

**2nd Ministerial Review Conference
on the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development:**

Outcome Document

1. We, the Ministers and representatives of 96 countries, met in Geneva to assess the progress made in implementing the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development adopted on 7 June 2006, and to reaffirm our support and commitment to its goals.
2. We are encouraged that 112 countries have adopted the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development and call upon additional countries to do so.
3. We commend the progress made at the international, regional, national and local levels in better understanding the linkages between armed violence and development and in fostering actions to reduce the risks of armed violence. Notable in this regard are, among others, the Oslo Commitments on Armed Violence as well as the United Nations Secretary-General's report *Promoting Development through the Reduction and Prevention of Armed Violence* and the 2011 World Bank *World Development Report on Conflict, Security and Development*.
4. We believe that measurable reductions in armed violence can be achieved and are inspired by the growth in innovative measures designed to improve safety, security and access to justice alongside efforts to enhance socio-economic development. These endeavours are pursued by national governments, but also by local authorities, civil society organizations and the private sector, increasingly in a coherent, coordinated and complementary manner. Past experience highlights the critical importance of adopting comprehensive and evidence-based approaches that build on principles of local ownership and capacity and respect for cultural diversity.
5. We accept that poverty reduction, equitable socio-economic development, social inclusion, democratic values, good governance and the respect for the rule of law and human rights have important roles to play in continuing efforts to reduce and prevent armed violence.
6. We believe that activities to address the specific impact of armed violence on women, boys and girls, should be incorporated into development efforts at the international, regional, national and local level in accordance with existing international commitments, including United Nations Security Council Resolutions on women, peace and security.
7. We recognize that much more work needs to be done if citizens are to experience greater safety and security. Since our 2008 Ministerial Review Conference, more than two million men, women and children have died as a result of armed violence around the world.¹ During this period millions more lives have been devastated through injury, trauma, the loss of economic and social opportunities and the destruction of physical infrastructure. The majority of these deaths and injuries occurred in non-conflict settings. Although the perpetrators and direct victims of armed violence are predominantly men, many others are also victims, including women and girls who may suffer sexual and gender-based violence.
8. We believe that, whether in situations of armed conflict or crime, armed violence has a devastating impact on development and hinders the achievement of the Millennium Development Goals. It reduces national income and productivity, diverts investment and rolls back hard-won development gains.

¹ The Global Burden of Armed Violence estimates that more than 740,000 people die directly or indirectly from armed violence every year.

9. We acknowledge that armed violence is a shared security concern for all countries, regardless of their level of development, because its impact often extends beyond national borders.

10. We believe that a concerted and accelerated effort, based on increased international cooperation, is required to reduce and prevent armed violence. Reaffirming our support to the goals and commitments of the Geneva Declaration and the Oslo Commitments, in particular to achieving, by 2015, measurable reductions in the global burden of armed violence and tangible improvements in development, we agree to:

- a) Integrate armed violence reduction and prevention objectives and actions into regional, national and sub-national development and security plans and programmes. These should be measurable, developed on the basis of consultative processes that include groups particularly affected by armed violence, and their implementation supported by relevant sub-national, national, regional and international actors, including civil society organizations;
- b) Advance comprehensive and conflict/violence-sensitive development strategies and institutional capacities that purposefully target the key risk factors that give rise to armed violence. These strategies should aim to generate employment, livelihoods and economic opportunities; strengthen people's security and access to justice; foster effective and accountable public security institutions; encourage inclusive political settlements and conflict resolution; and promote social inclusion, gender equality, child protection efforts and the effective delivery of basic services, including health and education;
- c) Strengthen and further develop sub-national, national and regional capacities to monitor, measure and analyse the scope, scale and distribution of armed violence, and establish national armed violence monitoring and reporting mechanisms. These monitoring systems should be designed so that they can be accessible to states, local authorities and civil society to track progress in achieving measurable reductions in armed violence;
- d) Implement existing national, regional and international agreements to deal effectively with the supply of, demand for, and illicit trafficking of small arms, light weapons and ammunition. This includes, in particular, implementing fully the *UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects*, the *International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons*, and the *UN Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition*, and supporting the development of other legally-binding international instruments such as the Arms Trade Treaty;
- e) Recognize and ensure the rights of victims of armed violence in a non-discriminatory manner, including, inter alia, provision for their adequate care and rehabilitation, as well as their social and economic inclusion, in accordance with national laws and development plans, and applicable international commitments and obligations;
- f) Increase the effectiveness of the financial, technical and human resources and assistance available from international organizations, national governments and local authorities, and establish effective and efficient multi-year armed violence reduction and prevention programmes in line with regional, national and sub-national development plans and programmes;
- g) Implement integrated approaches to reduce and prevent armed violence by working in partnership across sectors (such as development, humanitarian, public health, peace-building, human rights, urban development, security and justice), at regional, national and sub-national levels, and with relevant actors, including government, civil society, international organizations and the private sector;



- h) Support and further develop collaborative mechanisms, partnerships and initiatives, in particular, South-South and triangular cooperation and initiatives;
- i) Nominate a national point of contact to act as an information and coordination resource on national activities carried out in the framework of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development; and
- j) Strengthen our efforts to share knowledge, experiences and good practices on armed violence reduction and prevention. Towards these ends, we encourage the development of the capacities of the Secretariat of the Geneva Declaration to assist signatory States in accessing available expertise, knowledge and financial resources to implement innovative armed violence reduction and prevention programmes.

11. We commit ourselves to promote these undertakings, and the overall goals of the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development, in the United Nations General Assembly and in all other appropriate fora;

12. We agree to meet again prior to the review of the Millennium Development Goals in 2015 to review our progress and assess what further steps are required to reduce armed violence and to achieve development outcomes.

Adopted in Geneva on 31 October 2011