



Centre régional des Nations Unies pour la paix et le désarmement en Afrique
United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

Workshop on the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty for African Small Island Developing States

Workshop Report

Lomé – Togo, from 29 to 30 May 2015

Supported by:



1. INTRODUCTION

As part of the project "Support for the ratification and future implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty – Improve understanding of the treaty", the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) provides support to African States in the understanding of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and in the identification of their needs and challenges with regard to the implementation of the treaty.

The project is funded through the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR). Ten Member States of the United Nations, including Australia, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Ireland, Netherlands, Spain, Sweden, Switzerland, and the United States, have contributed to UNSCAR in 2014 to support the universalisation and implementation of the ATT and the UNPoA in the following years.

The workshop, which was organised on 29 and 30 May 2015 in Lomé, Togo, brought together the six ASIDS including Cape Verde, Comoros, Guinea Bissau, Mauritius, Sao Tome and Principe, and Seychelles. Among participants of the workshop were also disarmament experts of the African Union, the United Nations Regional Disarmament Branch (RDB), UNREC and the Institute for Security Studies (ISS).

The workshop aimed at:

- The identification of specific needs and challenges of ASIDS in the implementation of the ATT;
- The holding of discussions and the identification of measures that help to overcome challenges and meet the needs;
- The creation of a platform which facilitates the exchange of information, sharing of experiences and identification of good practices among ASIDS.

2. WORKSHOP PROCEEDINGS

The first day of the workshop focused on the establishment of a link between particularities of ASIDS and the arms trade, the import and export, transit, trans-shipment and brokering of conventional arms as well as the reporting framework under the ATT. On the second day of the workshop the following themes were developed: diversion of arms, cooperation and assistance measures.

3. IDENTIFIED SPECIFIC NEEDS AND CHALLENGES OF ASIDS

The workshop allowed the identification of specific needs and challenges of ASIDS in the implementation of the ATT. The required assistance seems to relate in particular to legislation as well as to operational measures. The following needs were identified:

- Tools to explain benefits and features of the ATT to the competent authorities;

- A model law adaptable to the needs of ASIDS (example given was the model law developed by the International Atomic Energy Agency, this would allow for a harmonised implementation of the ATT);
- Analysis of national legislation in order to determine a transposition approach: A new law could be passed or existing legislation could be amended;
- Harmonisation and cooperation efforts among ASIDS;
- Assistance in the interpretation of the ATT, specific measures and practices relating to the arms transfer control need to be demonstrated;
- Capacity-building which benefits the different actors and authorities involved in the implementation of the ATT, namely competent ministries, customs, police, coastguards;
- Strengthening of resources;
- Advanced technology: devices for container examination.

4. WAY FORWARD

This report gives an overview on the subjects that were elaborated and discussed during the workshop concerning the promotion and implementation of the ATT and indicates specific needs and challenges of ASIDS in the implementation of the ATT.

The report can serve as:

- Basis for the development of assistance projects relating to the promotion and the implementation of the ATT;
- Basis for the intra-governmental exchange of information concerning needs and challenges with regard to the promotion and the implementation of the ATT;
- Basis for the facilitation of cooperation measures among ASIDS;
- Reference document which can facilitate the initiation of a dialogue with other authorities or partners.

For more information on UNREC and its support to the promotion and implementation of the ATT, please contact: United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC), Tel: (+228) 22 53 50 00; E-mail: mail@unrec.org; Web: www.unrec.org