encouraging assistance and cooperation.

Resources

Berman, Eric G. and Kerry Maze. 2016. *Regional Organizations and the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms (PoA)*. Handbook. Geneva: Small Arms Survey.

Quick reference

UNODA hosts a website with links to relevant regional organizations as part of its PoA-ISS:
<http://www.poa-iss.org/RegionalOrganizations/RegionalOrganizations.aspx>