

**STATEMENT OF AMB. JUAN SANDOVAL MENDIOLEA, DEPUTY  
PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE OF MEXICO, IN THE SECURITY  
COUNCIL OPEN DEBATE ON “SILENCING THE GUNS IN AFRICA”**

New York, 27 February 2019.

Mr. President:

We thank Equatorial Guinea for convening this open debate on a topic that is very relevant to international security. Conventional weapons result in the highest number of deaths and victims in the world and perpetuate armed conflicts, while hampering security, development and sustaining peace. All Member States have a responsibility to promote societies free of armed violence, being that the uncontrolled proliferation of conventional weapons in various regions of the world represents a threat to international peace and security.

Unfortunately, Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean carry the greatest human cost of this issue, although they do not produce weapons. For this reason, Mexico is particularly troubled by the irresponsible and uncontrolled trade in arms that favors the illicit traffic across borders, and that these devices reach criminal hands.

It is essential to acknowledge the shared responsibility among producers, exporters, intermediaries, and arms recipients to address this challenge. Cooperation and multidimensional efforts at the sub-regional, regional and global levels should be the vehicle that allows us to face this challenge.

This also implies the full compliance and proper implementation of the arms embargoes imposed by this Council, as well as the promotion and implementation of programs and effective mandates on the collection and registration of weapons.

Mr. President:

Mexico welcomes the fact that the African Union has developed a hemispheric vision and strategy to end armed violence and control the trade of and trafficking in arms in favor of development.

In Latin America and the Caribbean, we have advanced and finalized ambitious regional and hemispheric agreements. For example, under the Presidency of Mexico, the Conference of the States Parties to the Inter-American Convention against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and other Related Materials (CIFTA), last year we agreed on an innovative approach for its implementation and synergies with other international instruments and

mechanisms, with the intention of aligning national and regional efforts to the comprehensive achievement of Agenda 2030.

Mr. President:

The decisive fight against trafficking in and the diversion of arms must be paired with strategies that place sustainable development and peace as the sole priorities of States. The comprehensive achievement of Agenda 2030 is particularly visible and relevant to this issue, not only because of its implications on Goal 16.4 on reducing arms flow and combating organized crime, but also because the reduction of violence is imperative to achieve sustainable development, to fulfill Agenda 2030, and to save thousands of lives. We need to build inclusive societies, which have a healthy social fabric, and we find many societies plagued by firearms, which are the tools used by groups that undermine the rule of law and against the societies we aspire to become.

Mexico urges the entire membership to make use of and maximize the adequate implementation of the multilateral instruments at our disposal; to achieve the universality and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), as well as to revitalize UNPoA to carry out comprehensive discussions on the issue and the complete cycle of weapons, including the indivisibility of the equitable and proportional treatment of ammunition.

In the framework of this discussion, we reiterate our call not to fuse actions in response to organized crime and for the fight against terrorism, since both phenomena require decisive and effective cooperation actions, although differentiated by their distinct nature.

Mr. President:

Mexico once again reiterates its support for the Agenda for Disarmament proposed by the Secretary General. Disarmament is not an end in itself, but a means or vehicle to achieve peace, to save humanity, to save lives and to save future generations, as proposed by the Secretary General. We are attentive to the implementation of the multi-partner fund to combat the illicit arms trade and the strategy aimed at youth, as a driver of change in their communities.

Likewise, concrete actions in the different regions are very important, among which the positive role of the Regional Disarmament Centers stands out. As far as UNLIREC is concerned, the Center's activity is essential for the efforts of countries in my region, such as Mexico, which has benefited from various activities, studies and diagnoses for the implementation of public policies.

Mr. President:

The economic resources that are diverted from sustainable development to the purchase of weapons, could undoubtedly give a more human face and better integrated to our societies.

Sustaining peace is the collective desire of the United Nations. Let's silence the guns in Africa, but also in the other regions that suffer armed violence and conflicts exacerbated by the proliferation of conventional weapons.

Thank you.