UNREC supports the mainstreaming of gender perspectives in preventing the acquisition of arms by terrorist groups in the Lake Chad Basin, 18-20 December 2017 Lomé, Togo

Organized by UNREC, this capacity building workshop brought together representatives from four lake chad basin countries, Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria, and experts from the civil society. Participants were trained on several themes that emphasized the relevance of the involvement of women in the fight against the proliferation of arms and ammunition.

The workshop is the main activity of the project: "Mainstreaming Gender Perspectives in Preventing the Acquisition of Arms and Ammunitions by Terrorists Groups in the Lake Chad Basin".

For more information:  www.goo.gl/zRL2EV


A policy workshop for senior government officials, and a technical workshop for experts and practitioners directly responsible for PSSM in Nigeria and Chad these respective countries. These workshops brought together participants from the Ministries of Defense, Interior, Justice, Environment, and the National Assembly. Other participating state agencies included the Military, Police, National Guard, Gendarmerie and Customs services. The aim was to define PSSM norms for each country in conformity with the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISASCs) and International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATGs). For more information: www.goo.gl/vSCFWb

SEASON’S GREETINGS

The team of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) wishes you a Happy New Year 2018.
The United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) undertook a mission to assess UNREC's Performance, 10-20 December 2017

As part of the evaluation programme of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), a delegation from the OIOS undertook a mission to evaluate UNREC's mandate implementation for the period 2014-2017. The outcome of the evaluation will be issued during the first quarter of 2018.

UNREC supports the prevention of weapon acquisition by terrorist groups in the Lake Chad Basin, N'Djamena, Chad 6-7 November 2017 and Abuja, Nigeria 9-10 November 2017

UNREC organized two workshops to support the process of arms marking in the Lake Chad Basin countries in order to prevent their diversion to terrorist groups.

Governments and civil society experts from Cameroon, Chad, Niger and Nigeria were trained to use the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) in their work as well as to consider other best practices in firearms control in compliance with relevant legal instruments.

These workshops were part of activities to mark the final phase of the "Regional Support to the Counter Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF) Project". For more information: www.goo.gl/SsqzjD

Ceremony marking the official delivery of storage infrastructures for SALW and their ammunition, 29 September 2017, N'Djamena, Chad

As part of "the Physical Security and Stockpile Management Project" in the Sahel, supported by the European Union, UNREC in collaboration with Mine Advisory Group (MAG) handed over 3 modern armories to the Government of Chad.

More Photos: www.goo.gl/D7gRbZ
Experts Meeting on the Establishment of ECOWAS Small Arms and Light Weapons Register and Database, Abuja, Nigeria, 17 – 18 January 2018

The ECOWAS Commission has the mandate to establish and maintain a sub-regional register and database on SALW for a better flow of information and transparency on firearms issue. UNREC shared its expertise in arms control related software development and database design and provided technical advice to ECOWAS.

2017 European Union Non-proliferation and Disarmament Conference, 12 – 13 December 2017, Brussels, Belgium

The conference aimed to encourage information exchange within civil society particularly among experts, researchers and academics on measures to combat the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction. UNREC’s Deputy Director attended the meeting and made a presentation on the role of the ATT in combatting the illicit proliferation of SALW. The discussions also covered issues related to conventional weapons. For more Information visit: www.goo.gl/op4Ac3

9th AU-Regions Steering Committee meeting on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) & Disarmament Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR), 6–7 December 2017, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia

As a member of the AU steering committee on SALW, UNREC took part in the second annual meeting for 2017. UNREC reported on its projects and activities for the past 6 months, and advised on possible collaboration on activities in the field of SALW control and DDR processes.

45th Ministerial Meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC), 4 – 8 December 2017, Kigali, Rwanda

The meeting reviewed the general security situation in Central African States, with a particular focus on the situation in the Central African Republic and the Democratic Republic of Congo. This meeting made a number of recommendations aimed at enhancing collaboration in the fight against terrorist groups such as Boko Haram. They equally made recommendations for engaging other armed groups in the Central African Republic to ensure the restoration of State authority and reform the ECCAS Peace and Security Council (COPAX) as well as promote more open border policies in the Central African region. For more information: www.goo.gl/8uLXd7

OTHER EVENTS
Capacity-building for African actors in the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), 4 – 6 December 2017, Lomé, Togo

Organized by the ATT Secretariat in collaboration with the Government of Togo, the meeting aimed at building the capacity of stakeholders for a better ownership and implementation of the ATT.

It brought together experts from Benin, Burkina Faso, Côte d’Ivoire, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Central African Republic, Senegal and Togo to share country experiences and challenges on the implementation of the ATT.

Conciliation’s meeting on the fight against the proliferation of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the West African Economic and Monetary Union (UEMOA) 28–30 November 2017, Niamey, Niger

The meeting aimed to bring together representatives from National Commissions on SALW (NatComs) in the UEMOA Member States as a means of encouraging inter-State cooperation in the fight against the illicit proliferation of SALW.

During the meeting, UNREC’s Director emphasized the relevance of information exchange and cross-border action in the fight against the illegal circulation of Arms. The meeting made recommendations for a common WAEMU policy in the field of peace and security.

SALW Thematic Symposium on Synergies between PoA, ATT and other instruments, 23–24 November 2017, Geneva, Switzerland

This symposium brought together disarmament experts to look into ways of creating synergies between the UN Programme of Action (PoA), the Arms Trade Treaty and other relevant instruments, including the UN Firearms Protocol and UN counter-terrorism mechanisms. The findings and recommendations from the symposium will be incorporated into a study, which will prepare a plan of action for consideration at the Third Review Conference in June 2018.

ECOWAS Commission and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) annual review meeting on the implementation of International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and related treaties in West Africa, 31 October–3 November 2017, Abuja, Nigeria

The meeting aimed at assessing the measures taken by Member States in implementing the IHL as well as the various tools available to assist them in the IHL implementation process.

UNREC highlighted the mutual connection between the Arms Trade Treaty and ECOWAS Convention.
Programmes Financed from Voluntary Contributions 2016-2017
This report illustrates how the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs has been able to achieve concrete results through partnerships with its donors, and how essential such support has been in attaining important disarmament goals. Available for download at: www.goo.gl/TixjU6

Disarmament Digital Documents Library
The Disarmament Digital Documents Library is an archive that provides easy access to an extensive collection of United Nations disarmament-related documents in one convenient location. It includes historical documents of the first General Assembly session and reports from the Special Sessions on Disarmament (SSOD-I, SSOD-II and SSOD-III), disarmament-related meetings and conferences, and treaty review declarations.
www.un.org/disarmament/publications/library

Perspectives on Lethal Autonomous Weapon Systems
This publication considers lethal autonomous weapon systems, approaching the issue from five different perspectives. Available for Download from: www.goo.gl/GsesS4

Implementing the Arms Trade Treaty and the UNPoA

For more information on any aspect related to the UNREC Focus, please contact mail(at)unrec.org
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