

Arms & Gender

TOWARDS A REGIONAL
AGENDA OF
THIRD MEETING PARLIAMENTARY CONTROL

6th October, Santiago de Chile



Arms & Gender: a brief summary

On October 6, 2023, the Third Meeting on "Arms and Gender: Towards a regional agenda of parliamentary control" was held at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Chile.

The objective of these meetings, now in its third edition, is the creation of a working group on Arms & Gender, in which information can be exchanged, enriched with the experiences of other countries, benefit from legislative initiatives on arms control with a gender perspective and promote the discussion, research and presentation of projects.

Parliamentarians and national representatives from Chile, Uruguay, Argentina, Colombia, Mexico, and Brazil, as well as leaders from Civil Society and organizations from Latin America, participated to address and promote an arms control agenda with a gender perspective in our region.

The meeting started with with an impactful opening session featuring distinguished speakers of eminence. Lorena Fries, a highly regarded Member of the Chilean Parliament, addressed the gathering, sharing insights as a key figure within the Committees on Citizen Security and Human Rights. Maria Pía Devoto, Director of APP and Coordinator of the SEHLAC Network in Argentina, brought her expertise to the fore. Ignacio Llanos, Ambassador and Director of the Division of International and Human Security at the Chilean Ministry of Foreign Affairs, addressed the need for women's involvement in public policies due to the increasing trend of weapons threatening their lives.

The meeting was divided into three panels with interrelated themes, and a specialized workshop.





The first panel focused on the parliamentary role in arms regulation concerning human rights and public security. Sonia Fernández, Coordinator of the Program for Non-Proliferation Agreements and Arms Control at the Regional Center for Peace, Disarmament, and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNRILEC), eloquently addressed the impact of arms and the legislative landscape in the region. Callum Watson, Gender Coordinator at Small Arms Survey, provided valuable insights into the intersection of arms control, violence, and gender.



Sonia Fernández (UNRILEC) explains about Human Rights, the impact of weapons and the legislative situation in the Latin American Region.

"Armed violence and the rate of femicides against women has reached a level that is simply unacceptable."



During this panel, Callum Watson from Small Arms Survey (SAS), exposed about the role of SAS and affirmed:

"In 2020, it found that 40% of violent deaths in 2020 were committed with a firearm. 90% of these were committed by men, and 90% of these were committed against men."



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The second part of the panel delved into the impact of arms in diverse national contexts and the legislative tools employed for violence prevention. Lorena Fries moderated this segment, fostering a robust discussion. Eminent speakers, including Mario Bergara, Augusta Brito de Paula, Bertha Alicia Caraveo, Margarita Stolbizer, and Leider Alexandra Vásquez, shared perspectives from Uruguay, Brazil, Mexico, and Colombia, respectively. The ensuing round of questions and interventions underscored the depth of engagement and shared commitment to effective arms regulation.





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The next panel focused on the regulatory framework and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty. Maria Pía Devoto and distinguished speakers, including Carina Solmirano, María Florencia Pérez, and Colonel Víctor Riffo, provided nuanced perspectives on the treaty and its implementation in Argentina and Chile. The interactive session allowed for a comprehensive exploration of the intricacies involved.

Ma. Florencia Pérez, Coordinator of Strategic Planning and Citizen Prevention of the National Agency for Controlled Materials ANMAC addressed issues of risk assessment and experience on the implementation of weapons control policies with a gender perspective in Argentina.

Colonel Víctor Riffo, Head of the Department of Arms and Explosives Control of the General Directorate of National Mobilization on the Arms Trade Treaty and Risk Assessment in Chile affirmed that

"Only 7% of arms registration in Chile is carried out by women."

A brief intermission afforded participants the opportunity to engage in informal networking, fostering an atmosphere of collaborative exchange.





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The afternoon session resumed with the third panel, which was centered on arms and arms control within the Women, Peace, and Security agenda. Claudia Donaire, member of the Cabinet at the Undersecretariat for Women and Gender Equity in Chile, moderated the panel. Speakers such as Paula Salvo, Alejandra Otamendi, and Alicia Franco delved into topics ranging from Resolution 1325 to gender-based violence and femicides, offering a comprehensive examination of the issues at hand.



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THIRD MEETING

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In a specialised workshop, facilitated by Alicia Franco of Data Cívica, Mexico and Alejandra Otamendi, from the Supreme Court of Argentina, participants engaged in an in-depth exploration of the measurement of small arms' impact on gender-based violence and femicide, delving into tools, data, and applications with a focus on precision and scholarly rigor.



In this closed session, participants delved into the meticulous measurement of small arms' impact on gender-based violence and femicide, exploring tools, data, and applications with precision and scholarly rigor. The workshop encapsulated the commitment of the conference to fostering informed dialogue and tangible progress in the realm of arms regulation and human rights.



The day concluded with a closing session led by Lorena Fries, emphasizing the imperative of international collaboration for the effective regulation of arms.



OUTCOMES

The third meeting of Arms&Gender concluded with resounding success, marked by significant outcomes that underscored the commitment of participants to sustained collaboration and tangible progress in the fields of arms regulation and gender-based violence.





One notable commitment emerged from a Brazilian parliamentary representative who expressed a keen interest in hosting the next meeting focused on "Arms & Gender" in her country. This commitment reflects a dedication to advancing the conversation on the intersection of arms regulation and gender issues. Already underway, the Brazilian representative has taken proactive steps, presenting a comprehensive project and initiating the necessary organizational measures for the upcoming event. This new commitment not only signifies a promising continuation of the work initiated during the conference but also amplifies the international scope of discussions on these critical issues.





Furthermore, the conference succeeded in sparking a specialized conversation of great significance. Alejandra Otamendi, representing the Office of Women at the Supreme Court of Justice in Argentina, presented the National Registry of Femicides, shedding light on the critical importance of data in addressing gender-based violence. This presentation, in turn, piqued the interest of agencies in Chile specializing in data analysis.

A subsequent collaboration is now on the horizon, with plans to engage in a focused dialogue between Alejandra Otamendi and Chilean agencies proficient in data evaluation and monitoring techniques related to the Arms Trade Treaty. This targeted conversation aims to explore synergies between data-driven approaches and arms regulation, providing an avenue for shared insights and collaborative efforts in the pursuit of effective implementation and monitoring.

