**Submission received on behalf of the UN “International Small Arms Control Standards Inter-Agency Support Unit” on 10 December 2015**

Paragraph 3 of the resolution requests the UN High Commissioner for Human Rights to "**identify best practices that may guide States to further develop relevant national regulation [of civilian acquisition, possession and use of firearms] if they so deem it necessary**."

With this note I would like to bring to the attention of the High Commissioner one such relevant set of best practices — International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) module 03.30 entitled, "National Regulation of Civilian Access to Small Arms and Light Weapons."

I attach a copy of the module, which may also be downloaded from our website - [www.smallarmsstandards.org](http://www.smallarmsstandards.org/)

**Overview of ISACS**

In collaboration with partners worldwide, the United Nations is developing International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) that provide clear, practical and comprehensive guidance to practitioners and policymakers on fundamental aspects of small arms and light weapons control.

The standards are developed and designed to be used by the the [more than 20 UN entities](http://www.smallarmsstandards.org/partners.html) — including OHCHR —that make up the UN Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) mechanism in order to ensure that the United Nations as a whole consistently delivers the highest quality advice and support to Member States on putting in place effective controls over the full life-cycle of small arms and light weapons.

The standards fit within the global framework created by the UN Programme of Action against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, the International Tracing Instrument, the UN Firearms Protocol and the Arms Trade Treaty, and build upon best practices elaborated at regional and sub-regional levels.
 **Overview of ISACS 03.30**

ISACS 03.30 on "Regulating Civilian Access to Small Arms and Light Weapons" (attached) provides guidance on regulating, at the national level, civilian access to firearms and their ammunition. Specifically, it provides guidance on

* regulating the types of firearms to which civilians have access;
* regulating civilian uses of firearms;
* regulating civilian users of firearms;
* regulating the commercial sale of firearms; and
* regulating private security companies that use firearms.

The guidance provided by ISACS 03.30 is based on commitments that all UN Member States have made in the "UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects," namely:

“To adopt and implement, in the States that have not already done so, the necessary legislative or other measures to establish as criminal offences under their domestic law the illegal […] possession, stockpiling and trade of small arms and light weapons within their areas of jurisdiction, in order to ensure that those engaged in such activities can be prosecuted under appropriate national penal codes” (part II, paragraph 3);

“To identify, where applicable, groups and individuals engaged in the illegal […] trade, stockpiling, […] possession, as well as financing for acquisition, of illicit small arms and light weapons, and take action under appropriate national law against such groups and individuals” (part II, paragraph 6); and

“To adopt where they do not exist and enforce, all the necessary measures to prevent the […] stockpiling […] and possession of any unmarked or inadequately marked small arms and light weapons” (part II, paragraph 8).