



UNREC FOCUS



UNREC FOCUS: April 2013- n° 19

NEWS

Historic adoption of an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) by the UN General Assembly

After years of efforts, on 02 April 2013, the General Assembly by a recorded vote of 154 in favour, 3 against, and 23 abstentions passed a resolution adopting the Arms ATT to create a uniform framework for the international trade in conventional arms.



The aim of the treaty is to create a level playing field for the global arms trade, bringing to it more accountability, openness and transparency, and making it harder for human rights abusers, criminals and arms traffickers to obtain weapons.

The ATT will be open for signature on 3rd June 2013 and will enter into force ninety days after the 50th signatory ratifies it.

UNREC has been actively engaged in assisting African States in the ATT process and encourages the African states to sign and ratify the treaty at the earliest opportunity.

[Information on the ATT can be found from here.](#)

UNREC PROJECT UPDATES

Field mission to Khartoum, 2-5 December 2012, Sudan



A team from UNREC traveled to Khartoum, Sudan to conduct an assessment of Sudan's needs and priorities in arms control. Hosted by the Sudan Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration Commission (SDDRC), the team met with officials from the Ministry of the Interior, the National Police Criminal Investigation Division, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, and civil society organization MAMAN.

UNREC also delivered a seminar on conventional arms control at the High Academy for Strategic and Security Studies in Khartoum. This trip is the start of a fruitful cooperation with the Republic of Sudan in arms control and UNREC looks forward to numerous productive projects.

Strengthening SALW Control in Cote d'Ivoire



In reaction to the dangers Côte d'Ivoire is experiencing related to the proliferation and misuse of small arms, the National Commission (ComNat) on Small Arms in Côte d'Ivoire has requested UNREC's assistance in four areas of activities: 1) evaluating and rehabilitating four police security stations; 2) equipping three rehabilitated sites for stockpile management; 3) completing an examination of the number of arms held by private security companies in the country; and, 4) training defense and security forces operating along the border. [From 10 to 12 October 2012 UNREC successfully organized the fourth activity](#) and will provide technical assistance to ComNat in implementing the first three activities.

UPCOMING EVENTS

<u>Item</u>	<u>Date</u>	<u>Location</u>
Seminar on Sanctions and Arms Embargoes	13-17 May 2013	Lomé, Togo
Conference on Disarmament: part II	13 – 18 May	Geneva, Switzerland
Workshop to validate the Report on the Holding of Arms by Private Security Firms in Côte d'Ivoire	23 May 2013	Côte d'Ivoire

PAST EVENTS

30-31 January 2013, sub-regional consultation meeting of ECCAS member states to prepare for the final UN Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty - Libreville, Gabon.



Further to the recommendation of ECCAS Member States and Rwanda, this consultation aimed at deepening the understanding of the draft Arms Trade Treaty to define the best strategy that can help protect the interests of the sub-region. Invited as a technical partner, UNREC made a presentation on the theme: «the difference between international trade and transfer of conventional arms. »The meeting was a unique opportunity for States to coordinate their views and to anticipate their participation as individual entities and as sub region state. [Click here for more information](#)

7 and 8 March 2013 African Seminar to Prepare for the Final Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty.

Organized by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), through UNREC in collaboration with the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA).



The seminar was an opportunity for African Member States to consider in depth the contents of the draft ATT in order to identify gaps as well as to explicit inputs to be taken into account in order to achieve a robust ATT in line with African region's concerns and interests. It also enabled African governmental experts to further deepen their understanding with regard to the scope, criteria, parameters and implementation of the Treaty and to be prepared to engage at all levels during the Final Conference.

ODA/UNREC has been actively engaged in assisting African States in the Arms Trade Treaty process since 2006 until the UN General Assembly passed a resolution adopting the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

For more information, see [the website of the Seminar](#), [Arms Trade Treaty websiteeee](#).

14-18 January 2013, "DTRA/ICP Counterproliferation Awareness Course", Accra - Ghana.

UNREC facilitated the course organized by the US Defense Threat Reduction Agency's International Counter proliferation Program and hosted by Kofi Annan International Peace Keeping Training Centre. The objective was to provide participants with a basic understanding of WMD counter proliferation issues as well as to inspire international and interagency cooperation and more African involvement. The course's target audience included 34 mid-level officials of law enforcement, custom services, border guards and intelligence/research units from five West African countries, namely, Gambia, Guinea, Niger, Senegal and Sierra Leone.

UNODA / UNREC INFORMATION NOTE

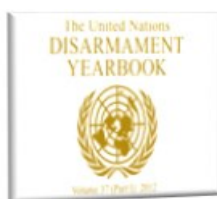
UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs appoints Marco Kalbusch director of UNREC



On 30 March 2013 Marco Kalbusch, a national of Germany, arrived in Lomé to take up his function as the new Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa. [Click here to read his biography.](#)

NEW UN PUBLICATIONS

2012 Disarmament Yearbook (Part I) now available as a PDF download



This Part I contains an annual compilation of texts and statistics on disarmament-related resolutions and decisions of the Sixty-seventh Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

Available in PDF <http://www.un.org/disarmament/>

PAPER ON "THE IMPACT OF POORLY REGULATED ARMS TRANSFERS ON THE WORK OF THE UNITED NATIONS".

This paper is developed by the United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA). [The publication is currently available in English only as a downloadable PDF document.](#)



1540 COMPASS

A journal of views, comments, and ideas for effective implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 1540 to prevent WMD proliferation and terrorism by non-state actors. Published by the Center for International Trade & Security, in cooperation with the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs. [All the issues are available online please click here.](#)

Civil Society and Disarmament 2012.

UNODA released the electronic publication, Civil Society and Disarmament 2012 – Applying a Disarmament Lens to Gender, Human Rights, Development, Security, Education and Communication: Six Essays. [The publication is currently available as a downloadable PDF document](#)

CONTACT

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Launch of micro website:

UN Digital UN Publications has launched UN Digital (www.un.org/digital), a micro website highlighting major digital products and services from the UN. The site helps people discover UN content such as eBooks, apps, databases and the UN eCollection. In support of Rio+20, the site features content related to sustainable development. www.un.org/digital



Disarmament Treaties Database:

Since 1978, the United Nations has been publishing the status of multilateral Arms Regulation and Disarmament Agreements, presenting data on signatories, parties of relevant agreements and the texts of the agreements themselves. <http://disarmament.un.org/treaties/>



Disarmament
Treaties
Database

Library Resource on Disarmament:

UN Regional Information Centre for Western Europe Produces Library Resource Document on Disarmament in English and French [Link to the resource](#)

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