



## **Call for papers**

### **International Conference**

# **THE IMPACT OF GLOBAL ARMS CONTROL REGIMES IN REDUCING ARMED VIOLENCE: A REGIONAL ASSESSMENT**

**Milan, 12 April 2024**

#### **1) Location**

University of Milan, Faculty of Political, Economic and Social Sciences, Via Conservatorio, 7 and online (hybrid event)

#### **2) Co-organizers**

University of Milan (Osservatorio sulla Criminalità Organizzata, CROSS); Kennis: Knowledge for Safety and Good Governance; the Small Arms Survey; and the Alliance of NGOs on Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice

#### **3) Topic**

Illicit manufacturing of, trafficking in, and illegal commerce of firearms and small arms and light weapons, including parts, components and ammunition generate many negative effects including armed violence, both in armed conflict and peace time situations.

This International Conference represents the continuation of a research effort that began in 2020, developed through discussion at the [24-Hour Conference on Organized Crime in 2020](#), and again in 2021, the [7th Biennial Meeting of States of the Programme of Action \(PoA\) on Small Arms and Light Weapons \(New York, 2021\)](#), and the [11th Conference of Parties to the UN Convention against Transnational Organized Crime \(Vienna, 2022\)](#), which main issues have been presented in a collective [article published in the Journal of Organized Crime Studies and Research in 2021](#).

The Conference aims to explore, through relevant assessment indicators (qualitative and quantitative), the impact of global arms control regimes, such as the UN Firearms Protocol, the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, and the Arms Trade Treaty, on levels of violence at the national, regional, and global levels under the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly Goal 16. 1.

The examination of specific case studies from different regions of the world, to be collected through an international “call for papers”, will constitute the basis for a thorough discussion involving academics, experts, and practitioners on the relevance of above referred indicators and, more broadly, the methodology and substance for assessing and supporting the action of States to reduce arms violence, also in connection with the implementation and monitoring processes established by global arms control regimes.

#### **4) Programme (Draft)**

The Conference is divided in four regional panels (Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean, Africa, and other regions). Each panel will be moderated by a representative of the organizers and will include one case study from the relevant region, followed by discussion led by two pre-identified experts as discussants. Below are indicated aspects that are considered as particularly relevant to case studies and that papers are therefore expected to cover. However, this should not be seen as a limitation to any other relevant aspect that might be dealt with by the proposed papers.

The working language will be English.

- a. Panel I: European Focus
- b. Panel II: Latin America and the Caribbean
- c. Panel III: Africa
- d. Panel IV: Regions of the World

Case studies should focus on the regional and domestic arms control regimes, with a view to contextualize the implementation of international treaties and norms (in particular the UN Firearms Protocol, the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, and the Arms Trade Treaty), as well as regional instruments, with particular attention to available data and indicators on regional / national efforts to assess the impact of a) coherence of domestic law with international and regional instruments and b) effective implementation of domestic laws and compliance with international and regional standards. Furthermore, case studies should cast light on data on misuse of guns, such as the prevalence and characteristics of (lethal) armed violence in the region (firearm homicides) and availability of relevant indicators. Other elements for the case studies may include analysis of other armed violence indicators (suicides, non-lethal injuries and accidents), as well as use of guns in committing other crimes, such as robberies, and as a threat without firing. The ultimate goal is to identify correlations between effective implementation of arms control instruments and reduction of firearm violence at the regional and national levels. Authors are invited to consider issues of gender and discrimination.

#### **5) Submission of Proposals**

We welcome proposals that address the scientific areas and the various issues listed above. Scholars, practitioners and officials are invited to submit such proposals (including an

outline and a detailed abstract of up to 500 words) by sending an email to [mariarita.piraino@unimi.it](mailto:mariarita.piraino@unimi.it) by **30 November 2023**. Successful applicants will be notified by **15 December 2023**.

Proposals should also include the authors' contact details and CV (including affiliation, relevant experience, and publications). When submitting the proposal, please indicate the panel/topic and relevant aspects of choice. In case of multiple authors, please also indicate the proposed speaker who would present the paper, if selected.

The selection process will apply criteria of geographical representation, possibly preferring authors from the respective regions, gender balance and diversity of participants. Selected papers will be presented at the Conference. Other papers that meet the requirements will be considered for short interventions during the Conference and for the purpose of subsequent expected publication of the acts of the Conference.

The workshop format will be hybrid, face-to-face and online, although participation in person is encouraged. Limited funds are available for the reimbursement of travel expenses and accommodation of selected panelists.

Speakers whose paper proposals are selected should be prepared to submit a draft paper (between 15,000 and 17,000 words, including footnotes) by **15 March 2024**. All proposals and final papers must be in English.

## **6) Scientific Committee**

Professor Christian Ponti, University of Milan, email: [christian.ponti@unimi.it](mailto:christian.ponti@unimi.it)

Dr. Anna Alvazzi del Frate, Kennis: Knowledge for Safety and Good Governance, email: [anna.alvazzi@kennisgroup.org](mailto:anna.alvazzi@kennisgroup.org)

## **7) Contacts**

For inquiries concerning the Conference please contact Dr Marta Piraino, email [mariarita.piraino@unimi.it](mailto:mariarita.piraino@unimi.it)