



UNREC AND ITS PARTNERS' CONTRIBUTION TO THE UNITED NATIONS INTEGRATED STRATEGY FOR THE SAHEL

JUNE 2016

Table of contents

| | |
|---|-----------|
| 1.Context – security issues related to the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in the Sahel..... | 4 |
| 2.Common sub-regional trends and challenges | 7 |
| 3. Activities aimed at supporting African Member States in the Sahel region: assessment of the situation on SALW and reinforcing PSSM capacities..... | 9 |
| 4.Further engagement: “Regional support to the Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2178..... | 26 |
| 5.Conclusion – Recommendations for future action..... | 28 |

Preface

The impact of the illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons on international peace and security can be felt in a number of regions across the globe. In recent years, the Sahel has featured prominently in international and regional agendas as an area of particular concern in terms of the increased vulnerability of its populations, in particular women and children, as a result of the proliferation of weapons from within and outside the region, a lack of control over stockpiles, terrorist activities and related organized crime.

In the face of the multiple challenges which need to be addressed in order to create an environment conducive to secure and conflict-free societies in the region, the need for a strategic vision at all levels has inevitably emerged. At the global level, this vision is reflected in the United Nations Integrated Strategy for the Sahel, which focuses on three pillars, namely, governance, security and resilience.

Clearly, for this endeavor to be successful, the importance of close cooperation with relevant regional organizations and national governments in successfully taking forward the objectives of this Strategy cannot be underestimated. The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC), and its partners, support Member States of the region in their disarmament and arms control efforts without losing sight of the need to place national and regional institutions, alongside local populations, at the forefront of the fight against small arms and light weapons proliferation.

This document aims at presenting an overview of recently concluded and ongoing awareness-raising and capacity building projects by UNREC and its partners in the Sahel, with the objective of better understanding and containing the phenomenon of weapons proliferation and diversion to non-state actors. It is our hope that it will contribute to better understanding of the efforts being undertaken as well as prevailing challenges in the affected region.

Olatokunbo Ige
UNREC Director

1. Context – security issues related to the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons in the Sahel

Sahel countries remain vulnerable to the destabilizing effects of insecurity resulting from armed conflict and violence, terrorist activities and various types of illegal trafficking. Porous and desert borders facilitate and fuel the proliferation of trafficking of all kinds, including of SALW to non-state actors and transnational organised crime. Given the challenges Sahel States face at the security, political and humanitarian level, effective measures to control SALW and ammunition, alongside with their adequate storage and management, constitute essential elements to ensure the security of populations of the region.

The Libyan crises since 2011, as well as the political and security crises in Mali since 2012 have illustrated how the absence of such measures can pose a serious threat to peace and security in the region and beyond. The recurrence of terrorist attacks perpetrated by Boko Haram around Lake Chad, and those conducted recently by AQIM and other associated groups in Mali in November 2015 and Burkina Faso and Ivory Coast in January and March 2016 respectively, have further put into evidence the need to reinforce national and regional control mechanisms and improve the security and management of arms and ammunition.



UN Photo

The scale of the proliferation of SALW in the Sahel has simultaneously created an increasing level of awareness by the international community of the need for multi-sectoral and coherent strategies in order to address this issue. These are articulated in three key United Nations documents (see Table 1). At the regional level, the need to deal with the issue of the proliferation of SALW and their ammunition in a holistic and integrated manner is reflected in two strategic documents adopted by the African Union (see Table 2).

Table 1: Strategic Documents adopted at the international level

| | | |
|--|--|---|
| <p>United Nations Integrated strategy for the Sahel (adopted by the United Nations Security Council in June 2013)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Objective 2.5 Enhance regional and interregional cooperation among Sahelian, West African and Maghreb States, including through the development of harmonized approaches aimed at combating illicit trafficking, controlling arms and movements of armed and criminal elements, including terrorists, and reinforcing the 1267 arms embargo mandate ▪ Indicative actions (b) Sensitize the Governments of the Sahel and civil society actors about the 2012 International Small Arms Control Standards developed under the Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism (CASA), which provide clear guidance on putting in place and maintaining controls on small arms and light weapons. Efforts will also be made to support the countries of the region to fully implement the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunition, and Other Related Materials (Coordinating Action on Small Arms mechanism) | <p>Outcome Document of the Sixth Biennial Meeting of States to Consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All its Aspects (BMS6) (adopted in June 2016)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ States reiterated : “the importance of national laws, regulations and administrative procedures, interagency coordination, and, where they exist, national action plans to the full and effective implementation of the PoA. ▪ States noted “the importance of the adequate management of national small arms and light weapons stockpiles, including sustainable life-cycle management, for minimizing the risk of diversion, including through theft, loss and unauthorized re-export, of small arms and light weapons to illicit markets, illegal armed groups, terrorists and other unauthorized recipients, for preventing accidental explosions and protecting the environment, and for improving the control, storage and record-keeping of small arms and light weapons” | <p>Sustainable Development Goals (adopted on 25 September 2015)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Goal 16.4 By 2030 significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen recovery and return of stolen assets, and combat all forms of organized crime. ▪ Goal 16.a Strengthen relevant national institutions, including through international cooperation, for building capacities at all levels, in particular in developing countries, for preventing violence and combating terrorism and crime. |
|--|--|---|

Table 2: Strategic documents adopted at the regional level

African Union Strategy on the Control of Illicit Proliferation, Circulation and Trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons
(adopted by the Executive Council of the African Union in September 2011)

▪ **Objective 1.2**

Address comprehensively the problem of the illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of SALW through mainstreaming SALW control as a cross-cutting and multidimensional issue in achieving peace, security, development, and stability in the Continent;

▪ **Objective 1.4**

Promote cooperation, coordination and exchange of information between relevant stakeholders at national, regional, trans-regional and continental levels;

▪ **Strategic Orientation**

3.2 Cooperation and coordination at the regional and continental levels:

3.2.1 The AU to promote coordination among Regional Economic Communities (RECs) in the implementation of regional and continental agreements on the control of illicit SALW;

3.5 Resource mobilization: The AU, in collaboration with RECs and regional bodies with a SALW mandate, to ensure availability of resources for the implementation of regional and continental agreements on illicit SALW;

▪ **Implementation mechanisms**

The AU Commission has a mandate to:

4.4 promote research and data collection on illicit SALW in the regions, as well as engage in dialogue and cooperation between the governments, RECs, regional bodies and civil society in the fight against illicit SALW;

Agenda 2063

(adopted by the Assembly of AU Heads of States and Governments in May 2013)

▪ **« Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020 »**

“...therefore commit to speed up actions to Silence the guns by 2020, through enhanced dialogue-centered conflict prevention and resolution, to make peace a reality for all our people. We pledge not to bequeath the burden of conflicts to the next generation of Africans by ending all wars in Africa by 2020. We shall establish an African Human Security Index (AHSI) to monitor progress.”

Report of the Chairperson of the African Union Commission on arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation
(March 2016)

▪ **d) Gaps, Challenges and Opportunities**

“Poor stockpile management and weak security renders legally-held stockpiles vulnerable to diversion and susceptible to the risk of explosions. Effective stockpile management requires governments' ability to sustain good safety and security practices, properly dispose of surplus, enforce effective accountability and control measures, as well as maintain effective procurement procedures.

The progress achieved in arms marking and record-keeping also varies among Member States, with some having only partially completed arms marking, while others are yet to begin. In many instances, reliable and accessible records that correspond to marked weapons have not been properly kept or maintained.”

▪ **Relevant Communiqué of The Peace and Security Council of the African Union (AU)**

The Council noted “with concern that poorly secured and managed Government arms and ammunition stockpiles remain a main source of armaments for non-state armed groups, terrorist groups and criminals, and in this regard, urges Member States to implement effective and sustainable PSSM on all Government stockpiles in line with international standards and best practices;”

2. Common sub-regional trends and challenges

During various studies conducted in beneficiary countries, common trends have emerged about the challenges governments face in the fight against the illicit trafficking of SALW in the sub region. These common challenges should be considered both from a national and a regional perspective. The challenges generally faced by the countries surveyed are the following :

Geographical challenges:

- Vast geographical size of the country, that causes challenges with regard to controlling the entire territory;
- Border security threats (non-state armed and transnational organized crime)
- Porous borders.

The beneficiary countries noted that illegal weapons in circulation come from both within the country (artisanal manufacture and diversion) and outside, including through organized trafficking networks. Although trafficking routes by land with neighbouring countries are generally well known, it is difficult to effectively control them despite the existence of bilateral cooperation agreements in the field of border

management. Indeed, mixed patrols usually focus on the fight against terrorism rather than the illicit trafficking of SALW in itself (e.g. G5 Sahel, Joint Multinational Task Force).

Institutional challenges:

- Lack of national action plans on PSSM:

National action plans provide for a coordinated multisector approach to national policies against the proliferation and illicit trafficking of SALW.

- Lack of harmonized national legal frameworks on SALW management:

The majority of existing laws dates back more than ten years, prior to the adoption of an international normative framework in this area and primarily focus on arms possession by civilians. It appears that provisions relating to the measures and procedures applicable in terms of PSSM are often nonexistent.

- Limits on the resources available to fight against SALW proliferation:

A national commission on SALW control exists in four countries: Burkina Faso, Mali, Niger and Nigeria, which are part of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS). The other two countries within the Sahel region, Mauritania and Chad, have designated a focal point within the competent Ministry. The crucial role of a national commission, equipped with budgetary means and institutional status within the State, has been recognized.

The following deficiencies were noted during the study:

- Corruption, which favors arms diversion;
- Lack of adequate resources for securing and maintenance of weapons and ammunition storage sites;
- Motivation of staff in charge of arms and ammunition management;
- Lack of a centralized electronic database and management system at the national level;
- Tedious and time-consuming methods of securing weapons stockpiles and markings;
- Insufficient qualified technical personnel.



Photo credit: UNREC

3. Activities aimed at supporting African Member States in the Sahel region: assessment of the situation on SALW and reinforcing PSSM capacities

Within the framework of its mandate to support national and sub-regional SALW strategies in Africa, the **United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC)** designs and implements awareness raising and capacity building projects in the field of SALW for States in the region, in partnership with the African Union, relevant regional and sub-regional organizations, other UN agencies as well as non-governmental organizations.

Thanks to the support of institutional and financial partners, two complementary projects have been elaborated to support the States of the Sahel in improving their national control mechanisms and better combat the risk of the spread of SALW to unauthorized end users.

About UNREC

« ...strengthening Peace and Security through Disarmament »

UNREC was established by the United Nations General Assembly in 1986 in Lomé, Togo through resolution 40/151 GA as a regional centre of the United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), it is mandated to provide, upon request, substantive support for initiatives and other practical efforts of Member States of Africa towards the realization of measures of peace, arms limitations and disarmament, achieve sustainable peace and security.

Due to the specific nature of security issues in Africa, the Centre puts an emphasis on activities linked to the illicit trade of SALW and to support Member States in meeting their disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation commitments and obligations.

“Assessment Survey on small arms in the Sahel region and neighbouring countries” and “PSSM in Sahel” Projects: synergies and common objectives

- Contribute to security and stability in the Sahel and assist States in preventing the diversion of and illicit traffic of government-held SALW and ammunition ;
- Curb the proliferation of SALW in the sub-region through the implementation of international arms control standards.

Outputs and deliverables :

- Updating and improving the understanding of the nature, magnitude, distribution and impact of SALW;
- Establishing appropriate legislative and administrative standards on arms control, including physical security and stockpile management (PSSM);
- Strengthening national capacity with regard to weapons storage, in accordance with international standards and good practice such as the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) and International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATGs);
- Strengthening the management of arms and ammunition stockpiles;
- Reducing the risk of diversion of surplus SALW and ammunition stocks confiscated for destruction;
- Assessing the potential use of new technologies;
- Better information-sharing and public awareness on arms control issues through partnerships with civil society organizations.

Map 1: "PSSM in Sahel" and "Assessment Survey on SALW in the Sahel" participating countries



 Countries participating in both projects

 Countries only participated in the Assessment Survey on SALW in the Sahel

I. “Assessment Survey on small arms in the Sahel and neighbouring countries”

SALW proliferation cannot be addressed effectively without being properly documented and understood. Jointly developed by UNREC and the sub regional office of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) for the Sahel and West Africa, *the project: “Assessment Survey on small arms in the Sahel region and neighbouring countries”* involved an assessment of the situation concerning SALW in the wider Sahel region, with the aim of laying the initial foundation for understanding and action in the area of illicit SALW proliferation.

The project, which ran from September 2015 to February 2016, was implemented in three phases:

The desk-based research provided a preliminary overview of the issue by country and developed a data collection tool which served as a guide for the field visits in the nine beneficiary States. Based on the main instruments on small arms, namely the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms, the Firearms Protocol, the Arms Trade Treaty and regional instruments on SALW, the following topics were researched: national institutions and legal provisions; production of SALW; marking, record-keeping and tracing; international transfers controls; brokering controls; stockpile management; border controls; international cooperation and assistance; awareness raising campaigns; and disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programmes.

Secondly, a national study was conducted in each of the nine beneficiary States. The objectives were to meet the actors involved in the fight against SALW proliferation in order to determine the nature and extent of problems related to the illicit circulation of small arms understand the perception of stakeholders and identify their abilities to cope with the challenges posed by SALW in their country. Following national consultations in each country, a national workshop to present and discuss the results was organized with the stakeholders. The study as a whole was conducted with the technical expertise of the Small Arms Survey and the Group for Research and Information on Peace and Security (GRIP).

Based on the national studies, a regional report was developed with the aim of presenting an overview of the major regional and sub regional trends with regard to the circulation of SALW and their ammunition, as well as the challenges that the beneficiary countries face in terms of controlling and fighting against the illicit trafficking in SALW. A regional workshop, bringing together 34 participants from the nine beneficiary countries, was held on 10 and 11 February 2016 in Lomé, Togo, to review and discuss the findings of this regional report.

“Assessment Survey on small arms in the Sahel region and neighbouring countries” project

Implementation period:

September 2015 – February 2016

Beneficiary countries:

•Burkina Faso •Cameroon •Mali •Mauritania •Niger



•Nigeria •Central African Republic •Senegal •Chad



Phases :

- i. a preliminary desk research
- ii. consultations with stakeholders in the fight against the proliferation of SALW in the nine countries
- iii. a regional meeting between the different actors to discuss the different results and key issues

Project outputs:

- Nine national reports on the situation concerning SALW in each of the beneficiary countries
- A report on regional and sub regional trends

Financial and Technical partner :



Technical partners :





Regional validation workshop of the “Assessment Survey on small arms in the Sahel region and neighbouring countries” 10-11 February 2016, Lomé, Togo

II. “Support of physical security and stockpile management (PSSM) activities to reduce the risk of illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW) and their ammunition in the Sahel region”

The results of the evaluation conducted as part of the "Assessment Survey" were subsequently integrated into the implementation of a second, 36-month, project financed by the European Union (EU), through EU Council decision 2014/912/CFSP, implemented by UNREC. Known by the abbreviation “PSSM Project in the Sahel”, the purpose of this second project is to provide assistance to six Sahel countries (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger, Nigeria) to fight against the diversion of SALW in the sub-region by strengthening the physical security and the stockpile management of government SALW stockpiles.

The project comprises four components:

Wilton Park Conference

The Wilton Park Conference "Improving PSSM in the Sahel region" was held on 14 and 15 March 2016 in Lomé, Togo. Its objective was to understand the impact of unsecured stockpiles on weapons-security in the Sahel region. It provided a forum for experience and knowledge sharing among the different stakeholders in terms of PSSM, while promoting regional cooperation. In addition, the meeting generated political buy-in required to enhance PSSM legislation and procedures. Bringing together representatives of the various ministries, national commissions and civil society of the beneficiary States, participants identified a series of measures to reinforce physical security and stockpile management.

The experience of the Multinational Joint Task Force against Boko Haram (MNJTF)

Small arms smuggling in the region which stretches along the borders of Nigeria, Cameroon, Niger and Chad is quite widespread because of their porous nature. But since 2011, growing instability in the Sahel has increased the level of SALW proliferation in the region, allowing different groups to arm themselves quickly and easily. One of the main objectives of MNJTF operations is to completely deplete stockpiles held by Boko Haram and limit SALW proliferation in the region. To achieve this, concrete PSSM measures are put in place to ensure the security of weapons and ammunition, so that non-state armed groups are unable to attack and seize military and police stockpiles, thus reducing SALW diversion.

Indeed, stolen ammunition is one of the reasons which has allowed insurgency and terrorist activities in the lake Chad region. Some of the ammunition used by Boko Haram were stolen from the police or military storage sites and helped organize attacks like those against stockpiles in Nigeria in March 2014, and in Cameroon and Niger in January and April 2015 respectively. The MNJTF has taken concrete measures to prevent this trend, such as the proper management of the location and storage, the establishment of inventory reports and ensuring that ammunition management procedures are being properly followed. This contributed in the improvement of safety and the decrease of weapons and ammunition proliferation in the MNJTF area of operation. At present, the capacity of non-state actors to conduct terrorist operations has been significantly reduced.



Wilton Park Conférence, 14-15 March 2016, Lomé, Togo.

- **Recommendations to respond to the challenges of the sub region.**

During the Wilton Park Conference, the participants from the six beneficiary countries held brainstorming group sessions to identify appropriate strategies for ensuring the long term sustainability of project activities and outcomes in order to maximize their impact.

Each group formulated a series of recommendations on practical measures to be undertaken both during the implementation phase and after the conclusion of the project. Group 1 included government representatives, Group 2 representatives of National Commissions, and Group 3, of national civil society. The following recommendations were adopted by the respective breakout groups:

Summary of the group reports

Identification of appropriate strategies to ensure the long term sustainability of activities and results of the "PSSM project in the Sahel"

Build support among national civil and military authorities on the objectives of the project, its value and its impact on the security and safety of weapons and ammunition stockpiles (through advocacy, briefings, workshops);

Involve security and defense forces in the effective implementation of the project;

Maintain dialogue and coordination between project implementing partners and stakeholders;

Take measures for the harmonization of national laws to align them with instruments on arms control, including PSSM provisions;

Share experiences and best practices by replicating them in national action plans;

Secure the support of civil society in the implementation of project activities (sensitization of the population, security and defense officials);

Strengthen the human and institutional capacities of National Commissions on Small Arms by adopting relevant laws and regulations;

Carry out a joint assessment of the project by all implementing stakeholders including National Commissions on Small Arms;



Sean Sutton/MAG

- Review of legislation and administrative procedures and consultations on PSSM

The second component of the project consists in a review of existing national legislation, and administrative and standard operating procedures on PSSM. Following this review, UNREC will transmit recommendations for countries without an updated legislative framework with a view to enabling them to comply with international requirements and standards.

Between May and September 2016, UNREC will organize national workshops with senior representatives of National Defense, law enforcement and other civilian authorities involved in issues related to SALW. The participants will discuss all findings and recommendations of the assessment to determine the different actions to take: legislative or regulatory changes.

UNREC will produce a final report by country outlining recommendations on legislation and procedures necessary to align with international requirements and standards by January 2017.



First national workshop on PSSM procedures and for the identification of pilot sites, Ouagadougou 9-11 May 2016

Applicable legislative framework in the Sahel region

Relevant recommendations on national implementation of obligations in terms of PSSM

- **Firearms Protocol, Article 11 - Security and preventive measures**

In an effort to detect, prevent and eliminate the theft, loss or diversion of, as well as the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in, firearms, their parts and components and ammunition, each State Party shall take appropriate measures: (a) To require the security of firearms, their parts and components and ammunition at the time of manufacture, import, export and transit through its territory; and (b) To increase the effectiveness of import, export and transit controls, including, where appropriate, border controls, and of police and customs trans-border cooperation.

- **ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms, Article 16 Management and Security of Stockpiles**

1. Member States shall take the necessary measures to ensure the safe and effective management, storage and security of their national stocks of small arms and light weapons;
2. To this effect, Member States shall establish effective standards and procedures for stockpile management, storage and security. These standards and procedures shall include:
 - a) appropriate site;
 - b) physical security measures of storage facilities;
 - c) inventory management and record keeping.

- **Kinshasa Convention, Article 16 – Management and Security of Stockpiles**

1. The States Parties shall maintain the security of depots and ensure the proper management of stockpiles of small arms and light weapons, their ammunition and all parts and components that can be used for their manufacture, repair and assembly at all times. For that purpose, they shall define and harmonize the necessary administrative measures and procedures for stockpile management, security and storage;
2. The administrative measures and procedures referred to in paragraph 1 of this article shall take into account, inter alia, determination of appropriate storage sites, establishment of physical security measures, definition of procedures for inventory management and recordkeeping, staff training and the identification of measures to ensure security during manufacture and transport;
3. The States Parties shall establish national inventories of small arms and light weapons, their ammunition and all parts and components that can be used for their manufacture, repair and assembly that are in the possession of the armed and security forces and any other competent State body;
4. The States Parties shall adopt the necessary administrative measures and procedures to strengthen the capacity to manage and secure stores of small arms and light weapons, their ammunition and all parts and components that can be used for their manufacture, repair and assembly belonging to the armed and security forces and any other competent State body.

- **Programme of Action on Small Arms**

(at the national level) 17. To ensure, subject to the respective constitutional and legal systems of States, that the armed forces, police or any other body authorized to hold small arms and light weapons establish adequate and detailed standards and procedures relating to the management and security of their stocks of these weapons. These standards and procedures should, inter alia, relate to: appropriate locations for stockpiles; physical security measures; control of access to stocks; inventory management and accounting control; staff training; security, accounting and control of small arms and light weapons held or transported by operational units or authorized personnel; and procedures and sanctions in the event of thefts or loss.

(at the regional level) 29. To encourage States to promote safe, effective stockpile management and security, in particular physical security measures, for small arms and light weapons, and to implement, where appropriate, regional and subregional mechanisms in this regard.

- **Bamako Declaration**

The Bamako Declaration provides for the creation of national coordinating bodies and the appropriate institutional arrangements; the development and implementation, where they do not exist, national programs on the responsible management of licit arms ; encourage the codification and harmonization of legislation among other things, the standards for marking and record keeping.

- **International Tracing Instrument**

9. States will ensure that all illicit small arms and light weapons that are found on their territory are uniquely marked and recorded, or destroyed, as soon as possible. Pending such marking, and recording in accordance with section IV of this instrument, or destruction, these SALW will be securely stored.

- **Armes Trade Treaty, Article 11 Diversion**

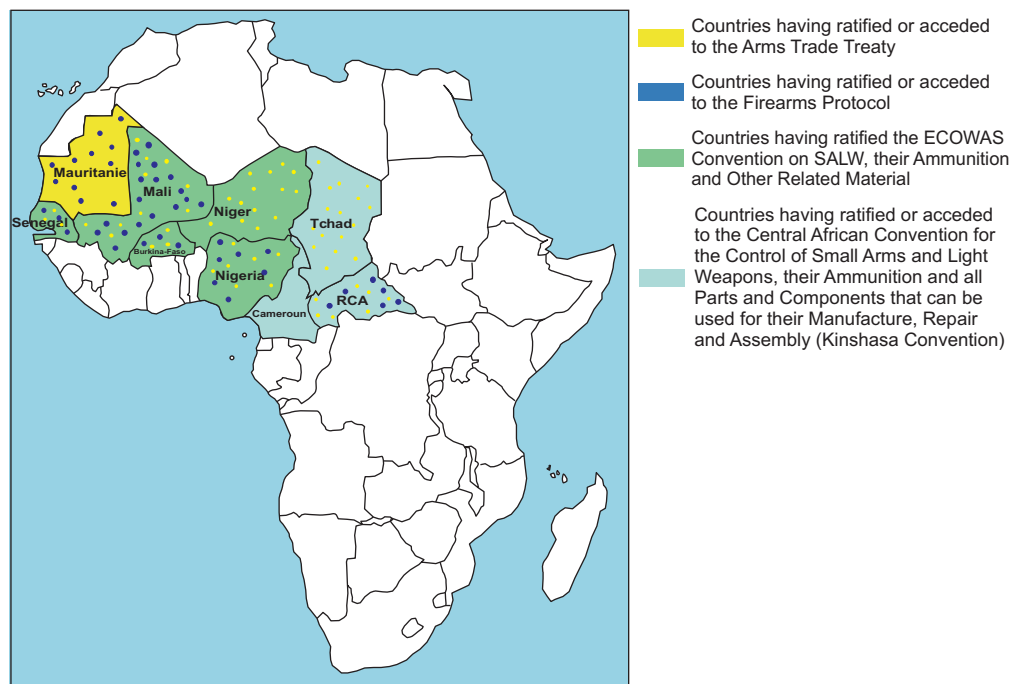
1. Each State Party involved in the transfer of conventional arms covered under Article 2(1) shall take measures to prevent their diversion. (the diversion in the ATT is in the case of transfers, I would mention it here but separately)

article 11 of the arms trade treaty also addresses the issue of diversion in the context of a conventional arms transfer, stipulating the obligation for States to take the necessary measures to prevent diversion.

Table 3: Status of ratification of legally binding international and regional instruments in the Sahel region

| Country | Regional Instruments | | International Instruments | |
|---------------------|--|--|--|---|
| | ECOWAS Convention (entry into force 29 September 2009) | Kinshasa Convention (not yet in force) | Firearms Protocol (entry into force 3 July 2005) | Arms Trade Treaty (entry into force 24 December 2014) |
| Burkina Faso | Ratified 19 October 2007 | not applicable | Ratified 15 May 2002 | Ratified 3 June 2014 |
| Chad | not applicable | Ratified 8 August 2012 | | Ratified 25 March 2015 |
| Mali | Ratified 10 December 2007 | not applicable | Ratified 3 May 2002 | Ratified 3 December 2013 |
| Mauritania | not applicable | not applicable | Acceded 22 July 2005 | Ratified 23 September 2015 |
| Niger | Ratified 9 February 2007 | not applicable | | Ratified 24 July 2015 |
| Nigeria | Ratified 27 October 2008 | not applicable | Ratified 3 March 2006 | Ratified 12 August 2013 |

Map 2: Distribution of States parties to the various regional and international binding legal instruments in the Sahel region and neighboring countries



- Setting national standards in accordance with IATG and ISACS

The third component of the project is the development of standard operating procedures for PSSM in each of the beneficiary countries. Workshops on a technical level and at a political level will be organized in the six countries, as well as training of trainers workshops on these standard operating procedures.

- Physical security and stockpile management, in collaboration with MAG and UNMAS.

UNREC will conduct the following activities:

- ❖ Assessment of PSSM measures in national stockpiles of conventional weapons and means of transportation of SALW and their ammunition
- ❖ Rehabilitation of pilot facilities and marking of SALW
- ❖ Destruction of surplus SALW and ammunition
- ❖ Piloting of new technologies

International technical standards and guidelines

-ISACS

The United Nations have developed international standards for small arms control (ISACS) that provide clear practical and comprehensive direction, for practitioners and policy makers on key aspects of SALW control. These standards are used by more than 20 United Nations entities which make up the United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms (CASA) to ensure that the United Nations as a whole still offers, on request, the highest quality advice and support to Member States on the implementation of effective controls over the entire life cycle of SALW. These standards are fully in line with the instruments described above and are updated according to the regional and sub regional practice.

- IATG

Drawn up under a mandate from the UN General Assembly and designed as a framework for providing guidance on safer and more effective practices for the management of ammunition stocks, the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) were developed in the framework of the United Nations *SaferGuard* program by a technical review committee composed of experts from Member States, with the support of international, governmental and nongovernmental organizations.

"PSSM Project in the Sahel" – Facts and figures

Implementation period: June 2015 - June 2018

Beneficiary countries:

•Burkina Faso



•Mali



•Mauritania



•Niger



•Nigeria



•Chad



Project components and outcomes:

1. CONFERENCE ON PSSM IN THE SAHEL

➤ *Experience and knowledge sharing, and generating necessary political buy-in for the enhancement of PSSM procedures.*

2. REVIEW OF LEGISLATION AND ADMINISTRATIVE PROCEDURES AND CONSULTATIONS ON PSSM

➤ *Supporting beneficiary countries in the development of updated legislation, administrative procedures and standard operating procedures as the foundation for enhanced PSSM.*

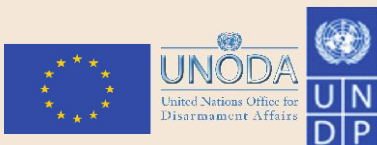
3. PHYSICAL SECURITY AND STOCKPILE MANAGEMENT

➤ *Assessment of the suitability of infrastructure and physical security, conditions of SALW and ammunition stockpiles, as well as of current transportation practices; Rehabilitation of pilot facilities and marking of SALW; Destruction of surplus ammunition and SALW; Piloting of new technologies.*

4. SETTING NATIONAL STANDARDS IN ACCORDANCE WITH IATG AND ISACS

➤ *Improving arms and ammunition management, while providing and validating national SOPs on PSSM that are compliant with international best practice standards.*

Financial partners:



Technical partners:



Table 4: Indicative timeframe for the implementation of project activities

| | Activity | Proposed timeframe |
|--------------|---|---|
| 4.1 | Wilton Park conference on PSSM in the Sahel | <i>March 2016</i> |
| 4.2 | Review of legislation and administrative procedures and consultations on PSSM | <i>From February 2016 to January 2017</i> |
| 4.2.1 | National consultations on PSSM procedures and for the identification of pilot sites | <i>From May to September 2016</i> |
| 4.2.2 | Regional consultations on PSSM procedures | <i>From November to December 2016</i> |
| 4.3 | PSSM | <i>From July 2016 to January 2018</i> |
| 4.3.1 | Assessment of PSSM at national conventional arms depots and SALW and ammunition transportation (assessment will begin in two countries) | <i>From September to December 2016</i> |
| 4.3.2 | Rehabilitation of the sample facilities and marking of SALW | <i>From August 2016 to January 2018</i> |
| 4.3.3 | Destruction of surplus ammunition and SALW | <i>September-March 2017</i> |
| 4.3.4 | Piloting of new technologies | <i>From June to January 2018</i> |
| 4.4 | Setting national standards in accordance with IATG and ISACS | <i>From January to December 2017</i> |
| 4.5 | Evaluation and way forward | <i>From February to May 2018</i> |
| 4.5.1 | Regional evaluation (regional meeting) | <i>February 2018</i> |
| 4.5.2 | Final report | <i>By May 2018</i> |

4. Further engagement: “Regional support to the Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) in the implementation of UN Security Council Resolution 2178”

In the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 2178 (2014), which aims to address the combined threat posed by terrorism, violent extremism, and transnational organized crime through a coordinated approach, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) has developed an 18-month project with the components on disarmament and non-proliferation of SALW to be implemented by UNREC. The project consists in practical actions to stem the diversion and trafficking in of illicit arms in the four countries of the Lake Chad basin (Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria), including preventing diversion to Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTFs).

This project's specific focus will be to enhance collaboration and coordination between the participating countries with the objective of facilitating viable information exchange and monitoring of movement of arms through a regional approach. Ensuring that all the participating countries have similar registration, marking, stockpiling and tracing capacity will ultimately be essential for the region's collective response to the prevailing situation.

Project title: Supporting the CTITF in its fight against the acquisition of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition by Foreign Terrorist Fighters (FTF)”

Summary:

The Lake Chad basin is witnessing not only the flow of non-State armed groups across the region, but also the illicit trafficking of SALW which are clearly not dissociable from one another. In line with requirements contained in Security Council resolution 2178, and upon the recommendation of the CTITF, UNREC is implementing a project aiming at developing a comprehensive and regional approach to prevent the diversion of small arms and light weapons, in particular to non-State armed groups, and improving controls over small arms and light weapons by providing technical assistance to and strengthening the capacities of national actors in Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria.

Principal activities include:

1. Regional and National capacity building programmes

- Technical assistance and strengthening of national and regional capacity to prevent the acquisition and diversion of weapons by non-State armed groups (marking and registration of SALW held by governments and civilians; inter-institutional training on SALW; destruction of obsolete and confiscated SALW and ammunition).
- Capacity building through training on the identification and tracing of SALW and their ammunition, as well as border management.
- Legal assistance to prohibit the acquisition and diversion of SALW by non-State armed groups, including FTF.

2. An evaluation study on the implementation of the project, specifically on the lessons learned and good practices.

5. Conclusion – Recommendations for future action

Understanding the phenomenon of SALW proliferation in the Sahel constitutes a prerequisite for defining effective strategies, adapted to the specificities and needs of the region. At the same time, improved management and security of stockpiles, together with adequate storage infrastructures and record-keeping systems which allow for keeping track of and efficiently monitoring the movement of arms and their ammunition, are essential in order to prevent diversion to un-authorized end users. The three projects outlined in this document aim specifically at enhancing the capacity of States of the Sahel in that respect.

The projects developed by UNREC are not the only initiatives in the sub-region in terms of strengthening PSSM measures. To avoid redundancy in its action, UNREC invited, on the occasion of the Wilton Park Conference, other regional and international actors, not only to better coordinate, but also to enable beneficiary countries acquire a comprehensive vision of international action on their territory. The African Union, ECOWAS, UNODC, UNIDIR, UNMAS, INTERPOL, as well as MAG and Conflict Armament Research among others are also implementing capacity building projects in the field of PSSM in the Sahel region. Regular and efficient collaboration will ensure the complementarity of interventions and non-duplication of activities in support of countries in the region.

In moving forward, it is also important not to lose sight of the need to sustain the momentum and continue to educate the local population on the advantages of preventing SALW diversion and proliferation in order to maintain peace and security for all countries in the Sahel region and beyond.

Equally important is the need to continue to build and strengthen national institutional capacities in the areas of information-sharing, marking, tracing and record-keeping, in which a lot more still needs to be done. UNREC and its partners stand ready to take these objectives even further through its envisaged technical assistance project for countries part of the Lake Chad basin outlined in section III: "further engagement".

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