

Sub-regional challenges: Central & South Asia

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Saferworld

Working to prevent & reduce violent conflict



Context

- **Illicit arms trade is global**
- **Eventually effect of illicit arms transfers will be felt more widely, especially in conflict-prone countries**
- **States must take steps to control arms brokering agents**



SALW brokering

- **Small arms brokering = third country small arms brokering**
- **Two main methods:**
 1. Mediating deal between two or more parties
 2. Buying arms abroad & shipping to purchaser in another country/territory
- **Arms do not enter territory where broker is operating**



Legislation

- **Legislation governing import, export, transit and retransfer of small arms, including domestic market arms dealers**
- **But unlikely to sufficiently provide legal basis for effective controls on small arms brokering**
- **Legislation must explicitly prohibit unlicensed arms brokering**



Security & arms issues in Central & South Asia

- Distinct sub-regions within Asian continent
- Own geopolitical & security dynamics & concerns
- No major arms producers in either sub-region
- Potential to be low-level suppliers
- Important transit routes
- Lack of transparency, little public debate



The need for SALW brokering controls

- **Evidence suggests small arms brokering is an issue for governments in Central & South Asia**
- **Insurgent and separatist groups acquiring weapons**
- **Important transit points in both sub-regions**



Central Asia

- **Very few countries with specific controls on arms brokering**
- **Kazakhstan & Kyrgyzstan have legislative provision relating to brokering**
- **Arms transfers seen as reserved for state action**
- **Specific legislation required to tackle private individuals & companies brokering arms**



South Asia

- **No South Asian countries have arms brokering controls**
- **Sri Lanka reviewing Firearms Ordinance**



Conclusions & recommendations

- **Both sub-regions benefit significantly from comprehensive controls on third country arms brokering**
- **Mitigate negative impact illicit transfers may have on immediate source and end-user countries**



Conclusions & recommendations

- **Effective system of laws, regulations & administrative procedures that**
 - Prohibit unauthorised arms brokering
 - Establish licensing regime for all arms brokering transactions
- **License transactions by nationals in-country and operating overseas & register arms brokers**
- **Cooperation and assistance available e.g. UN PoA-ISS, bilateral assistance**



Conclusions & recommendations

- **Problem of illicit arms brokering is a real and present one for states in Central and South Asia**
- **Action is required now!**



Thank you for listening

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