

and member states should work together to ensure they fulfill their obligations to preserve this right.

Based on this experience, we would recommend that:

1. The UN and member states should encourage the active participation of Non-Governmental Organizations aimed at improving public safety to provide essential expertise and help mobilize support to the initiatives. For example, NGOs can assist in examining risk assessment in screening firearm owners, and in developing training and education programs for the public, gun owners, and professionals to increase compliance and awareness (ie. by collecting, analyzing and disseminating data).
2. The UN and member states should recognize the importance of firearms regulation in preventing violence against women, in promoting justice for victims of crime, in addressing the problem of children and youth as victims and perpetrators of crime, in re-establishing or strengthening the rule of law in post-conflict peace building projects, and it should promote coordination and information sharing among relevant initiatives.
3. The UN should continue to encourage data gathering and validation regarding firearms and their regulation as well as information sharing among countries.
4. Member states should be assisted in implementing effective regulatory schemes which include:
 - safe storage regulations for all firearms to reduce inappropriate access
 - education and training programs to support compliance and effective implementation
 - appropriate enforcement and sanctions for firearms misuse
 - a licensing scheme to prevent the possession of firearms by individuals who pose a risk to themselves or others
 - a record keeping system to track firearms, reduce illegal trafficking, and support law enforcement
5. Member countries which have not already done so should ban the export, sale or transfer of military weapons to civilians.
6. The development of international standards and agreements for identifying, tracking and tracing firearms must be an international priority. In addition, systems should be developed to track the sale of ammunition and firearm components more effectively.
7. The declaration of principles should explicitly acknowledge the obligation of the United Nations and member states to protect civilians from the threat of firearms violence. Not only do member states have an obligation to protect citizens within their borders but they also have an obligation to ensure that their regulatory schemes do not jeopardize the safety of citizens in other countries. Regulatory schemes must be supported by effective implementation and enforcement.