Joint Statement

During RevCon3, States agreed to progressive and constructive language addressing the connections between gender and small arms. During BMS7, it is important to retain and build on this progress. The outcome document should work towards further enhancing gender mainstreaming and ensuring the equal, full, and effective participation of women in arms control and peace and security initiatives.

The need for sustained and concerted action on gender and small arms control has never been clearer than during the COVID-19 pandemic, which is having a deeply regressive effect on gender equality. Responding to the pandemic is not just about rectifying long-standing inequalities, but also about building a resilient world in the interest of everyone with women at the centre of recovery.

The language on gender in the third draft of the BMS outcome document is appropriately strong, and builds on the progress made at BMS6 and RevCon3.

Accordingly, the undersigned States endorse the retention and further strengthening of the paragraphs summarized below:

Para 10, on the need for increased participation of women in policy-making related to both the UN PoA and the ITI and the need for mainstreaming gender considerations;

Para 54, on strengthening cooperation with civil society. This paragraph should be strengthened by the addition of “survivors and” before “victims of armed violence…”;

Para 69, on the need to ensure the full and effective participation of women in all relevant fora and at all levels;

Para 70, on the need to include the four pillars of the Women, Peace and Security Agenda as part of the full implementation of the UNPoA;

Para 71, on conducting disaggregated data collection by sex, age, and disability;

Para 72, on exchanging information on good practices and other reflections on gender mainstreaming;

Para 73, on encouraging increased funding for work that takes differentiated effects into account;

Para 74, on the linkages between the Programme of Action and the prevention of gender-based violence and conflict-related sexual violence;

Para 75, on including information on gender-relevant initiatives as part of States’ reporting on UNPoA and ITI implementation; and

Para 76, on taking account of disproportionate effects of the illicit trade in SALW on women, children, and youth.

Albania, Argentina, Australia, Austria, Belgium, Bolivia, Brazil, Bulgaria, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Croatia, Czech Republic, Denmark, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Estonia, Finland, France, Georgia, Germany, Ghana, Greece, Guatemala, Guyana, Honduras, Iceland, Ireland, Italy, Israel, Jamaica, Latvia, Luxembourg, Malta, Mexico, Moldova, Montenegro, Namibia, Netherlands, Norway, Panama, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, Republic of Cyprus, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, Thailand, The Republic of Korea, Trinidad and Tobago, Ukraine, United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland, the United States, Uruguay, and Costa Rica.