



CONVENTIONAL ARMS PROGRAMME

## Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) in Africa

Online Update Meeting Summary  
6 May 2020



Federal Foreign Office



**UNIDIR**  
UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE  
FOR DISARMAMENT RESEARCH



## About UNIDIR

The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) is a voluntarily funded, autonomous institute within the United Nations. One of the few policy institutes worldwide focusing on disarmament, UNIDIR generates knowledge and promotes dialogue and action on disarmament and security. Based in Geneva, UNIDIR assists the international community to develop the practical, innovative ideas needed to find solutions to critical security problems.

## Note

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## **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS**

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# LIST OF ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ADA	Advance Delivery Approval
AMISOM	African Union Mission in Somalia
ATT	Arms Trade Treaty
AU	African Union
BICC	Bonn International Center for Conversion
BMS	Biennial Meeting of State Parties
CAP	Conventional Arms Programme
CSO	Civil Society Organisation
DDR	Disarmament Demobilisation and Reintegration
EU	European Union
EWIPA	Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas
FFT	Food for Thought
FGS	Federal Government of Somalia
FMS	Federal Member States
GENSAC	Gender Equality Network on Small Arms Control
GFFO	German Federal Foreign Office
GGE	Group of Governmental Experts
GIZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
HMA	Humanitarian Mine Action
IATGs	International Ammunition Technical Guidelines
ICRC	International Committee of the Red Cross
KPI	Key Performance Indicators
LANSAN	Liberia Action Network on Small Arms
MAG	Mine Advisory Group
MNJTF	Multinational Joint Task Force
MOSAIC	Modular Small-arms control Implementation Compendium
MS	Member State
NATCOM	National Commission on Small Arms
NGO	Non-Governmental Organisation
NWFP	National Weapons and Ammunition Management Focal Point
OCWART	Organized Crime: West Africa Response to Trafficking
ONSA	Office of the National Security Adviser
PRESCOM	Office of the Presidential Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons
PSO	Peace Support Operations

PSSM	Physical Security and Stockpile Management
REC	Regional Economic Commission
RECSA	Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region
SALW	Small Arms and Light Weapons
SLeNCSA	Sierra Leone National Commission for Small Arms
SOP	Standard Operating Procedures
SPF EOD	Somali Police Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal
SSMA	Safe and Secure Management of Ammunition
UN	United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNIDIR	United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
UNMAS	United Nations Mine Action Service
UNODA	United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs
UNODC	United Nations Office on Drug and Crime
UN PoA	United Nations Programme of Action
UNREC	United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa
UNSCAR	United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation
U.S.	United States of America
STG	Silencing the Guns
WAD	Weapons and Ammunition Destruction
WAM	Weapons and Ammunition Management
WRA	Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement

## **TABLE OF CONTENTS**

<b>Introduction.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>Broad Areas of Shared Understanding.....</b>	<b>7</b>
<b>2020 WAM priorities and adjustments of activities in light of COVID-19.....</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Conclusion.....</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Annex 1: Details on 2020 WAM Priorities and COVID-19 related adjustments in WAM activities provided by participating African States.....</b>	<b>12</b>
<b>Annex 2: Current Initiatives and Assistance available for Strengthening WAM in Africa.....</b>	<b>22</b>
<b>Annex 3: List of Participants.....</b>	<b>30</b>
<b>Annex 4: Agenda .....</b>	<b>34</b>

# 1. Introduction

On 6 May 2020, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), in cooperation with the Government of Germany, convened an online meeting to exchange updates on weapons and ammunition management (WAM) activities in Africa. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a platform for UNIDIR and its WAM partners to exchange information on their current work and adjusted plans and activities on WAM in Africa in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was attended by over 70 representatives from Member States, United Nations partner entities, regional and sub-regional organisations and specialised non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The meeting was organised in two sessions—French and English—to facilitate wide participation and respond to different language needs of the participants.<sup>1</sup> The event was organised by invitation-only.

This report summarises the discussions and key issues that were raised in the two sessions, as well as written contributions from partners on the current initiatives and assistance available for strengthening WAM in Africa.

## 2. Broad areas of shared understanding

While the participants provided varied updates in terms of their activities and plans, they developed five broad areas of shared understanding presented below.

### 2.1. Continued need to address risks associated to small arms, light weapons and their associated ammunition, and for effective WAM practices

While acknowledging the restrictions and challenges posed by the ongoing global health crisis, participants shared an understanding on the importance of continuing efforts to strengthen weapons and ammunition management policy and practice in Africa to prevent and mitigate the risks of diversion and their misuse. National representatives from Africa identified and shared information on varied risks associated with arms and ammunition in light of the global health crisis, including a potential surge in the use of arms by both law enforcement and non-State armed groups in relation to restrictions placed on movement of personnel, as well as proliferation of new and/or alternative arms trafficking routes resulting from restrictions and disruptions on existing supply-chains. Germany, as the co-organiser of the event, affirmed its continued commitment to support States' efforts to strengthen WAM in Africa.

### 2.2. Need for readjustment and reconceptualisation of planned activities

Most participants expressed that the pandemic has affected their activities and operations planned in the area of WAM for this year.<sup>2</sup> They shared updates on their efforts to adapt their 2020 WAM priorities in light of the pandemic. Further, many participants expressed their support to UNIDIR's adjusted WAM plans for 2020.

### 2.3. Importance of continued information sharing and communication

Participants stressed the importance of maintaining communication and information sharing channels during the pandemic and expressed their appreciation to UNIDIR

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<sup>1</sup> See the list of participants per session in Annex 3.

<sup>2</sup> See Section 3 and Annex 1 for effects of COVID-19 on 2020 WAM priorities and activities

for convening the virtual meeting among WAM partners in Africa. Participants shared the understanding that the online meeting served as a useful platform to keep engaged, to share relevant updates, and to build further momentum for WAM. Many participants expressed support for further virtual exchanges on the issue of WAM.

#### **2.4. Role of UNIDIR in promoting knowledge and facilitating dialogue on WAM in Africa**

Representatives from African States and regional organisations, who have partnered with UNIDIR in conducting WAM baseline assessments, highlighted the positive impact the baseline assessments had made on their national WAM frameworks. They expressed that the WAM baseline assessments had served as an effective building block for the development of their national WAM roadmaps and other related efforts, including elaboration of specific national WAM strategies and policies. There was a wide expression of support for UNIDIR's WAM work by representatives from African States and regional organisations, and they expressed willingness to remain engaged with UNIDIR on its research plans and activities in WAM.

#### **2.5. Efforts of States and partner organisations to support the enhancement of WAM in Africa**

Participating States and partner organisations providing assistance on WAM in Africa highlighted their ongoing WAM activities and shared their adjusted plans in light of the COVID-19 situation. They further took the opportunity to share existing and upcoming assistance and resources available to support States in strengthening WAM in Africa, which was welcomed by the participating African States and regional organisations.<sup>3</sup>

### **3. 2020 WAM priorities and adjustments of activities in light of COVID-19**

This section provides a brief summary of 2020 WAM priorities and adjustment in activities, as presented by UNIDIR, participating national authorities in Africa, as well as regional and international organisations at the online meeting. For detailed updates on WAM activities provided by participating African States, see **Annex 1**. For detailed updates submitted by States supporting WAM in Africa, regional organisations and specialised organisations, see **Annex 2**. For a more detailed analysis of the impact of COVID-19 on the control of small arms and light weapons (SALW), see *Consequences of the COVID-19 crisis for the circulation of illicit small arms and light weapons and for efforts to strengthen their control*, prepared by the German Federal Foreign Office.

#### **3.1. UNIDIR**

UNIDIR's research approach to WAM seeks to promote knowledge among States, regional organisations, the United Nations system and specialised organisations on ways to strengthen policy and practice governing the full lifecycle of weapon and ammunition to prevent their diversion and misuse. This research approach to WAM is guiding in nature, and flexible in its application. It seeks to enhance knowledge on effective practices on both arms and ammunition through their management cycle, and where appropriate and deemed necessary, paying dedicated focus on specialised aspects and processes relevant to each. This approach contributes to strengthen

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<sup>3</sup> See Annex 2 on Initiatives and Assistance available for Strengthening WAM in Africa



policy and practice in both domains as appropriate, while facilitating cross-learning of management frameworks, good practices and lessons identified. The research approach is pursued through supporting States in conducting WAM baseline assessments and developing national roadmaps; gathering lessons learned and identifying good practices; and facilitating dialogue among WAM partners and stakeholders at the national, regional and multilateral levels.

In 2020, UNIDIR planned to organise two baseline assessments in the Gambia and Mali; a side event with national and regional partners during the seventh (7th) Biennial Meeting of States (BMS7) on the United Nations Programme of Action (UN PoA); and two regional WAM lessons learned seminars in Addis Ababa and Brussels. These activities were designed to contribute to the convening of a pilot WAM Experiences Symposium in 2021. In light of the global health crisis, UNIDIR's 2020 research plans and activities have been adjusted as follows:

### 1) Production of a Food for Thought Paper (FFT)

UNIDIR is producing a food for thought paper (FFT) which highlights lessons learned in strengthening WAM policy and practice in Africa, drawing from the 10 WAM baseline assessments completed in Africa.<sup>4</sup> This FFT paper will reflect and assess—together with inputs from States, regional and specialised organisations who have participated in the baseline assessments with UNIDIR—ways to further strengthen policy and practice on WAM in Africa, including how UNIDIR's research and advisory support to States on WAM could be further refined and improved to support ongoing States' efforts. The FFT will integrate inputs and feedback from national authorities in Africa through forms of questionnaires and interviews. UNIDIR plans to finalise and release this paper in the third quarter of 2020.

### 2) Public release of the UNIDIR WAM Baseline Assessment Methodology

Drawing on the experiences from the baseline assessments, including feedback from participating national authorities and regional organisations, UNIDIR will codify and release its existing WAM baseline assessment methodology in the form of a handbook. The release of the methodology handbook aims to promote the use of baseline assessment by wider interested stakeholders, and to contribute to the sustainability of WAM assessments by national authorities and regional organisations. The handbook will undergo a peer-review process prior to its release. UNIDIR plans to release this handbook in the third quarter of 2020.

### 3) Rescheduling of the AU-UNIDIR First Regional WAM Lessons Learned Seminar

In consultation with the African Union (AU), UNIDIR is rescheduling the AU-UNIDIR first regional lessons learned seminar, which was originally scheduled to take place in May 2020. The first lessons learned seminar has been tentatively rescheduled to the second half of the third quarter<sup>5</sup> of 2020 and is subject to further adjustments in timeline and format (e.g. size of the meeting, location) in light of COVID-19.

### 4) Reassessment of other activities planned in 2020

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<sup>4</sup> The 10 African countries that UNIDIR has assisted in conducting baseline assessments are Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Liberia, Niger, Nigeria, Sierra Leone and Somalia. There was at least one representative of each of these States at the meeting.

<sup>5</sup> Upon an assessment of the evolution of the COVID-19 situation after the virtual meeting and considering the updates shared by participants on the extent and duration of travel restrictions in their countries, UNIDIR is now considering rescheduling the seminar further to the fourth quarter of 2020.

Timelines for other UNIDIR WAM research activities planned in 2020—namely the two baseline assessments in Mali and Gambia; the BMS7 side-event; and the Second Regional Lessons Learned Seminar—are being reassessed based on a close monitoring and risk assessment of the evolution of the pandemic. UNIDIR will keep all relevant stakeholders closely updated on the timelines of these activities.

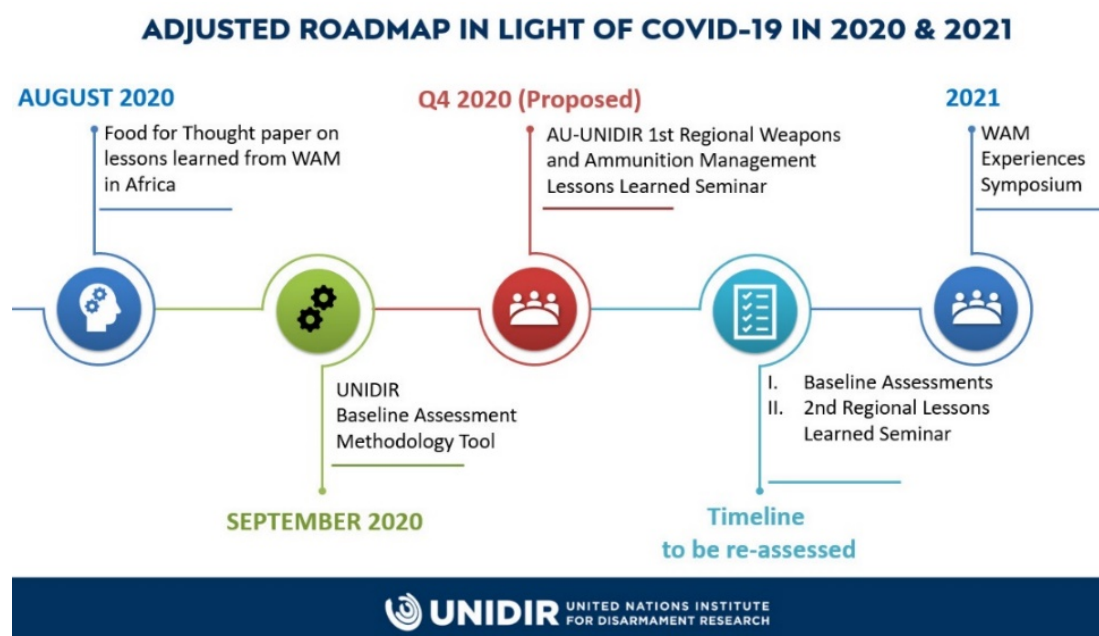
### 5) WAM Experiences Symposium in 2021

As presented at the online meeting, building on the cumulative WAM research, in 2021 UNIDIR will convene a pilot WAM Experiences Symposium in Geneva in cooperation with relevant regional and international partners. The aim of this symposium is to share experiences and lessons learned on the design, implementation, review and assessment of WAM policy and practice, and to reflect together among the community of practice on ways to further strengthen the management of arms and ammunition. Planning for this activity is ongoing, and the timeline remains unchanged.

### 6) Research and advisory support to States on WAM, upon request

UNIDIR remains available to discuss and consider additional research and advisory support to States, upon their request, during this period of ongoing global health crisis.

Figure 1: UNIDIR’s Adjusted 2020-2021 WAM Roadmap in light of COVID-19



### 3.2. National Commissions on Small Arms (NATCOM) and National WAM Focal Points

Most of the participating representatives from National Commission on Small Arms (NATCOM) and National WAM Focal Points noted that the pandemic has adversely affected their WAM activities and priorities for 2020. In terms of operations, several national representatives shared that their offices have been temporarily closed, and in other cases, that their working hours had been reduced. The effects of COVID-19

on the activities and operations of NATCOMs and WAM Focal Points are briefly summarised below:

### 1) National WAM activities

Participating representatives from NATCOMs and WAM Focal Points shared that a broad range of WAM activities covering various aspects of the lifecycle of arms and ammunition that involve physical or close human contact had been halted due to the pandemic. These activities include but are not limited to: arms registration and licensing exercises; national surveys on the supply of craft weapons; inspection and renovation of armouries; parliamentary review of WAM legislations; weapons disposal and collection activities. Most NATCOMs and WAM Focal Points are currently adjusting their plans and priorities to focus on desk-based and remote activities, such as reporting and drafting proposals for future projects, as well as engaging in activities involving minimal or no physical contact, such risk education and sensitisation activities via national radio and social media platforms.

### 2) Engagement in international cooperation and assistance activities

Some NATCOMs and WAM Focal Points shared that joint projects and activities with regional and international partners had also been temporarily suspended due to the pandemic. Several of those representatives further indicated that their participation in several international and regional meetings related to WAM had either been postponed or redesigned into virtual meetings. Most NATCOM representatives and WAM Focal Points encouraged the convening of further virtual meetings to foster further dialogue on WAM.

## 3.3. Regional and International Partners

Some representatives from regional, international and UN organisations at the online meeting mentioned that there has been a shift in focus of donor priorities and funds from WAM related activities to support States' efforts in effectively responding to the pandemic. Coupled with restrictions and constraints placed on implementation of planned activities, these participants expressed concerns on the prospect of future funds that may be available for WAM related activities in Africa in the near future. As part of this reflection, several representatives from regional and international organisations shared views that WAM activities will likely need to rely increasingly on local and national-level resources for implementation of WAM activities, which on the one hand may promote sustainable approach to implementation, but on the other hand place heavy burden and expectation on local stakeholders in light of competing national priorities.

## 4. Conclusion

The online meeting organised by UNIDIR and the Government of Germany on 6 May 2020 represented the first virtual effort to bring together National Commissions and WAM Focal Points who took part in WAM baseline assessments in Africa, as well as regional organisations and partner entities. The co-organisers emphasised that while the COVID-19 pandemic had presented unprecedented challenges to WAM and international security, they were very encouraged by the exchanges that took place among more than 70 participants from over 30 organisations in the two sessions conducted in English and French. Finally, the co-organisers expressed appreciation to all the participants of the online meeting, and reaffirmed its commitment to enhance knowledge, generate ideas and promote dialogue to the strengthening WAM policy and practice in Africa.

# Annex 1: Details on 2020 WAM Priorities and COVID-19 related adjustments in WAM activities provided by participating African States

This annex provides updates shared by participating representatives of NATCOMs and WAM National Focal Points on their 2020 WAM national priorities and COVID-19 related adjustments in activities, as presented verbally during the meeting, as well as further submitted in written form. As such, detail on the updates provided vary among participating States. The information provided by the national authorities was formatted in structure by UNIDIR. Updates originally shared in French by francophone countries during the French session have also been unofficially translated into English by UNIDIR in this version of the meeting summary<sup>6</sup>.

## 1. Burkina Faso

### Context

The NATCOM of Burkina Faso remains committed to improving the security situation in the country and the region in general. Earlier in March, the NATCOM in partnership with UNMAS, organized a workshop on the risks related to the use of explosives. Looking ahead, the NATCOM of Burkina Faso aims to focus on research activities, in particular on questions relating to the sources and enablers of diversion, as it has been observed by NATCOM that most illegal weapons circulating in the country were diverted from legal sources. The NATCOM counts on tapping into UNIDIR's research methodology and resources in this endeavour.

### 2020 WAM Priorities

The following priorities were envisaged by the Burkina Faso NATCOM for this year:

- Sensitization campaigns on the dangers associated with the use of SALW;
- Sensitization campaigns on the risks of Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs);
- Marking of weapons owned by the Burkina Faso Armed Forces and Security Services;
- Construction of storage facilities for weapons and ammunition in Bobo and Fada N'Gourma; and
- Collection of seized weapons.

### Effects of COVID-19 on 2020 WAM priorities and adjustments

Due to the current global pandemic, the following adjustments have been made:

- Suspension of all activities that involve the gathering of more than fifty people (including all the planned sensitization activities);
- Postponement or cancellation of international and regional meetings in which NATCOM officials would have participated (e.g. regional training on stockpile management in Abidjan, Côte d'Ivoire, Meeting on indicators in Addis Ababa etc);

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<sup>6</sup> This comprises the submissions from Burkina Faso, Central African Republic, Côte d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Niger and Mali NATCOMs.

- Suspension of the handing over process of a sealed storage facility for SALW in Ouagadougou; and
- Suspension of the planned construction of storage facilities in Bobo and Fada N’Gourma.

The NATCOM Office remains opened and will be focused on exploring effective ways of integrating appropriate COVID-19 response measures into their planned activities, as well as executing administrative and follow up tasks, and participating in virtual meetings with partners (e.g. MAG, UNDP) in the upcoming months.

## **2. Central African Republic (CAR)**

### **Context**

In accordance with international instruments which call on States Parties to establish a national coordination mechanism in the fight against the proliferation of small arms and light weapons, the Central African Republic (CAR) established a NATCOM attached to the Presidency of the Republic on 14 February 2017. The NATCOM has been operating progressively based on a roadmap presented to the Government following a WAM baseline assessment that UNIDIR assisted the Government of CAR to undertake from 26 to 29 September 2017. The roadmap defined priorities in the field of arms and ammunition management. In 2018, the steering body of the NATCOM composed of the representatives of the departments and structures that make up the plenary assembly was appointed. In 2019, a technical secretariat team was appointed. A befitting infrastructure has been assigned to the NATCOM and a budget has also been allocated to the NATCOM for its operations.

A national WAM strategy has been developed and translated into a National Action Plan for the period of 2019 to 2023. With the support of UNODC, a bill on the general management of conventional weapons, their parts, components and ammunition was drafted, adopted by the Government, and forwarded to Parliament for analysis and adoption at the next session in June 2020. This law once promulgated will pave the way for weapons marking activities through the establishment of a database for registration. The bill, once promulgated, will also launch awareness-raising activities for the collection of weapons illegally held by civilians, and will also facilitate the development of border cooperation initiatives in the fight against cross-border trafficking in arms and ammunition.

### **2020 WAM Priorities**

- Review and adoption of a national SALW control legislation;
- Workshop on gender and civil society participation in the fight against SALW proliferation;
- Workshop on the detection and identification of firearms; and
- Workshop on the processing of illicit arms trafficking and intelligence scheduled to take place in October 2020.

### **Effects of COVID on planned activities**

- Suspension of the Parliamentary sessions where the draft national SALW control legislation would have been reviewed and discussed, due to Government restrictions that has forbidden any meetings grouping more than 15 people;

- Suspension of national level sectorial meetings which are required as part of CAR's reporting to the Sanctions Committee on the arms embargo; and
- Postponement of other meetings with the AU, RECSA and Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS).

The Government of CAR has not yet declared a total lockdown, however strict prevention measures are being enforced to limit the spread of infection. The NATCOM Office is therefore open but only accessible to a select number of staff at a time. There have been some recent transitions and appointments of certain civilian and military personalities to other functions, however these have not affected the NATCOM's operations. The NATCOM of CAR is also currently drafting a concept note for the realization of a project on voluntary handing over of weapons by civilians as part of the AU's Silencing the Guns Project with the support of the UNODA.

### 3. Côte d'Ivoire

#### Context

The Côte d'Ivoire NATCOM acknowledges the importance of effective WAM policy and practice in the country and is pleased with its collaboration with UNIDIR, ECOWAS, the Federal Republic of Germany, UNDP and the EU among others in the area of WAM.

#### 2020 WAM Priorities

The following activities were planned for 2020:

- Rehabilitation of armouries;
- Training of Security Forces in weapons and ammunition stock management;
- Marking of residual weapons;
- Destruction of obsolete weapons of the Security Forces;
- Destruction of weapons seized and confiscated at sites of the judiciaries; and
- Revision of the Weapons and Ammunition Management Software and establishment of a centralized Weapons and Ammunition Database.

#### Effects of COVID-19 on planned activities

In light of the current global pandemic, the following planned activities have been suspended:

- Field activities;
- Rehabilitation works;
- Marking of residual weapons;
- Destruction of weapons seized and confiscated at sites of the judiciaries; and
- Destruction of obsolete Forces' weapons in the various armouries.

Generally, the pandemic has caused all activities of the NATCOM to be slowed down. Most of the planned activities especially field missions have been put on hold and the NATCOM is now focused on desk-based activities, such as planning (e.g. developing terms of reference and specifications of the planned storage renovation projects) and preparation for the review of a WAM recordkeeping software. The NATCOM is also engaging in the destruction of certain obsolete or collected weapons stored at destruction sites during this time. The NATCOM office remains open, however, working hours have been staggered to avoid physical contact among staff.

## **4. Democratic Republic of Congo**

### **Context**

The DRC NATCOM is keen on effective WAM practices. The NATCOM wishes to thank UNIDIR, the U.S. Government and UNMAS for their partnership and support for WAM initiatives in the DRC. The DRC NATCOM has been able to destroy all tones of ammunitions and some weapons in the Beni region, and has also organized marking exercises for state-owned weapons and ammunition in several military camps. The assistance provided by UNMAS was invaluable in carrying out these marking operations.

### **2020 WAM Priorities**

In 2020 and beyond, the NATCOM of DRC will be keen on training relevant officers working in WAM, and the marking of all state-owned weapons stored in Kinshasa and in military camps.

## **5. Ghana**

### **Context**

The NATCOM of Ghana expresses its sincere gratitude to UNIDIR for their support in conducting a WAM baseline assessment in Ghana last year. With a focus on ammunition management, the baseline assessment revealed very interesting findings, including the need to prioritize the disposal of obsolete ammunition. Following the baseline assessment, the Ghana Armed Forces has been working to develop a national ammunition policy based on the IATGs. The Ghana NATCOM is supporting this process by providing additional inputs and information on the safety and security of ammunition gained from its participation in the Group of Governmental Experts on Ammunition process (GGE). The NATCOM has also advised the Armed Forces on the need to streamline the national ammunition policy to the GGE process and the multilateral instrument that will be produced thereof.

### **2020 WAM Priorities**

- Development of national ammunition management policy;
- Marking of weapons held by the Police in collaboration with UNSCAR; and
- Collaboration with Conflict Armament Research (CAR) to resolve tracing requests of weapons.

### **Effects of COVID-19 on planned activities**

All planned activities are being executed during this time, with strict observance of social distancing and other recommended COVID-19 precautions. The NATCOM Office is open and staff are running a shift system to prevent overcrowding in the workspace. The Ghana NATCOM continues to engage its partners via emails and virtual meetings and is grateful to UNIDIR for the invitation to participate and share updates during the WAM Update Meeting.

## **6. Liberia**

### **Context**

In 2018, Liberia benefited from UNIDIR and ECOWAS's assistance in conducting a baseline assessment of its national WAM framework. The assessment was part of UNIDIR's research approach to supporting states in assessing their WAM baselines and assisting them to establish national roadmaps to promote a cohesive approach to WAM. The assessment, conducted in cooperation with relevant regional organisations, consisted engagements with heads and technical experts of state security and related agencies, a technical consultative meeting and a high-level consultative meeting to discuss effective ways to strengthen the existing WAM framework as well as to establish baseline on national WAM capacities. Following the assessment, UNIDIR submitted a report on options for the enhancement of WAM in Liberia and this report is currently being used as the basis for various interventions for effective weapon and ammunition management.

### 2020 WAM Priorities

The NATCOM planned to engage in the following activities in 2020:

- Marking and recording of state-owned arms;
- Registration and licensing of holders of civilian arms;
- Inspection of state armouries and temporary storage facilities;
- Formulation of relevant policies and SOPs on arms control; and
- Review of national legislations on arms control.

The Liberian NATCOM is also implementing one major international assistance project in 2020. This is the UNDP/GIZ Organized Crime: West Africa Response to Trafficking OCWAR-T (OCWAR-T) Project which is being funded under the 11<sup>th</sup> European Development Fund (EDF).

The following outputs under the OCWAR-T project will complement WAM in Liberia:

- Review and update of the Liberia Firearms and Ammunition Control Act of 2015 and its Administrative Regulations;
- Assessment and capacity strengthening of the NATCOM; and
- Assessment of state armoury facilities and storage sites nationwide.

### Effects of COVID-19 on planned activities

Due to the global COVID-19 pandemic, most of the planned activities including the implementation of certain phases of the OCWAR-T project have been suspended or slowed down. This includes prior engagement meetings to inform stakeholders of the review of the Firearms and Ammunition Control Act and its Regulations and UNDP's micro assessment of the Liberian NATCOM's internal controls. Activities that do not involve physical meetings, such as the vetting and hiring of legal consultants to lead the Firearms Act review process are being carried out by the Commission in collaboration with UNDP. The vetting and hiring of a security expert to lead the internal assessment of the NATCOM is also ongoing.

Due to the Government restrictions on social gathering and working hours, only few essential staff are allowed to report to work every other day from 9am-3pm. However, staff usually work from home via emails and other social media platforms. The following desk-based activities and COVID-19 inspired WAM initiatives are currently ongoing:



- Drafting and submission of annual and bi-annual reports of Liberia's implementation efforts in several international instruments including the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the UN PoA, and the ITI;
- Quarterly reports to the Office of the President of the Republic of Liberia and the Legislature as required by the Act establishing the Commission;
- Implementing soft activities of the UNDP/GIZ OCWAR-T Project including the recent submission of the first quarter report;
- Carrying out awareness raising activities on the local radio and television stations to prevent the further spread of COVID-19 targeting hunters and the general public;
- Providing support to the Liberia Action Network on Small Arms (LANSA), a network of civil society organisations working on arms control and related issues, to develop and submit a proposal: "Protecting women and children of security personnel and vulnerable groups from contracting the COVID-19 infection through civic education, vigorous weapon, ammunition and gadgets disinfection regime" to the Women Peace Humanitarian Fund for funding consideration.

At a time when security personnel are most vulnerable, a robust civic education targeting a vigorous weapon, ammunition and other security gadgets disinfection regime is a synergy between WAM and COVID-19 to protect security personnel and their families from contracting the COVID-19 infection through weapons and ammunition contamination. While it is difficult to conduct physical activities involving several persons during this health crisis, the Commission is using several social media platforms including Zoom, WhatsApp, Messenger to host virtual meetings with some stakeholders. The Commission has also worked with the Technical Committee on Arms, which comprises of experts from state security agencies, to create a WhatsApp group to conduct its affairs during this period.

## 7. Mali

### Context

In line with the national WAM action plan (2019-2023) to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Mali, the NATCOM's overall objective is to help restore peace and social cohesion through effective control of the flow of weapons.

### 2020 WAM Priorities

In order to attain the above objective, the NATCOM planned the following activities for this year:

- Public sensitization on the dangers related to illicit possession of weapons by civilians;
- Development of national SALW control legislations and policies that are harmonized with international instruments;
- Activities to regulate and control the artisanal manufacture of firearms; and
- Improving the storage and management of state arms and ammunition stocks at the national level in accordance with ECOWAS, AU, MOSAIC and IATG standards.

### Effects of COVID-19 on Planned Activities

The current global health crisis has affected the execution of our planned projects and necessitated us to re-strategize our activities and plans moving ahead. From mid-April to the end of April, the NATCOM office was opened for operations in the morning until it was closed indefinitely in early May when an official tested positive to COVID-19. While NATCOM officials are working from home and predominantly participating in virtual meetings, other project activities are ongoing, including the legislative review process, identification and profiling of illicit arms, destruction of obsolete ammunition as well as some PSSM activities.

## **8. Niger**

### **Context**

The Niger NATCOM would like to express its sincere thanks to UNIDIR for their support in organizing a WAM baseline in the Republic of Niger in August 2018. The Niger NATCOM confirms that there have been significant WAM updates including the implementation of some of the options recommended during the baseline assessment. The Nigerian NATCOM has also developed and validated a national action plan for 2019-2021 with the support of the Small Arms Survey (SAS). Physical Security and Stockpile Management is one of the main focal areas of the NATCOM.

### **2020 WAM Priorities:**

- Weapons collection activities;
- Renovation and construction of armouries;
- Sensitization activities; and
- Drafting of a national legislation on SALW control.

### **Effects of COVID-19 on planned activities**

The Government of Niger has issued a ban on meetings and public events gathering more than fifty (50) people, therefore the weapons collection and sensitization activities have been put on hold. The NATCOM is currently developing an appropriate strategy in response to the effects of COVID-19 on its planned sensitization and other WAM activities.

## **9. Nigeria**

### **Context**

The Office of the Presidential Committee on Small Arms & Light Weapons (PRESCOM) remains committed to strengthening weapons and ammunition management frameworks in Nigeria. The PRESCOM has been partnering with regional and international organisations to implement various projects aimed at improving WAM policies and practices in Nigeria.

### **2020 WAM Priorities**

- Implementation of the ECOWAS-EU Small Arms Project; and
- Implementation of the PSSM and Physical Arms project with Mines Advisory Group (MAG).

### **Effects of COVID-19 on planned activities**

The PRESCOM Office was initially closed until 4th of May 2020. This led to the suspension of certain aspects of the ECOWAS-EU Small Arms Project and the PSSM and Physical Arms Destruction activities with MAG. PRESCOM officials are currently telecommuting full time.

## 10. Sierra Leone

### Context

The Sierra Leonean NATCOM has been heavily focused on PSSM activities since 2009 as poor PSSM systems emerged a major challenge since the end of the civil conflict in 2002. The NATCOM has destroyed all unserviceable weapons and ammunition belonging to the military and police, marked all weapons possessed by these two forces, procured weapons destruction and marking equipment, and constructed and /or rehabilitated a total of 21 armouries for both forces. Three explosive store houses have also been constructed for the military and about 75 Armoury Managers and Storekeepers from both the Military and Police forces have been trained. Between September and December 2019, about five tons of heavy expired explosives were disposed. Recent regular incineration of expired ammunition has drastically reduced the threat of, and dangers associated with, unplanned explosions at the major ammunition storage facility located in the centre of Freetown.

### 2020 WAM Priorities

The Sierra Leonean NATCOM envisaged the following activities for 2020:

- Armoury construction and rehabilitation project;
- National survey of local craft producers;
- Advocacy meetings with Members of Parliament and the Amendment of national WAM legislations (the SLeNCSA Act and the Arms and Ammunition Act) to ensure Sierra Leone's ATT implementation compliance with the support of the Ministry of Internal Affairs; and
- Regional mobile licensing exercises.

### Effects of COVID-19 on Planned Activities

Sierra Leone has had two lockdowns, from 5<sup>th</sup> – 7<sup>th</sup> April 2020 and 3<sup>rd</sup> – 5<sup>th</sup> May 2020. These lockdowns have affected the operations of the NATCOM significantly. Only two critical NATCOM staff are allowed to work at adjusted working hours and days in the NATCOM Office during this time. Consequently, the NATCOM has shifted its focus to the following activities:

- Renewal of licenses of firearms possessed legally by civilians;
- Development and submission of relevant project proposals to international partners—e.g. the NATCOM recently submitted a project proposal to UNDP for the provision of COVID-19 protective and preventive equipment and materials to partner security forces and civil society WAM partners;
- Development of an electronic arms register for all arms possessed by the military, police and registered civilian arms; and
- Virtual participation in relevant security coordination meetings (e.g. the fortnight National Security Council Coordinating Group meeting is now conducted online).

## 11. Somalia

### Context

The National WAM Focal point (NWFP) would like to thank UNIDIR for all its efforts towards improving WAM in Somalia. Through UNIDIR's technical and advisory support to the Federal Government of Somalia and the Office of the National Security Advisor, WAM has been elevated to a top priority item on the Security Sector reform agenda in Somalia. This is an unprecedented achievement. Having attained this status for WAM, efforts are now focused on how Somalia can develop a strategic, comprehensive and sustainable approach to WAM not limited to meeting the immediate requirements of the arms embargo but WAM as a tool to strengthening Somalia's state-building efforts. This involves ensuring that the critical WAM architecture frameworks are place in Somalia.

### 2020 WAM Priorities

In view of the above developments, the following priorities were envisaged in 2020:

- Drafting of a national WAM strategy and national WAM roadmap with the support of UNIDIR. This activity follows a validation of the WAM baseline via a national consultation workshop organized with the support of UNIDIR in February 2020. This activity has generated a lot of interest and both the Prime Minister and President have supported ONSA and NWFP's WAM endeavours. The findings of the WAM baseline assessment were also presented to the Prime Minister and the Chiefs of Security in March. The ONSA and NWFP were subsequently tasked by the Prime Minister to draft a WAM workplan which can be pursued between March and the end of the year;
- Rolling out the mobile fulcrum application to support security agencies in capturing data of their weapons in circulation. This intended to radically strengthen our verification efforts and increase accountability;
- Setting up an electronic national registry for weapons which tracks each weapon in the supply chain, right down to the individual to whom the weapon has been assigned;
- Ensuring that SOPs around transfer controls are reviewed and strictly adhered to;
- Marking of weapons owned by the federal member states; and
- Updating and reviewing critical legislation in relation to WAM.

### Effects of COVID-19 on Planned Activities:

- Shift of strategic focus and resources from ONS priorities to wider FGS COVID-19 efforts; and
- Limited engagement with Panel of Experts due to travel restrictions (field visit to Somalia as part of the PoE's work has not been possible).

Despite these challenges and changes, the ONS is currently engaging in desk based WAM activities including marking of weapons upon delivery in compliance with the arms embargo. The overall aim of the ONS during this current pandemic is to maintain a high-level momentum for the WAM agenda and to explore ways to operate in the "new normal" in order to achieve the WAM priorities.

## Annex 2: Current Initiatives and Assistance available for Strengthening WAM in Africa

This annex presents current initiatives, assistance and resources available for strengthening WAM in Africa as shared by States, regional and international organisations, and UN entities who participated in the meeting. This section presented information provided by participating partners verbally during the meeting, as well as via written contributions following the conclusion of the meeting. The contributions captured in this section was formatted in structure by UNIDIR. Updates originally shared in French by some partners<sup>7</sup> during the French session have been unofficially translated into English by UNIDIR in this version of the meeting summary.

### 1. Regional and Subregional Organisations in Africa

#### 1.1. African Union (AU)

All issues regarding weaponry, disarmament and non-proliferation at the African Union are managed by the Directorate of Peace and Security. Disarmament and weapons management programmes have always been an integral strategic imperative of conflict prevention on the continent, and the adoption of the Silencing the Guns (STG) by 2020, weapons management and universalization of the arms trade treaty formed a key component of the STG campaigns. Some of the implemented and on-going activities related to WAM includes the following:

- Ongoing discussion at the commission in reviewing the progress of the STG by 2020 and shaping post-2020 plans;
- 2019 was particularly devoted to generating knowledge in the area of weaponry on the continent particularly the illicit small arms and light weapons. In this regard the African Union partnered with the Geneva-based Small Arms Survey to research and produce the unprecedented ground-breaking survey published as, *Weapons Campus: Mapping Illicit Small Arms Flows in Africa*. The publication was well received and adopted by the African Union Peace and Security Council, and later it was presented at the United Nations headquarters. The Publication is available in four official African Union languages and widely disseminated to member states;
- Following this publication on flows of illicit SALWs, the African Union further partnered with the Small Arms Survey to produce a researched compendium documenting African Experiences in Voluntary Surrender of SALW. The research is currently due for publication;
- Besides knowledge production, the African Union has specifically been developing policy and ensuring policy implementation aimed at closing both strategic and operational gaps in broader WAM efforts. This has included developing and adoption of the African Union Policy on the management of recovered SALW in Peace Support Operations (PSOs), such as AMISOM and MNJTF;
- Following the adoption of the policy on management of recovered SALWs in PSOs, mission specific SOPs have been developed and due of implementation;
- The African Union also identified ammunition management as a critical component in disrupting illicit flows of SALWs. Therefore, strengthening and

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<sup>7</sup> UNODA and UNODC are the two partners who provided updates in the French Session

capacity building to Member States is considered a strategic imperative in ensuring effective WAM on the continent. In this regard the Department of Peace and Security through the Defence and Security division has patterned with the British Peace Support Team for Africa and delivered a series of standards and bespoke Safe and Secure Management of Ammunition (SSMA). These trainings have so far been attended by more than 100 middle level and senior military and police officials;

- Other efforts have included provision of technical support to individual Member States to upgrade their SSMA programs;
- The African Union has since 2017 been supporting the Africa Amnesty Month in Member States every September; and
- In 2019 the African Union was resolutely seized with issue of Explosive Weapons in Populated Areas (EWIPA). Since the 2017 Maputo Communique a number of African Union Member States have been concerned with the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, including the ongoing global efforts to reach a universal consensus. In this regard the African Union Commission has worked closely with the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) to support member states discussions and engagements.

In respect of the ongoing COVID-19 challenges, indications are that possible armed violence including robberies is likely to increase in African member states during and after the pandemic.

#### African Union and Bonn International Centre for Conversion (AU-BICC) activities

The African Union in partnership with the Bonn International Centre for Conversion (BICC) has conducted in the past year the following activities:

- A PSSM website has been launched which allowed the user to receive a vast variety of information on arms control activities in the greater Sahel. Currently the website is being updated to provide the user with broader information about all SALW related activities in all of Africa in conjunction with the African Union Silencing the Guns Master Roadmap. A beta version of the updated website has been presented last year during the First Committee in New York. The final product will be presented within the upcoming month;
- The African Union in partnership with BICC furthermore deployed two of their SALW control practitioners to a field mission to UNMAS in Mali, to exchange knowledge, start cooperation and to present the skill set of the practitioners which have been vetted in the last years. The roster of the Practitioners can be deployed upon request to the African Union Commission to provide advice and training in a vast spectrum of activities related to the main aspects of SALW control. The deployment of the practitioners can be sponsored by BICC. Requesting parties can be AU-Member States (MS), Regional Economic Commissions (RECs) and Regional bodies, as well as implementing agencies;
- The two parties also jointly updated a set of three different Operational Guidance Notes on the MOSAICs, IATGS and PSSM and shipped physical copies to all AU Member States;
- In conjunction with RECSA, the AU and BICC also hosted a cross-border cooperation workshop last September in Nairobi, Kenya to explore closer cooperation amongst Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and South Sudan. Based on the suggestions received, engagement with Ethiopia has materialized;
- The AU and BICC have provided practical support in the development of the Ethiopian Firearms Proclamation, which for the first time in Ethiopian history, regulates civilian possession of SALW within the country. Once the

proclamation passed the parliament, a sensitization workshop of more than 100 stakeholders from across Ethiopia has been organized to discuss the next steps, as well as to receive feedback; and

- The above-mentioned feedback is currently used to translate the legislative into Directives and Guidelines in order to apply the Fire-Arms proclamation.

## 1.2. Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Commission

### WAM Engagements in The Gambia in cooperation with UNIDIR

In February 2020, ECOWAS partnered with UNIDIR on a joint mission to the Gambia to engage with relevant national stakeholders on the country's WAM needs, priorities and gaps ahead of a UNIDIR baseline assessment planned to take place in the Gambia later this year. The mission involved high-level meetings and discussions with Ministers, parliamentarians and heads of agencies. ECOWAS commended the effort of UNIDIR for the WAM Assessment initiative and its support to Member States in the region.

### 5- year workplan for Convention Implementation

The ECOWAS Commission is currently developing a 5-year workplan for the implementation of the ECOWAS Convention in the region. Already, subject matter experts are currently working on the plan with thematic areas assigned based on their specialties. The 5-year workplan is being developed in line with the recommendations of the technical meeting held in Niamey in 2019 where the 10-year anniversary of the implementation of the Convention was appraised by Member States, Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), regional as well as international partners. Thus, the 5-year plan, covering period 2021 - 2025, is being prepared to enable the region to further consolidate on the gains so far through more concrete programmes and activities with clear key performance indicators (KPIs) established for monitoring progress. The GFFO is funding this process through its agency, the BICC.

### ECOWAS Activities that have been affected by COVID-19

- Annual Coordination Meeting of National Commissions on SALW

The coordination platform put in place by ECOWAS Commission where National Commissions on SALW and stakeholders meet annually to exchange experiences and to share information on past, current and future efforts on arms control and non-proliferation originally scheduled to take place in June 2020 in Benin has been rescheduled to August 2020 (subject to further changes);

- Evaluation of Implementation of ECOWAS Convention on SALW

As per the provision of article 28 of the ECOWAS Convention on SALW, independent experts are to be appointed periodically to carry out an evaluation on the level of compliance with the implementation of the Convention by the Member States/stakeholders. The evaluation has been postponed from March/April 2020 to September/October 2020; and

- PSSM Regional Training

Since 2018, ECOWAS holds an annual regional competency building training on PSSM in Jaji, Nigeria. The 5-year project funded by the GFFO through BICC aims at training storage managers in modern methods of PSSM practices. The training takes place twice every year and attracts officers in the security forces in Member States. The first

leg for 2020 was conducted in February and the second leg is expected to take place in October 2020, subject to COVID-19 related changes.

### **1.3. Regional Centre on Small Arms in the Great Lakes Region (RECSA)**

The Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) is an intergovernmental organisation that was established in June 2005 with the mandate of coordinating the implementation of the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons. The current membership of RECSA is 15 member states and the Secretariat is hosted in the Republic of Kenya.

The Nairobi Protocol compliments regional and international instruments and mechanisms on peace, security and development including the United Nations Programme of Action (UNPoA), Agenda 2063 on the Africa We Want, the Sustainable Development Goals and the African Union Silencing the Guns (STG) Initiative by 2020.

In line with the RECSA Regional Action Plan 2019 - 2020, RECSA Secretariat coordinated the implementation of a number of regional interventions with the following outcomes:

- Strengthened capacity of RECSA Secretariat and National Institutions responsible for SALW management and control in member states;
- Improved physical security and stockpile management in all RECSA member states;
- Increased awareness in all member States on publication of research reports on identified SALW thematic areas; and
- Improved reporting of results and increased participation of special interest groups in SALW interventions.

#### **RECSA Activities that have been affected by COVID-19**

While the RECSA Secretariat has made significant progress in coordinating implementation of various SALW instruments in the RECSA region, most of its interventions have been affected by the consequences of the Covid-19 pandemic. For example:

- March and May 2020 regional PSSM trainings have been cancelled;
- Cross-border conference has been postponed; and
- the RECSA council of ministers and technical advisory committee meetings which were scheduled to take place in Kinshasa in May 2020 have been postponed indefinitely

Apart from the above, many other WAM activities which were planned to take place in the Member States could not be implemented due to the pandemic. To address the mentioned challenges, RECSA continues to play its coordination role with support of member states and other stakeholders while readjusting the existing plans, in respect of the uniqueness of the region and according to agreed approaches with its partners.

## **2. States and Other Regional and International Organisations**

### **2.1. United States of America**



The United States' weapons and ammunition management (WAM) programmes span the African continent. The bulk of the U.S.' efforts focus on physical security and stockpile management (PSSM) interventions, including the construction and rehabilitation of storage facilities, capacity building activities, and the destruction of excess munitions. The main objective of the U.S. assistance is to prevent illicit diversions to subversive actors and mitigate the risk of unplanned explosions, thereby improving regional and civilian security. Additionally, the U.S. supports security forces to interdict weapons in known smuggling routes and deploys teams to locate and destroy abandoned and unsecured caches. The U.S. also supports the engagement of regional organisations, such as RECSA, as effective and cost-efficient implementers that build regional capacity and encourage host nation buy-in. Below is a summary of U.S.-funded WAM programmes by country or region.

## Sahel

In the Sahel, the Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement (WRA) funds programmes in Niger, Chad, Burkina Faso, and Mali. These programmes focus on preventing the diversion of state held stockpiles to extremist groups through security improvements to vulnerable bases. In one instance, extremists were unable to breach a storeroom built by WRA's implementer in Burkina Faso before a responding force drove them off. In the Sahel, we are also working to build national capacity to identify and mark weapons. For example, in Chad, the WRA is working through Mines Advisory Group (MAG) to mark all weapons held by the judicial security forces, which are vulnerable to diversion through prison breaks. Following this intervention, the U.S. intends to expand support for weapons marking to other security forces. In Chad and Niger, we also provide fuel to partner security forces to enable them to interdict weapons in smuggling routes.

## CAR

In CAR, we are funding a programme through UNMAS to support munitions destruction under the Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) process. This programme is in its early phase, but we hope to continue this effort and expand to building WAM best practices beyond DDR.

## Somalia

In Somalia, we are engaging with the Somali National Army and National Police, and plan to upgrade 18 police stations in Mogadishu over the coming months. We also support mobile weapons and ammunition destruction (WAD) teams to locate and destroy abandoned and unsecured small arms and light weapons and ammunition.

## DRC

DRC is now our largest WAM programme in terms of dollars committed over the next two years, over 6 million USD. In coordination with other international actors, we are working to build national capacity by incorporating WAM best practices into training for the armed forces. PSSM interventions have been planned in both Kinshasa as well as in the East to support broader stabilization efforts and stem the flow of weapons to armed groups.

## The Great Lakes Region

RECSA has been working diligently to mark weapons in the east with in-kind support of the SALW National Commission. Since 2006, we have supported RECSA in the Great Lakes region to conduct demolitions, training, physical infrastructure upgrades, and weapons marking.

## Angola

The WRA is building PSSM programmes in Angola to complement long-standing HMA programs. We are primarily working with the police for physical infrastructure upgrades, training, and weapons destruction, with a geographic focus on Luanda and the eastern provinces.

## 2.2. European Union (EU)

The EU is committed to international cooperation and assistance to counter the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW) as a means to achieving many of the goals of the Sustainable Development Agenda, including those relating to peace, justice and strong institutions, poverty reduction, economic growth, health, gender equality, safe cities and in particular, Sustainable Development Goal 16 on significantly reducing illicit arms flows. In this regard, in January 2020 the EU decided to become a supporter of action 22 of the UN Secretary-General's Agenda for Disarmament, to secure excessive and poorly maintained stockpiles as a means to addressing the excessive accumulation and illicit trade in conventional weapons.

Since its adoption in 2001 the EU has been supporting cooperation and assistance to third countries for the implementation of the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in All Its Aspects (UN PoA). Majority of the assistance projects supported by the EU have a focus on voluntary civilian disarmament campaigns, collection and destruction of surplus SALW and ammunition, physical security and stockpile management for SALW and ammunition, capacity building for marking, record keeping and tracing, and support for law enforcement against arms trafficking. The projects' activities are led by an integrated approach, including support for legislation, institutional capacity building, implementation, training, awareness raising, physical rehabilitation, promotion of international standards, and support for monitoring and enforcement capacities. Most of these projects have a regional scope and are implemented with the help of regional organisations. In Africa, the EU works together with the African Union, ECOWAS, United Nations Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC), and RECSA.

Other projects enable capacity building for arms export control, which is crucial in preventing SALW from falling into the wrong hands. The EU supports States, at their request, to strengthen their arms transfer control systems with a view to implementing the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which has evident synergies with the UN Programme of Action on SALW. The activities under the project take place across the globe and include assistance for drafting legislation, training and sharing of best practices among export control professionals.

The EU also financially supports activities of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in support of gender mainstreamed policies, programmes and actions in the fight against small arms trafficking and misuse, in line with the Women, Peace and Security Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 5.

Since 2001, the EU has been supporting INTERPOL's Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System, iArms. iArms is an electronic platform that facilitates information exchange and investigative cooperation between law enforcement agencies.

Since 2013 the EU has also been supporting iTrace, a global reporting mechanism on illicit SALW and other illicit conventional weapons and ammunition in conflict affected areas implemented by Conflict Armament Research.

The EU also supports the implementation of the UN Firearms Protocol in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

As indicated in the EU Strategy against illicit firearms, small arms & light weapons and their ammunition, that was adopted by the Council of the European Union on 19 November 2018, the EU commits to continue supporting cooperation and assistance for the implementation of the UN Programme of Action, with a focus on regional cooperation, and to participate in and support coordination with other donors.

### 2.3. Pathfinders

The Pathfinders are a group of 36 UN member states, international organisations, global partnerships, civil society and the private sector who work to accelerate action to implement the SDG targets for peace, justice and inclusion (SDG16+). During the virtual meeting, a representative from the Pathfinders and the German Federal Office jointly shared updates on their joint Gender Equality Network for Small Arms Control (GENSAC) project and announced an upcoming GENSAC webinar on 14 May dubbed “Guns, Peace and Pandemic”. For more information on the Pathfinders and GENSAC activities please visit the links below:

GENSAC: <https://gensac.network/>

Pathfinders: <https://www.sdg16.plus/>

## 3. United Nations Entities

### 3.1. United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

The UNODA has several initiatives aimed at strengthening WAM practices and policies in Africa as well as on the global level. Below are a few of these initiatives and their references.

- Secretary-General’s Agenda for Disarmament- “Disarmament that saves lives” (Pillar 2) Implementation Webpage (WAM-related activities under Action 22), <https://www.un.org/disarmament/sq-agenda/en/>
- Modular Small-arms control Implementation Compendium (MOSAIC) <https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/mosaic/> [*MOSAIC operational series 5 available in French*]
- UN SaferGuard Programme <https://www.un.org/disarmament/convarms/ammunition/>
- International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATGs) <https://www.un.org/disarmament/un-safeguard/guide-lines/> [*Full IATG will be available in French by August 2020*]
- Aide-Memoire on options for mainstreaming weapons and ammunition management in decision of the Security Council <https://www.un.org/disarmament/publications/aide-memoire>
- DPO-ODA Handbook on “Effective Weapons and Ammunition Management in a Changing DDR Context”

<https://www.un.org/disarmament/publications/more/ddr-handbook/>  
[Handbook available in English and French]

### 3.2. United Nations Mine Action Service in Somalia (UNMAS Somalia)

#### Federal Member States (FMS) level WAM Workshop Preparations

In cooperation with the Federal Government of Somalia's Office of National Security (FGS ONSA), UNMAS is preparing materials to support the implementation of FMS-level WAM workshops to include the following:

- Draft WAM legislation & Presidential Decree;
- The UN arms embargo and FMS reporting and compliance requirements;
- National WAM Technical Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs); and
- Weapons marking and registration.

#### FMS-level Weapons Management Centres

Preparation of a concept note and a budget with the National WAM Focal Point (NWFP) and ONSA for the potential development of 'Halane-like' Weapons Management Centres at FMS level. This has been seen by some donors and is now at the second stage of revision following various questions that were asked.

#### Advance Delivery Approval (ADA-2)

UNMAS has supported the National WAM Focal Point (NWFP) with the preparation of a second ADA for the supply of explosives to Somali Police Force Explosive Ordnance Disposal (SPF EOD) teams. This includes reporting on the first period (18th Nov 2019 to 18th May 2020) and revised terms for the next 6-month period reflecting progress made by the Somali Police Force (SPF) in Mogadishu with the management of explosives.

### 3.3. United Nations Office of Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

UNODC's WAM-related activities are mostly linked to management of seized and confiscated weapons as per their mandate. Planned activities in 2020 include:

- Development of SOPs for the stockpile and management of seized firearms (following up to our work on the stockpiling of seized firearms in Burkina Faso and Niger);
- Marking and recordkeeping in CAR, Chad, Niger and Burkina Faso;
- Improving the stockpiling of seized firearms in CAR and Niger;
- Destruction of confiscated firearms in Niger; and
- Support to Silencing the Guns initiatives, particularly making sure that the topic of the criminal justice is included as part of discussions and subsequent initiatives.

## Annex 3: List of Participants



### I. English Session

No	State/Organisation	Name of Participant	Position
1	Ghana	Leonard Tetteh	Programme Officer, Ghana NATCOM
2	Nigeria	N.Dickson Orji	Programmes Coordinator, PRESCOM
3	Liberia	Grigsby, II Maxwell Teklo	Chairman, Liberia NATCOM
4	Liberia	Benietta Jarbo	Vice-chairperson, Liberia NATCOM
5	Sierra Leone	Lt-Col. Mbade Sogo Bangura	Assistant Commissioner, Sierra Leone NATCOM
6	Somalia	Abdikarin Ali-Hassan	National Focal point for WAM, Office of the President
7	Somalia	Yasmin Ahmed	Legal and Sanctions Advisor, Office of the President
8	Sierra Leone	Wilphred Samuel Taylor	Programme Officer, Sierra Leone NATCOM
9	Gambia	Tangara Assan	Permanent Secretary, Gambian NATCOM
10	ECOWAS	Dr. Sani Adamu	Deputy Head, Small Arms Division
11	Finland	Mäkeläinen, Anni	Desk Officer, Unit for Arms Control
12	Netherlands	Bos, Diederik	Intern
13	Netherlands	Sachi Claringbough	Deputy Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament, First Secretary
14	Switzerland	Nathalie Silberman	Department of Defence Civil Protection and Sport
15	United States	Patrick Shea	Programme Manager, Africa
16	United States	Michael Tirre	Programme Manager, Africa
17	United States	Steve Costner	Acting Director, Office of

			Weapons Removal and Abatement WRA
18	EU	Marketa Homolkova	Disarmament, Non-Proliferation and Arms Export Control
19	AU	Christopher Kayoshe	Foal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Defence and Security Division, Peace and Security Department
20	RECSA	Eric Kayiranga	Principal Officer, PSSM
21	UNMAS Mogadishu	Nick Bateman	Weapons and Ammunition Policy Advisor
22	UNODA	Katherine Prizeman	Political Affairs Officer
23	UNODA	Nora Allgaier	Associate Political Affairs Officer
24	UNODC	Leonardo Lara	Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer
25	BICC	Karl Wagner	Technical Advisor on Physical Security and Stockpile Management in West Africa
26	BICC	Kroetz Matthias	SALW Control Advisor seconded to the AUC
27	BICC	Nikhil Acharya	Senior Regional Advisor, WAM/DDR
28	Small Arms Survey	Paul Holtom	Head of Policy and Capacity Support
29	Conflict Armament Research	Jonah Leff	Director of Operations
30	Mines Advisory Group	Josephine Dresner	Head of Strategic Partnerships
31	GICHD-AMAT	Andrew Grantham	Technical Advisor, Ammunition Management Team
32	Pathfinders	Bojan Francuz	Programme Associate
33	Pathfinders	Fairlie Chapuis	Associate
34	Pathfinders	Natalie Briggs	Associate
35	Germany	John Reyels	Deputy Head of Division, Federal Foreign Office Division, Conventional Arms Control and CSBM,
36	Germany	Lisa Mueller Dormann	Conventional Arms

			Control and CSBM, West Africa and ECOWAS Desk
37	Germany	Christian Sedat	
38	Germany	Catrin Stibbe	German Embbasy in Addis Ababa
39	UNIDIR	Himayu Shiotani	Programme Head
40	UNIDIR	Mohamed Coulibaly	Researcher
41	UNIDIR	Anna Mensah	Programme Assistant
42	UNIDIR	Hardy Giezendanner	Researcher
43	UNIDIR	Einas Mohammed	Researcher
44	UNIDIR	Roland Martial	Graduate Professional Assistant
45	UNIDIR	Manuel Martinez Miralles	Researcher
46	UNIDIR	Renata Hessmann Dalaqua	Programme Lead, Gender and Disarmament Programme

## II. French Session

No	State/Organisation	Name of Participant	Position
1	Burkina Faso	Adjudant Chef Major BADO ADOLPHE	Secrétaire Particulier de la CNLPAL
2	Burkina Faso	Colonel Major Christophe Raoul Tapsoba	Secrétaire Permanent de la CNLPAL
3	Central African Republic	Benjamin Saraganza	Officier
4	Central African Republic	Jean-Pierre Betindji	Secrétaire Executif, Coordonnateur Du Secretariat Technique Permanent
5	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Patrick Kombe Katambwe Y	Secrétaire Permanent
6	Democratic Republic of the Congo	Claude Bieto Yala	Charge des questions juridique
7	Côte d'Ivoire	Anzian Kouadjan	Gestionnaire, spécialiste Sécurité et Paix
8	Côte d'Ivoire	Philippe Koré	Conseiller spécial du Président de la ComNat-ALPC
9	Niger	Allassan Fousseini	Coordonateur programme/SPA
10	Mali	Adama Diarra	Chargé des Formations et plans d'opérations
11	ECOWAS	Dr. Sani Adamu	Deputy Head, Small Arms Division

12	ECCAS	Muzue Missak Kasongo	SALW-SSR Expert
13	Switzerland	Nathalie Silberman	Department of Defence Civil Protection and Sport
14	AU	Christopher Kayoshe	Foal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Defence and Security Division, Peace and Security Department
15	UNMAS Central African Republic	Richard Derieux	Chef de programme
16	UNMAS Central African Republic	Kathia Ridore	Chargé de programme
17	UNODA	Nora Allgaier	Associate Political Affairs Officer
18	UNODC	Leonardo Lara	Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer
19	BICC	Nikkhil Acharya	Senior Regional Advisor, WAM/DDR
20	Mines Advisory Group	Angelo Bernard	WAM Technical Advisor
21	GICHD-AMAT	Frederic Maio	Programme Manager
22	Expertise France	Caroline Parquet	Project Manager
23	Germany	John Reyels	Deputy Head of Division, Federal Foreign Office Division, Conventional Arms Control and CSBM,
24	Germany	Lisa Mueller Dormann	Conventional Arms Control and CSBM,
25	UNIDIR	Himayu Shiotani	Programme Head
26	UNIDIR	Mohamed Coulibaly	Researcher
27	UNIDIR	Anna Mensah	Programme Assistant
28	UNIDIR	Hardy Giezendanner	Researcher
29	UNIDIR	Pauline Levy	Graduate Professional Assistant
30	UNIDIR	Roland Martial	Graduate Professional Assistant
31	UNIDIR	Manuel Martinez Miralles	Researcher



## Annex 4: Agenda



### *Strengthening Weapon and Ammunition Management Policy and Practice in Africa* *Online update meeting* **Final Agenda**

**WHAT:** The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), in cooperation with the Government of Germany, is pleased to convene an **online Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) update meeting**. This online meeting is designed to facilitate information exchange and updates on WAM activities in Africa, including on UNIDIR's research plans and activities for 2020, in light of the current global health crisis. Concretely, UNIDIR will share updates on the Institute's 2020-2021 WAM plans and activities, including but not limited to, UNIDIR's first Regional Weapons and Ammunition Management Lessons Learned Seminar scheduled to take place this year, in partnership with the African Union Commission. The meeting will also provide an opportunity for participating States and relevant stakeholders to share updates relating to WAM in Africa, and how activities might be affected by the current global health crisis. This meeting invites African States that have engaged with UNIDIR on WAM baseline assessments, as well as select number of relevant stakeholders from regional organisations, expert non-governmental organisations (NGO), United Nations entities and partners from States.

**WHEN:** The **online WAM update meeting** will be held on **Wednesday, 6th May 2020**. Two meeting sessions will be convened: one in English and the other in French. The English session will start at 14:00 (CEST) and the French session will start at 16:00 (CEST). Both sessions are designed to last approximately 90 minutes each.

**HOW TO PREPARE:** Please review the meeting preparation package circulated prior to this meeting, which includes: 1) an **information note** on update to UNIDIR's research plans and activities in 2020; 2) an advance copy of the **update briefing presentation**; and 3) a **logistics note**. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact the UNIDIR research team.

#### **FINAL AGENDA:**

##### **Administrative Remarks**

Anna Mensah Conventional Arms Programme Assistant, UNIDIR

##### **Welcome Remarks**

John Reyels, Deputy Head of Division, Federal Foreign Office Division, Conventional Arms Control and CSBM, Germany (5 minutes)

##### **Update on UNIDIR WAM research plans and activities in 2020 and 2021**

Himayu Shiotani, Head of Conventional Arms Programme, UNIDIR (10 minutes)

**Update briefing by Participating States and Partners** (45 minutes total, 3-5 minutes per speaker)

**Conclusion and next steps** (5 minutes)

# Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) in Africa

## Online Update Meeting Summary

On 6 May 2020, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), in cooperation with the Government of Germany, convened an online meeting to exchange updates on weapons and ammunition management (WAM) activities in Africa. The purpose of the meeting was to provide a platform for UNIDIR and its WAM partners to exchange information on their current work and adjusted plans and activities on WAM in Africa in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The meeting was attended by over 70 representatives from Member States, United Nations partner entities, regional and sub-regional organisations and specialised non-governmental organisations (NGOs). The meeting was organised in two sessions—French and English—to facilitate wide participation and respond to different language needs of the participants. The event was organised by invitation-only. The discussions and key issues that were raised in the two sessions, as well as written contributions from partners on the current initiatives and assistance available for strengthening WAM in Africa are summarised in this report.