

Event Concept Note

Beyond the Buzz: Gender in Arms Control.

The Converging of Agendas: Women, Peace and Security, Small Arms Control, and Sustainable Development

Calls for greater gender responsiveness in small arms control and for 'exploring synergies' across instruments and processes have been increasing exponentially. Gender-inclusion advocates argue that equal participation and greater awareness of the gender effects of small arms can enrich and support the implementation of existing commitments. Similarly, proponents of increased convergence emphasize the benefits of exploring synergies and linkages across the Women, Peace and Security, Arms Control, and Agenda 2030. And yet, little is known about how to move from normative acceptance of these principles to implementation, and how to infuse gender into convergence initiatives.

This event explores how to increase gender-responsiveness and agenda convergence in small arms control, looking at concrete methods and avenues to operationalize existing commitments.

Why use the concept of convergence? While many international processes speak of 'synergies' and 'linkages' across WPS, arms control and Agenda 2030, these terms do not accurately capture the full spectrum of interactions. A process-oriented and dynamic term, convergence refers to the narrowing of existing gaps, leveraging lessons learned and avoiding overlaps.

Gender is key

The event is centred on increasing gender-responsiveness in small arms control. It builds on previous work of the Small Arms Survey and other organizations around enhancing meaningful participation of women in arms-related processes, and capturing the gendered impacts of small arms, to capitalize on existing knowledge and learn from experience.

Addressing concrete needs

- Need to know how to implement cross-cutting commitments
- Need to build the evidence base...
- Need to minimize backlash caused by issue fatigue, competing priorities and silo work...

Format

Stakeholders are invited a roundtable discussion, bringing in voices from capitals and from the field, as well as a broad range of knowledge and experiences. The format encourages interactions among participants, rather than the classic panel presentations.