

Delegation from

Argentina

Represented by

McMurry University

Position Paper for the General Assembly Plenary Committee

The topics before the General Assembly Plenary Committee are: Prohibition of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Americas; and Legal Status and Protection of the Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgender (LGBT) People. Argentina demonstrates dedication to eliminating violence, whatever the cause, and facilitating societal inclusion for all groups within and across society.

I. Prohibition of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Americas

The Argentine Republic is convinced that the only effective approach to defeating the scourge of small arms and light weapons (SALW) is further incentivizing disarmament and second generation disarmament, demobilization, repatriation, reintegration and resettlement (DDRRR) strategies. Argentina has repeatedly demonstrated its commitment to the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (PoA-ISS), as well as Resolution 2117, by chairing the conference negotiating the Arms Trade Treaty and proving instrumental in establishing the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms. The proliferation of SALW in the preponderance of conflicts around the world makes their control a priority on a global scale. According to the International Action Network Against Small Arms (IANSA) a weapon increases the chances of casualties by a magnitude of twelve, compared to other means of violence. Argentina therefore urges member states to use the National Programme for the Voluntary Surrender of Firearms (NPVSF) as a model for SAWL reduction in the Americas. To date, the Argentine government has accepted 160,000 no questions asked firearm donations from our citizens. This model has the capacity to expand expeditiously to other areas throughout the Americas with the current network of international governmental organizations (IGOs) and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) that operate in Latin America and the Caribbean. The logistical and resource management skills of the Asociación Para Políticas Publicas and the Argentine Disarmament Network were paramount in the planning and success of the NPVSF. These organizations in cooperation with IGOs such as the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), which already provides disarmament training throughout the Americas, could demonstrate to other regions in the Americas how to implement the NPVSF model in their home countries at little extra cost for the additional training.

Argentina further identifies the importance of reintegrating gangs, rebels, and other principal users of SALW back into their communities. Argentina is cognizant of the fact that the dual problems of the proliferation of weapons and armed violence cannot be addressed simply by removing weapons from the streets. The people using those weapons must also be removed from the streets and reintegrated into society as productive citizens. PoA-ISS paragraph seven stresses the link between SAWL and criminal activity, and the need to cooperate internationally to destroy both supply and demand for these weapons in communities around the world. Argentina is convinced that only a strategy focusing on bottom up development will prove truly effective in eliminating armed violence in conflict torn areas. Expanding upon second generation DDRRR strategies and making a transition into community violence reduction (CVR) tactics is the most effective approach for bringing about lasting change in post conflict areas. The UN Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development's (IANYD) Subgroup on Youth Participation in Peacebuilding, co-chaired by the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office (PBSO) and Search for Common Ground, has developed the Guiding Principles on Young People's Participation in Peacebuilding. The principles aim at offering guidance on youth engagement and participation, especially in conflict or transition settings. The combined resources of United Nations (UN) agencies such as the United Nations Development Program (UNDP) and NGOs such as Viva Rio, already working on DDRRR in post conflict areas, have the ability to stop crime and armed violence before it even begins. Argentina strongly urges Member States to support a new framework all-encompassing of these organizations to specifically focus on youth and community development. Argentina encourages the use of the CVR

program established by the United Nations Stabilization Mission in Haiti (MINUSTAH) as a model for combating youth violence in areas around the world where young men and women 24 years old and under make up a majority of the population. Argentina is fully committed to the goal of providing assistance to young men and women in volatile communities, and helping them have productive lives through job training, education, and community camaraderie.

II. Legal Status and Protection of the Rights of Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual and Transgendered (LGBT) People

The Argentine Republic is fully convinced that, in order to protect the rights and legal status of LGBT and Intersex People, nothing short of an LGBTI social movement, equivalent to *The Beijing Declaration* for universal women's rights and the resulting Platform of Action, is necessary for moving this issue forward in a consistent manner. *The Beijing Declaration* outlined specific rights required to enact social change, identifying such issues as: violence, conflict and education; and accounting for potential obstacles in order to fully address all social actors. In the same manner this LGBTI movement would inaugurate legal procedural protection of basic human rights, strategies to address human rights violations and open the dialogue for global equality for LGBTI People. Argentina further encourages the immediate establishment of an advisory body analogous to the UN Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples to stage meetings and thematic debates. This body will create conditions within the UN system to institutionalize progress on these human rights with the purpose of establishing a Platform of Action for advancing the issue of LGBTI rights and protections, with the eventual goal to accomplish universal equality.

Argentina has repeatedly demonstrated its dedication to progressing LGBTI rights, through its support of *The Yogyakarta Principles* (YP). Argentina went so far as to formally sponsor discussions on the international implementation of these principles in 2007. Argentina acknowledges the innovative recommendations along with their proposed implementations of human rights law outlined in the YP, as they pertain to sexual orientation and gender identity. Though these principles identify the necessary direction of LGBT human rights, the YP's formal implementation within UN documentation and dialogue requires a sustaining framework before these principles can effectively be implemented within a Platform of Action for moving LGBTI rights and protections forward. One possible venue for accomplishing this through discourse may be the newly established UN Free and Equal Campaign (UNFE). By embedding these principles into formal UN infrastructures, such as the General Assembly Third Committee (GA Third), Human Rights Council (HRC) and UNFE Argentina hopes that the UN may better track documentation in order to create more effective strategies for tackling this issue.

The UN recognizes, in the groundbreaking *HRC Resolution 17/19*, that protecting the rights of LGBTI People is consistent with the *1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights*. Moreover, the *HRC Report A/HRC/19/41* identifies LGBT persons as entitled to all protections provided by international human rights law, namely in respect to security of person as well as freedom from any manner of discrimination and torture. Argentina consequently notes with grave concern the human rights violations enforced through criminalization of LGBTI acts currently in more than six dozen Member States. Argentina notes with regret that the 2012 GA Third's nonbinding recommendation to evaluate discriminatory killings and torture of people due to sexual orientation or gender identity, will likely result in non-action and further violations. Argentina therefore decisively supports *Resolution 17/19* and *HRC Review A/HRC/27/L.27* in their promotion of equal human rights protection distinct from specific political, economic and cultural considerations. Argentina further calls for accountability of individual Member States to address practices and laws that arrest progress for LGBTI rights. Argentina invites other Member States to examine our Same Sex Marriage Recognition Law, Equal Tourist Marriage Law and Gender Identity Law.