



MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
GENERAL DIRECTORATE OF EXTERNAL POLICY

UNGA Resolution 67/49 on «Confidence building measures in the field of conventional arms»

The United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) at its sixty-eight session, on «Information on confidence building measures in the field of conventional arms». In fact, confidence building measures have an important role in the progress in the field of the disarmament, also allowing a better understanding and the arising of confidence among the States. To this aim, it is important to improve the dialogue and the information sharing among the States in what concerns conventional arms.

Portugal shares this point of view, believing that confidence building measures are a key element to the improvement and reinforcement of peace and security, and are an important way to avoid conflicts particularly in some regions more affected by several kinds of threats such as terrorism and organized crime. Portugal considers transparency as one of the most relevant confidence building measures and promotes it whenever possible.

In this context, Portugal publishes an annual report on international trade and intermediation of defense products. Portugal also collects national data on export of conventional weapons, which submits to the European Union for its annual report, to the United Nations, to OSCE and to the Wassenaar Secretariat. Portugal also publishes annually its military budget which is available to non-governmental organizations and think tanks.

Furthermore, in what regards the export of weapons, Portugal fully complies with the European Union Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP, which sets forth common rules to all Member-States. Those rules include the respect for international and regional embargoes, regional stability and especially Human Rights.

The Portuguese Authorities have been also involved with the civil society and institutions that work closely with the authorities and the Government in this area. These institutions have been developing outreach activities, such as

seminars and were also consulted for new legislation, trying to bring some contributions from their experience, as well as by proposing the simplification of administrative procedures. This was the case, for instance, regarding Regulation (EU) n.º 258/2012, from the European Parliament and the Council, dated 14th March 2012 that entered into force in September 2013. This Regulation applies the article 10.º from the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunitions, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and grants for export, import and transit permissions of weapons, their parts, components and ammunitions.

Some seminars and workshops were promoted by civilian institutions, in this matter, expressing their concerns and highlighting the relationship between the spread of small weapons and several forms of violence, such as domestic violence and the increase of violence in the Portuguese society and also themes like an urban culture of violence, the violence at school and in the TV child programs, the relationship between the increasing of violence and the crisis scenario, their relationship with the arms proliferation, the impact of violence in the family, at work, the violence and the media, the psychological effects of the use of arms, and its use by youth, etc.

These outreach activities have included some visits to the poorest and more problematic areas in this matter, especially in big cities, trying to evaluate the evolution of the phenomenon of violence and the effectiveness of programs to combat poverty and social exclusion and also to prevent the illicit traffic and proliferation of weapons, linked to several forms of violence.