Declaration of the Central American Network for the Construction of Peace and Human Security (REDCEPAZ)

On behalf of the following member organizations at the sixth Biennial Meeting of States: IEPADES (Guatemala), FESPAD (El Salvador), CIPRODEH (Honduras), IEEPP (Nicaragua), FUNPADEM (Costa Rica) y SERPAJ (Panama)

1. We call for participating States and organizations to strengthen collaboration between civil society and governments of the region in fulfilling the spirit and commitments of the UNPoA, as well as in renewing efforts to implement this agreement along with other regional and international instruments related to arms control and armed violence prevention.

2. We urge governments to include references to children, youth, women and victims and survivors of armed violence in agendas on the prevention of armed violence and arms control. Although armed violence affects all people, it affects these groups in distinctive ways, and therefore different policies and actions are necessary.

3. We underscore the importance of prioritizing the promotion of a culture of peace in our societies, with the prevention of armed violence as a core element of State actions at all levels. For this, we believe municipalities must coordinate and lead actions in conjunction with national governments to strengthen local prevention of armed violence, with the aim of creating peaceful communities.

4. We emphasize the need to form and/or strengthen National Commissions to serve as a space for intergovernmental coordination as well as coordination with civil society. We reiterate the importance of including representatives of children, youth, women and survivors of armed violence, as well as relevant specialist organizations in these Commissions.

5. We call attention to the responsibility of States in preventing, combatting and eliminating the illicit traffic in firearms, as well as in addressing its consequences. We call for international cooperation and for reflection and action from governments to help rehabilitate the thousands of surviving victims of armed violence in the region and the world.

6. We urge the strengthening of firearms and ammunition legislation, as well as harmonizing processes on arms transfers, ammunition, and arms components. Moreover, we call for the standardization of end-user and end-use certification with the aim of minimizing the risks of alterations and diversion to the illicit market.

7. We exhort States to continue efforts to realize their duty to mark weapons, in order to guarantee the traceability of their use in criminal acts. We also call attention to the urgency of strengthening the security of State arsenals, including legal stocks of arms confiscated from criminal sources.

Promoting civil society-State collaboration to implement the UNPoA