Improving the Health of the UN PoA

Recommendations to States

How can the PoA be strengthened to reduce human suffering and support cultures of peace?

IPPNW recommends the following measures to focus on armed violence prevention, and encourage integration of health sectors in PoA implementation:

- PoA meeting outcome documents should include specific actions to address a demand-side approach to the control of firearm violence, as well as supply side;
- The PoA State reporting template should request national progress on programs and policies to prevent armed violence, and on improving survivor assistance;
- The PoA should encourage:
  - States to integrate public health strategies into National Action Plans;
  - Health professional representation on National Commissions on Small Arms, and collaboration with the World Health Organization’s focal points on violence prevention at Ministries of Health in more than 100 countries;
  - National data collection on rates of firearm ownership, and firearm-related deaths and injuries to help inform policies;
  - Education of the medical community, media, the public, and policymakers about the public health burden and costs to society of firearm-related injuries and deaths;
  - Increased long-term support for armed violence intervention programs and ongoing evaluations of the success of such programs;
  - Increased support for survivor assistance programs that include comprehensive follow-up to ensure productive reintegration of individuals into society.

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