

# GOAL 16

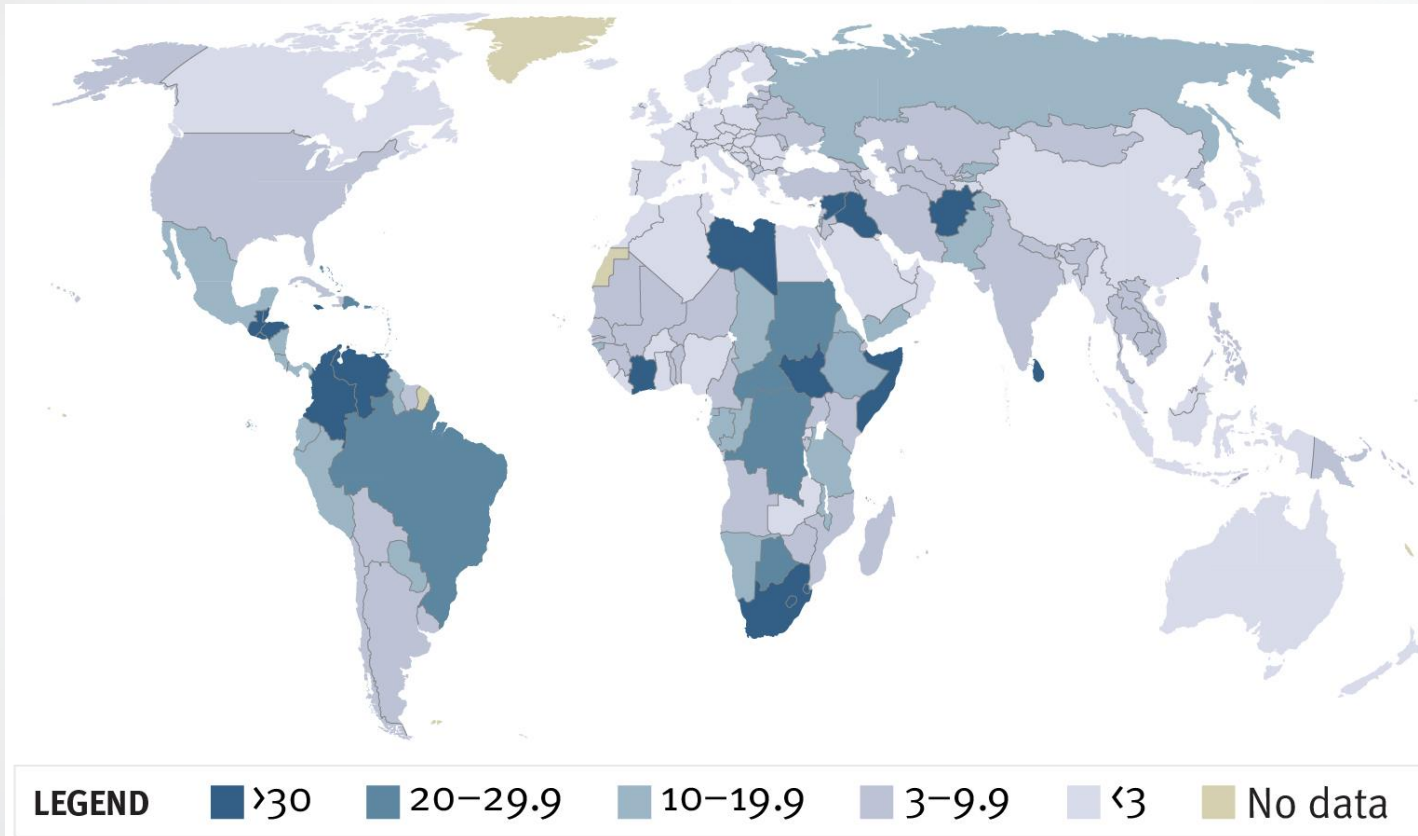
PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE AND BUILD EFFECTIVE

3 November 2015

## **Small Arms, Armed Violence and the SDGs**

David Atwood

# 508,000 people die violently every year



Annual violent death rates per 100,000, 2007-12

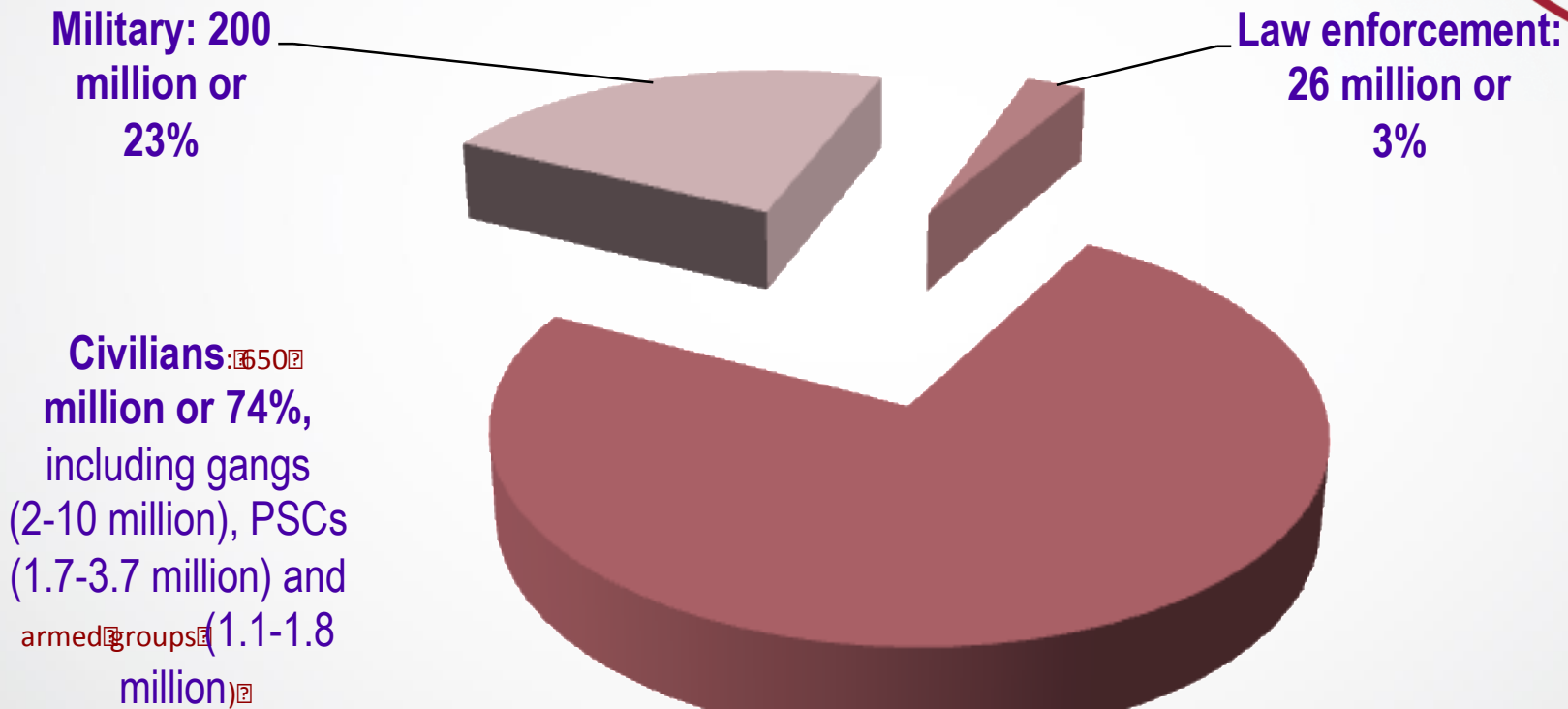
Source: Global Burden of Armed Violence 2015: Every Body Counts

A close-up photograph of a handgun barrel, showing the slide, trigger, and muzzle. The background is a blurred crowd of people, suggesting a public event or a crowded area. A red banner is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing white text.

44% OF VIOLENT DEATHS  
INVOLVE FIREARMS

# Global distribution: a largely civilian arsenal

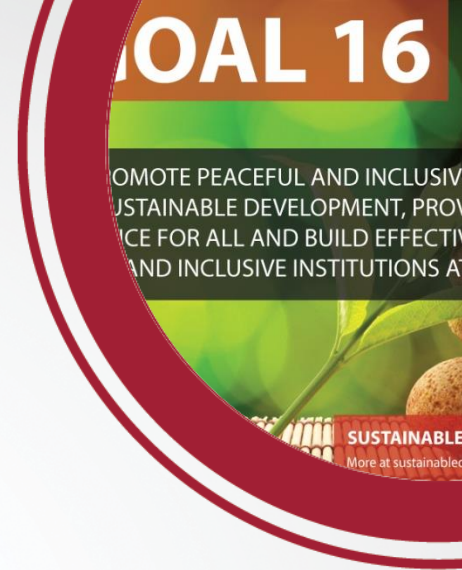
## Estimated firearms



Source: *Small Arms Survey*, 2010

# ARMED VIOLENCE IMPOSES A HEAVY BURDEN ON SOCIETIES

- Violence and insecurity erode a country's human and social capital
- Reduce life expectancy at birth
- Destroy productive and financial capital
- Have negative impacts at both the macro-economic and the individual level
- Increased costs for containing violence and insecurity can result in parallel decreases in welfare spending
- High levels of violence and insecurity



## Firearms and armed violence

- The relationship between armed violence and firearms is a complex one.
- There are broad differences across settings and levels.
- There is growing understanding of these relationships, but better knowledge from many countries on the nature of the violence, the victims, the perpetrators, the drivers--the *who, what, where, when, how* and *why* of violence--is needed to design and implement effective policies and programmes.
- There is considerable evidence of innovative programmes to prevent and reduce armed violence. Scale is an on going issue.
- *SALW availability* is a key dimension in this complexity.

# GOAL 16

PROMOTE PEACEFUL AND INCLUSIVE SOCIETIES FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT, PROVIDE ACCESS TO JUSTICE FOR ALL AND BUILD EFFECTIVE, ACCOUNTABLE AND INCLUSIVE INSTITUTIONS AT ALL LEVELS

**SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

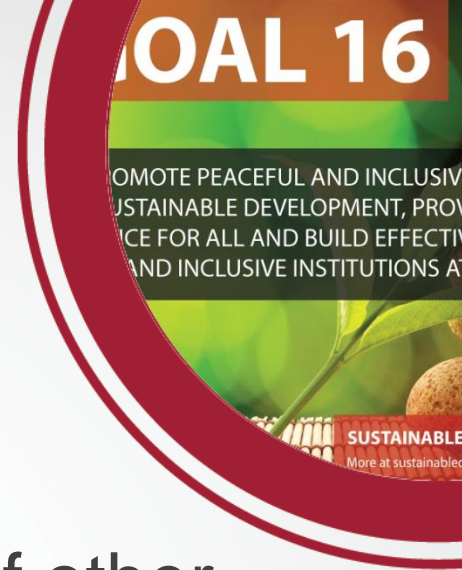
More at [sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal](https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdgsproposal)

# SDG16

- Does not use the words ‘security’ or ‘safety’ but . . .
- Covers a range of inter-related targets (10)
- Clearly links peace promotion to sustainable development
- Calls for strengthened, accountable and corruption-free institutions
- Promotes rule of law; equal access to justice for all; fair justice systems
- **Targets reducing all forms of violence**
- Promotes participation, inclusion
- **Calls for reducing illicit arms flows**



# Goal 16 relation to other SDGs



SDG 16 of clear relevance to a number of other SDGs:

- Goal 5 (Achieve gender equality; empower women and girls);
- Goal 8 (Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all);
- Goal 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries);

**Target 16.1:** Significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere

**Target 16.4:** by 2030 significantly reduce illicit financial and *arms* flows, strengthen recovery and return of stolen assets, and combat all forms of organized crime

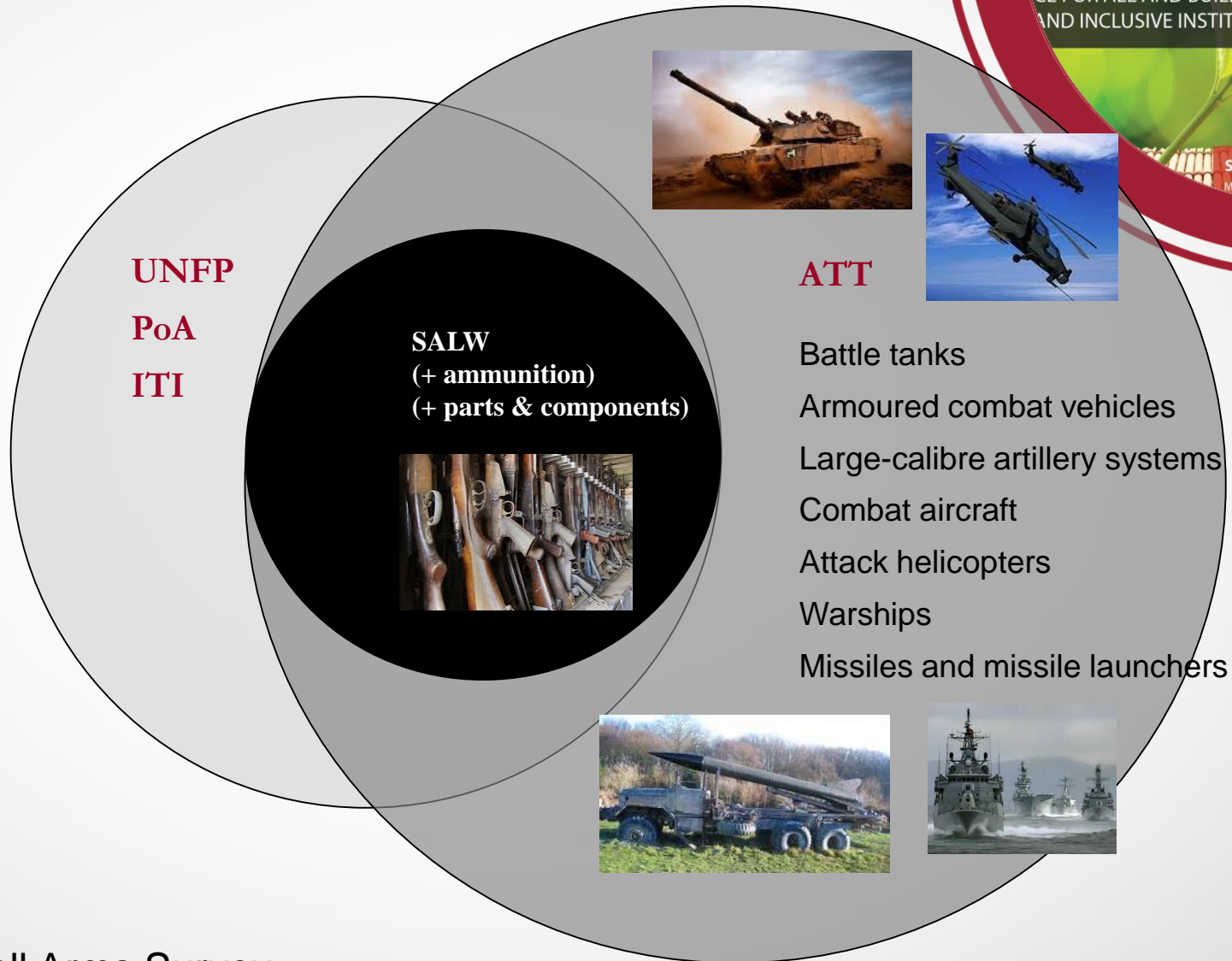
# International instruments



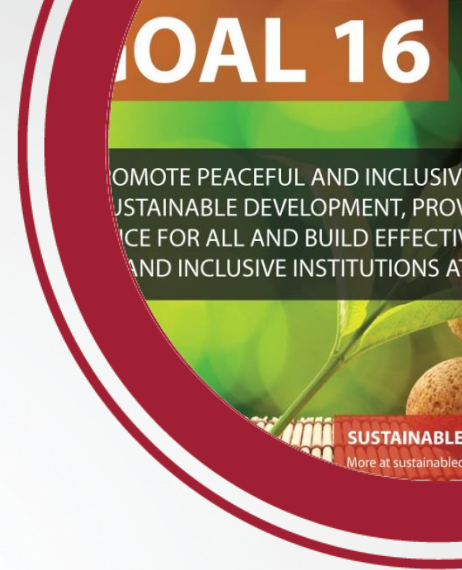
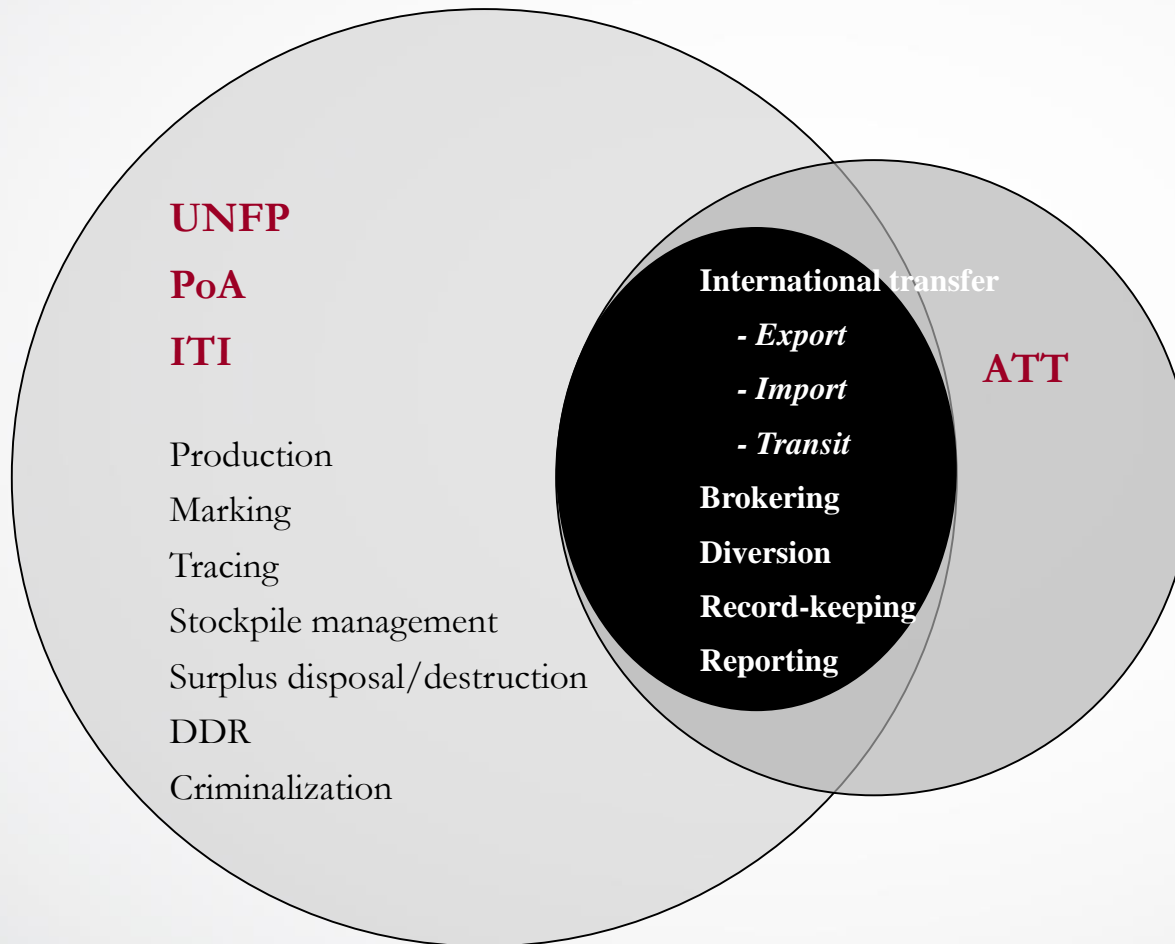
N°	Date adopted	International instrument	Legal status	
			Legally Binding	Non-legally binding
1	31/05/2001	Firearms Protocol	•	
2	20/07/2001	Programme of Action on Small Arms		•
3	08/12/2005	International Tracing Instrument		•
4	07/06/2006	Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development		•
5	02/04/2013	Arms Trade Treaty	•	
6	September 2015	Sustainable Development Goals (Target 16.4)		•

Source: Small Arms

# Scope: arms



# Scope: measures



Source: Small Arms Survey

# How to operationalize Target 16.4

- Key to being able to determine the success of the SDGs will be will be “measurement”
- Challenge in the development of indicators (especially the problem of sheer numbers)
- For 16.4, the likely indicator will be ‘seizures’ for the global indicator
- **But – important – regions and states can develop indicators as they relate to their own situation**



# How to operationalize Target 16.4



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Notes  
ARMED  
VIOLENCE

## Reducing Illicit Arms Flows and the New Development Agenda

The year 2015 will be decisive for shaping the international development agenda which is set to succeed the Millennium Development Goals. The results of considerable debate on what form the new agenda should take are now on the negotiating table, as a proposal containing 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their accompanying targets (UNGA, 2014). Of the SDGs, Goal 16 focuses on peaceful and inclusive societies, access to justice, and accountable institutions (UNDESA, 2014). In the suggested targets comprising Goal 16, target 16.4 proposes, among other issues, that steps be taken to ‘significantly reduce illicit ... arms flows by 2030’ (UNDESA, 2014).

Goal 16 represents a significant step towards recognizing how key preventing and reducing violence and crime are to making development possible. The proposed inclusion of such a target in the new development agenda also reflects the widespread acceptance of the importance of some control in

may suffer life-long physical and psychological effects. Beyond the loss of lives, the impact of wide-scale violence and armed conflict is devastating to the public institutions, national economy, infrastructure, and social cohesion of a country (Geneva Declaration Secretariat, 2008, p. 31; World Bank, 2011).

The role that weapons play in this picture is pivotal. For example, the 2015 GBAV report findings estimate that around 44 per cent of all violent deaths are caused by firearms and report an increased use of these firearms in armed conflict (Geneva Declaration Secretariat, 2015, p. 4). Being robust in nature, firearms can contaminate a region over decades. In the hands of determined actors, even small quantities of arms can serve to destabilize a situation and contribute to undermining a nation’s socioeconomic progress (UNODC, 2010).

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*‘Illicit small arms and light weapons are de-*

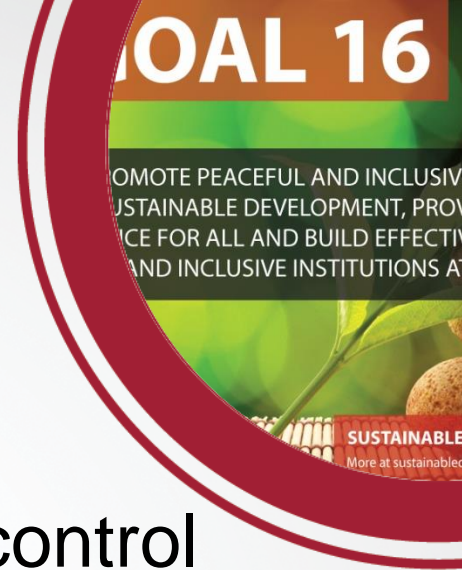
GOAL 16

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SUSTAINABLE  
More at sustainable

# Suggested proxy indicators

- Ratification of ATT and other firearm control commitments
- Measurement of seizures disaggregated by model and circumstances
- Implementation of marking, recording, and physical security and stockpile management international standards



# Some next steps

- Alignment of global policy agendas: important opportunity for new impetus in fighting the illicit proliferation of small arms and reducing the impact of armed violence
- Broader, deeper and more precise metrics necessary for measuring progress
- Strengthen capacity to produce, collect, disaggregate, analyse, and share data crucial for the new agenda
- A platform open to multiple stakeholders to support implementation of international commitments against illicit trafficking (PoA) and promote regulation of the legal trade (ATT)
- Connecting processes with the 2030 Development Agenda





# Thank you

[This presentation draws largely on data and material prepared by the Small Arms Survey: [www.smallarmssurvey.org](http://www.smallarmssurvey.org)]

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