

Sarajevo Declaration on Armed Violence and Development

We, Representatives of 14 States from Eastern and South Eastern Europe and the Caucasus, gathering in Sarajevo on 13 and 14 November 2008, affirm our support to the *Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development* adopted on 7 June 2006, and resolve to work towards raising awareness of the importance of the linkage between armed violence and social and economic development in the countries of the region.

Recognizing that development, peace and security, and human rights are linked and mutually reinforcing;

Affirming that social and economic development underpins peace, security and stability of countries within the region and helps to reduce and prevent armed violence;

Acknowledging the armed violence prevention and reduction initiatives that have already been launched and implemented at the local, national, sub-regional and regional levels;

Affirming that Governments have the primary responsibility for preventing and reducing armed violence through appropriate mechanisms and for guaranteeing the security of their citizens according to national legislation and international law;

Reaffirming our support for the United Nations and other's efforts to promote armed violence prevention and reduction, in particular through the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, to deal effectively with the supply of, and the demand for, illicit small arms and light weapons;

Agreeing to strengthen our efforts to integrate policies and programmes for the prevention and reduction of armed violence into national, regional and international policy frameworks, in order to reduce the incidence of armed violence;

Acknowledging the importance of cooperation between governments, non-governmental organizations, and sub-regional, regional and international organizations to prevent and reduce armed violence and committed to promoting active partnerships between governments, civil society and international organizations;

Further agreeing to work at the local, national, sub-regional, regional and international levels on practical measures to prevent and reduce armed violence and promote socio-economic development by:

- Creating an enabling environment for sustained socio-economic development, through, *inter alia*, promoting confidence building measures, good governance, democratic institutions, socio-economic equity, human rights, gender equity and the rule of law.
- Promoting the exchange of views and good practices on measures to address armed violence and socio-economic development in order to

more effectively contribute to the prevention and reduction of armed violence.

- Promoting initiatives to measure and assess the human, social, psychological and economic costs of armed violence, including strengthening national capacities for data collection and analysis.
- Ensuring that armed violence prevention and reduction initiatives target specific root causes, risk factors and vulnerable groups, including both the victims and perpetrators of armed violence.
- Encouraging a culture of peace and non-violence, tolerance and cultural and religious diversity by, *inter alia*, support for awareness raising and sensitization and promoting the incorporation of peace-oriented values into education curricula, particularly for children.
- Promoting the active participation of women and youth in the design, decision-making processes, implementation and regular evaluation of armed violence prevention and reduction programmes.
- Working to counter the negative impact that armed violence has on children and youth and on their opportunities, development and welfare; additionally, working to counter negative stereotypes and prejudices that jeopardize development and rights of children and youth.
- Actively supporting existing local, national, sub-regional, regional and international initiatives that contribute to the prevention and reduction of armed violence.
- Preventing and reducing the uncontrolled circulation, illicit trade and trafficking and misuse of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition through measures that effectively regulate the production, transfer, acquisition, and possession of small arms and light weapons.
- Strengthening effective and accountable law enforcement, customs, judicial and public security institutions through measures consistent with human rights and the rule of law, such as increasing the capacities of the criminal justice system.
- Promoting confidence building measures that prevent, control and reduce armed violence, including violent crimes, through national and local structures.
- Promoting cooperation and partnerships among the public and private sectors, civil society and governments at all levels in order to prevent and reduce armed violence and enhance development.
- Encouraging states and relevant international, regional and sub-regional organizations to provide, upon request, coordinated technical and financial assistance, to strengthen national capacities to prevent and reduce armed violence.

In order to advance the implementation of the Sarajevo Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, we agree to work in partnership with the economic, peace and security-building, public health, humanitarian, human rights and criminal justice communities at the local, national, sub-regional, regional and international levels.

Sarajevo, 14 November 2008

Albania

Bosnia and Herzegovina*

Bulgaria*

Croatia*

Georgia

Greece*

Former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia

Italy*

Hungary*

Montenegro*

Romania*

Serbia*

Slovenia*

Slovakia

* Previously endorsed Geneva Declaration