Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/2011 of 17 December 2018 in support of gender mainstreamed policies, programmes and actions in the fight against small arms trafficking and misuse, in line with the Women, Peace and Security agenda

COUNCIL DECISION (CFSP) 2018/2011

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THE COUNCIL OF THE EUROPEAN UNION,

Having regard to the Treaty on European Union, and in particular Articles 28(1) and 31(1) thereof,

Having regard to the proposal from the High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy,

Whereas:

(1) On 19 November 2018, the Council adopted the EU Strategy against illicit Firearms, Small Arms & Light Weapons ('SALW') and their Ammunition 'Securing Arms, Protecting Citizens'. The Strategy states that the Union will systematically mainstream gender considerations in the design of new projects relating to the fight against gun violence and SALW control in general, and the sharing of good practices in that regard.

(2) On 3 April 2017, the Council adopted Decision (CFSP) 2017/633[(1)] in support 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 ('PoA'). The actions funded under that Decision were implemented by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and included the organisation of a thematic seminar entitled 'SALW and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, including SDG 16 and the gender aspects of SALW control'.

(3) On 28 May 2018, the Council adopted conclusions on a Union position on combatting the illicit trade in SALW, in light of the third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the PoA that was held in June 2018. One of the Union's key objectives for the outcome of the Review Conference is the recognition of the differing impacts of armed violence on women, men, girls and boys, and promote the role of women in implementation of the PoA and gender awareness in SALW control actions as a condition for their effectiveness.

(4) On 30 June 2018, the third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the PoA adopted an outcome document where States stated that they remain gravely concerned about the negative impact of the illicit trade in SALW on the lives of women, men, girls and boys and recognise that eradicating the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons is a key part of combatting gender-based violence,

Changes to legislation: *There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/2011. (See end of Document for details)*

and that they recognise the need for strengthened participation of women in decision-making and implementation processes relating to the PoA and the International Tracing Instrument and reaffirm the need for States to mainstream gender dimensions in their implementation efforts. The States have also undertaken to encourage mainstreaming gender perspectives into small arms and light weapons policies and programmes, including in the areas of programme design, planning, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, taking into account, as appropriate, relevant guidelines and standards. The States have decided to encourage the coordinated implementation of national action plans on SALW with national action plans established under relevant United Nations resolutions and target 16.4 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and to encourage the collection of data disaggregated by sex on the illicit trade in SALW, including through national reports, and to increase understanding of the gender-specific impacts of the illicit trade in SALW, in particular for the purpose of improving corresponding national policies and programmes.

(5) The UN Security Council has on several occasions called for addressing women's meaningful participation, the prevention of conflict and violence, protection of violence including conflict-related sexual violence and post-conflict relief and recovery.

(6) In his Agenda for Disarmament 'Securing our Common Future', that was presented on 24 May 2018, the UN Secretary-General called for all States to incorporate gender perspectives in the development of national legislation and policies on disarmament and arms control, including consideration of the gendered aspects of ownership and of the use and misuse of arms, the differentiated impacts of weapons on women and men, the ways in which gender roles can shape arms control and disarmament policies and practices, and the full and equal participation of women in all decision-making processes related to disarmament and international security,

HAS ADOPTED THIS DECISION:

Article 1

1 The overall objective of this Decision is to contribute to international peace, security, gender equality and sustainable development by enhancing the effectiveness of small arms control measures through the promotion of approaches based on systematic gender analysis, the integration of gender perspectives and women's empowerment initiatives. This Decision shall support the implementation of the gender-relevant outcomes of the 2018 Third United Nations Conference to review progress made in the implementation of the PoA. This Decision shall also contribute to the broader international policy agenda on gender equality and women's empowerment in line with the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2 To achieve the objectives set out in paragraph 1, this Decision shall support actions to:

— operationalise the Modular Small-arms-control Implementation Compendium (MOSAIC) modules on 'Women, men and the gendered nature of small arms and light weapons' and on 'Children, adolescents, youth and small arms and light weapons';

— develop a training manual to serve as a guidance document and ensure that all actions are executed in accordance with current UN standards;

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— train staff and trainers of UN regional centres and secretariat staff of regional and sub-regional organisations on integrating gender perspectives into small arms policies and frameworks to ensure a systematic approach to the issue;
— train national officials in 18 countries on gender-mainstreaming and small arms control;
— promote gender perspectives, gender mainstreaming and women's empowerment in regional initiatives;
— strengthen the small arms control component in the WPS framework as well as the framework itself;
— contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, in particular Goals 16 and 5, as well as converging international policy agendas on gender equality;
— strengthen civil society engagement on gender-mainstreaming small arms control in partnership with the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) and IANSA Women's Network;
— generate sustained impact through effective awareness-raising, advocacy, outreach and partnerships.

3 The direct beneficiaries of this Decision shall be national, regional and global stakeholders responsible for small arms control in countries and regions of focus, namely Africa, the Caribbean and Latin America, and Asia and the Pacific.

4 A detailed description of the project is set out in the Annex to this Decision.

Article 2

1 The High Representative of the Union for Foreign Affairs and Security Policy (‘HR’) shall be responsible for implementing this Decision.

2 The technical implementation of the project referred to in Article 1 shall be carried out by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

3 UNODA shall perform its tasks under the responsibility of the HR. For that purpose, the HR shall enter into the necessary arrangements with UNODA.

Article 3

1 The financial reference amount for the implementation of the project financed by the Union referred to in Article 1 shall be EUR 4 375 507,85.

2 The expenditure financed by the reference amount set out in paragraph 1 shall be managed in accordance with the procedures and rules applicable to the Union budget.

3 The Commission shall supervise the proper management of the expenditure referred to in paragraph 1. For that purpose, it shall conclude the necessary agreement with UNODA. The agreement shall stipulate that UNODA has to ensure visibility of the Union's contribution, appropriate to its size.

4 The Commission shall endeavour to conclude the agreement referred to in paragraph 3 as soon as possible after the entry into force of this Decision. It shall inform the Council of any difficulties in that process and of the date of conclusion of the agreement.

Article 4

1 The HR shall report to the Council on the implementation of this Decision on the basis of regular quarterly reports prepared by UNODA. Those reports shall form the basis of the evaluation carried out by the Council.

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2 The Commission shall report on the financial aspects of the project referred to in Article 1.

Article 5

1 This Decision shall enter into force on the date of its adoption.

2 This Decision shall expire 36 months after the date of conclusion of the agreement referred to in Article 3(3). However, it shall expire six months after the date of its entry into force if no agreement has been concluded within that period.

Done at Brussels, 17 December 2018.

For the Council

The President

E. KÖSTINGER

***Changes to legislation:** There are currently no known outstanding effects for the Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/2011. (See end of Document for details)*

ANNEX

1. RATIONALE AND BACKGROUND

The landmark 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development recognises the inherent link between peaceful societies and sustainable development. In addition, the Women, Peace and Security (WPS) agenda, through several UN Security Council resolutions is positioning conflict-prevention, women's meaningful and equitable participation and sustaining peace at its core. One major impediment to peace and sustainable development worldwide remains the illicit trade in, and the ubiquitous misuse of, small arms. Adequate small arms control is essential for reducing conflict, crime and violence. It is a prerequisite for societal stability and sustainable development.

The United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (PoA) provides the global framework for tackling the small arms problem, committing all States to improving national small arms laws, import/export controls, stockpile management, destruction of surplus, marking and tracing, and to engage in cooperation and assistance. Although progress has been made, much more must be done to strengthen small arms control through the implementation of the Programme of Action and to fulfil the commitments made in the 2030 Agenda.

The unique, deeply societal characteristics of the small arms issue necessitates a comprehensive mainstreaming of gender perspectives in all dimensions of small arms control. To date, gender perspectives have been insufficiently understood, addressed and integrated into policies controlling small arms. And when gender dimensions are not adequately dealt with in legislative and policy frameworks that control small arms, the success and effectiveness of interventions are limited. However, gender-related approaches to necessary small arms control measures are still in their infancy. In recent years, the small arms agenda has converged with broader international policy on gender equality and women's empowerment, which this Decision will further underpin.

The 2030 Agenda has linked small arms control to the peace, security and development agenda, thereby simultaneously providing an interconnected framework of Goals, which go beyond the security dimension and which highlight that the small arms problem has implications for the realisation of several Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 5 on gender equality and women's empowerment. In fact, gender equality is reflected in Goal 5, but is also a cross-cutting theme throughout the entire 2030 Agenda. This Decision contributes to gender mainstreaming of and the equitable and meaningful participation of women in all arms control decision-making processes. It also recognises the differing impact of the use and misuse of small arms on men, women, boys and girls and supports actions which are designed to lead to more inclusive, effective and sustainable policy outcomes in small arms control.

The Convention on the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination Against Women and the Beijing Declaration form a strong normative basis for connecting the WPS and the small arms agendas. The adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty and the recently launched EU-UN Spotlight Initiative have further highlighted the need to focus on this issue. While the proposed actions advance gender-mainstreaming in small arms control, the outcomes will directly contribute to the elimination of all forms of violence and discrimination against women and girls. Securing guns and reducing their circulation removes one of the most frequent choice of weapons for domestic and gender-based violence and femicide. Empowering women and breaking down gender stereotypes surrounding weapons will address the root causes of gender-based violence which include patriarchal systems, gender inequitable attitudes and violent aspects of traditional masculinity.