

Goal 16

Target number: 16.4

Indicator Number and Name: 16.4.2 – *“Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments.”*

Agency: United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA).

Has work for the development of this indicator begun?

Yes, UNODA and UNODC are coordinating the development of common statistical definitions, metadata and statistical data collection tools.

Who are the entities, including national and international experts, directly involved and consulted in developing the methodology/and or data collection tools?

In the framework of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (PoA) and its International Tracing Instrument (ITI), 174 Member States have identified a National Point of Contact (NPC) regarding the implementation of the PoA and ITI and have reported their contact information to UNODA. These NPCs and their respective Permanent Missions in New York are responsible for correspondence with UNODA with regard to their submissions of national reports.

Within the framework of the Conference of the Parties to the Organized Crime Convention (UNTOC) and its Working Group on Firearms, UNODC has been mandated to continue to collect and disseminate suitably disaggregated data and information on firearms trafficking on a regular basis, and to improve its methodology taking into account the new SDG 16.4. In September 2016, UNODC organized the ‘Informal Expert Group Meeting on Data Collection and Analysis on Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Taking into Account the UNODC Study on Firearms 2015 and Target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals’. This meeting focussed on developing the methodology of the indicator and the corresponding data collection. It convened over 30 experts from UNODA, national and international institutions and organisations and acknowledged the opportunity to review previous data collection efforts on seized and traced firearms in the light of SDG indicator 16.4.2. The meeting report is available at <http://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/news/informal-expert-group-meeting-on-data-collection-and-analysis-on-illicit-trafficking-in-firearms.html>.

What is the involvement of or how do you plan to involve National Statistical Systems in the development of the methodology?

UNODC and UNODA will involve their respective national focal points in the development of the methodology.

Entities within the National Statistical Systems, including the National Points of Contact for the PoA/ITI, National Statistical Offices and other governmental data and record-keeping institutions such as the police, customs and other security forces, will be at the centre of activities to develop the methodology. Selected members of national security forces and National Statistical Offices have been consulted and were invited to participate in the expert meeting organized in September 2016.

Different members of the National Statistical System will participate in the planned test piloting phase of the revised questionnaire for collecting data for firearm trafficking, including the information for the SDG indicator. This includes, among others, National Statistical Offices, who, through the Inter-agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators, will be invited to provide comments on the data collection methodology this phase and will be invited to subsequent regional meetings on the topic.

Please briefly describe the process of developing the methodology for the indicator

While UNODC and UNODA have extensive experience in collecting data on firearms, further methodological work is needed to develop a statistical methodology for the indicator 16.4.2 to be based on an inclusive and consultative process, both with national and international arms and statistical experts. The process is part of on-going efforts to improve existing data collection methodology on the trafficking in firearms.

Given the complex nature of indicator 16.4.2, there is a need to develop a standardised methodology to address definitional and operational challenges to collect key data and maintain clear distinction between the different components of the indicator. Definitional aspects to address include the definition of the universe of interest (need to clarify between ‘arms’, ‘firearms’ and/or ‘small arms and light weapons’). Another element to consider is to clarify the context or legal ground for arms seizures (e.g. whether related to criminal or administrative reasons) as this can have a great impact on collected data. Furthermore, the determination of the share of firearms ‘...whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority’ requires that these characteristics are operationally identified so that relevant statistics can be produced. For these and other reasons, a thorough process for developing the methodology is envisaged, in close consultations with experts and representatives of National Statistical Systems.

The key steps in developing the methodology are the following:

September 2016: the ‘Informal Expert Group Meeting on Data Collection and Analysis on Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, Taking into Account the UNODC Study on Firearms 2015 and Target 16.4 of the Sustainable Development Goals’ started the methodological discussion on the SDG indicator 16.4.2.

April 2017: A revised draft questionnaire for a pilot data collection, also taking into account the final revision of the SDG indicator, will be produced based on further consultations with statistical, analytical and arms experts.

April – June 2017: a pilot phase on the revised questionnaire will be launched to further assess Member State’s capacity to provide the requested data and to conduct another round of quality control. Based on geographical proportionality and a balance of countries with developed and less developed data collection systems on arms, selected Member States will be invited to participate in this phase. Member States will also have the opportunity to provide comments on the revised questionnaire through the Inter-agency Expert Group on SDG Indicators. The questionnaire will be finalised upon conclusion of the test pilot phase.

Fourth quarter 2017: the global data collection on SDG indicator 16.4.2 on will be jointly launched by UNODC and UNODA. This cycle will aim at collecting data, disaggregated by year, from 2014 to 2016.

June 2017 – March 2019: UNODC will organise a series of regional and sub-regional meetings that pursue three main goals: Raising awareness on the data collection methodology; Promoting coordination and cooperation between national authorities involved in the data collection efforts; And discussing how

firearms data can be used to tailor national policies, enhance operational capacities and foster international cooperation to dismantle organized criminal groups and combat firearms trafficking and other forms of organized crime. Moreover, UNODC will provide technical assistance to individual Member States to enhance data collection and operational capacities of Member States as regards firearms and countering firearms trafficking. These activities will be organized based on assistance needs and capacity gaps over the next two years. Additional meetings and activities might be organised on a needs basis and subject to the availability of funding.

February 2018: Deadline for biennial national report on PoA/ITI.

Please indicate new international standards that will need to be proposed and approved by an intergovernmental process (such as UNSC) for this methodology.

No international standards will need to be approved by an intergovernmental process.

When do you expect the methodological work on this indicator to be completed?

The methodological work on this indicator is expected to be completed by the end of 2017.

Are data and metadata already being collected from the National Statistical System for one or more components of this indicator?

Data and metadata on aspects of weapons collection, destruction, marking and tracing are included in ongoing data collection efforts by UNODC and UNODA

If yes, please describe:

UNODA receives data that are currently being collected by PoA/ITI National Points of Contact who are tasked to gather weapons collection-related information from relevant national authorities (see www.un.org/disarmament/smallarms). UNODA will encourage, where it is not the case, National Points of Contact to enhance coordination with respective National Statistical Services in information exchange and data collection. Based on the recommendations of the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States under the PoA/ITI held in June 2016, UNODA has completed the refinement of the template for national reports which already included in the past some statistical questions on arms collection by States.

UNODC initiated the above mentioned data collection efforts pursuant to resolutions 5/4 and 6/2 of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Convention on Transnational Organized Crime and the Protocols Thereto. These resolutions tasked UNODC to carry out a study on the transnational nature of and routes used in trafficking in firearms and to base the study on information provided by States on seized firearms, their parts and components and ammunition. The first UNODC Study on Firearms was published in 2015.. Subsequent resolutions expanded the mandate to collect such data on a regular basis, as well as to work with Member States and relevant organizations to enhance the methodology and take the new SDG into account.

The UNODC Study on Firearms 2015 and the accompanying Country Fact Sheets are available at www.unodc.org/unodc/en/firearms-protocol/publications.html.

How do you plan to collect the data?

A coordinated data collection will be established to collect the data related to indicator 16.4.2 embedded in other collection tools and with the view of avoiding duplication of data requests to member states. Close cooperation and coordination in the field of firearms data is needed at national level between statistical offices on the one hand and national coordinative bodies and other focal points on firearms on the other. This cooperation will be fostered by building on existing and establishing and maintaining new relations with the different authorities at national level.

If the indicator involves multiple components from different data sources, please describe how each individual component of the indicator will be collected here.

While the number of data sources from which information for the indicator needs to be drawn depends on the respective national data collection and statistical system, UNODA and UNODC experience shows that data on arms seizures and tracing are often not centralised and readily available for one individual focal point. Depending on the respective national mandate, information might be collected at the level of the police, customs, military and other security and defence forces. In federal States, this information is also often collected at a national or federal level as well as at a state level. A centralised compilation of all relevant data does often not take place.

UNODA and UNODC will address this problem by encouraging and supporting coordination between national statistical offices on the one hand and national coordinative bodies and other focal points on firearms on the other. The latter bodies often exist at national and state level and are regularly composed of representatives of all relevant security and defence entities that are mandated to conduct arms seizures and tracings. Coordination between the different national institutions will be fostered, among others, at regional and sub-regional meetings.

With what frequency is data expected to be collected?

The data collection will take place either on an annual basis or every two years. As indicated above, the first data collection cycle will cover the years 2014 to 2016. A Study on Firearms presenting data collection results is planned to be published every two years.

Is there a process of data validation by countries in place or planned for this indicator?

UNODA and UNODC will continue to involve national focal points for review and feedback.

If yes, please briefly describe:

As data will be directly shared by the designated focal points, the country will have had the opportunity to undertake a national validation process.

(as of 24 March 2017)