
The Secretary General António Guterres launched the United Nations’ new disarmament agenda, entitled “Securing Our Common Future”, at the University of Geneva in Switzerland. The initiative to develop his agenda for disarmament was motivated by the deteriorating international security environment, including a return to Cold War like tensions, internal armed conflicts in some regions with devastating impact on civilians, and the seeming neglect of arms control as a means for building trust, mitigating risk and ensuring sustainable peace and security. These developments have underscored an urgent need to restore disarmament in all its aspects as an integral component of the peace and security agenda of the United Nations. Click here to watch the full video of the Secretary General’s speech and download the new disarmament agenda: www.un.org/disarmament/sg-agenda/en/index.html

UNREC UPDATE

Modern Armories to Store Infrastructures for SALW and their Ammunition, Burkina Faso
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) built two modern armories for the Government of Burkina Faso.

Training-of-trainers Workshop on Standard Operating Procedures (SOPs) for the physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM) of Weapons and Ammunition 26 – 30 March in Ouagadougou; Burkina Faso, 16-20 April in Niamey, Niger, 7-11 May 2018 in Nouakchott, Mauritania.

These workshops trained officials directly involved in the management of weapons and ammunition storage sites, as well as officials from security services such as the army, the gendarmerie, the police, customs, correction and national parks, on standard operating procedures (SOPs) for the physical security and stockpile management of weapons and ammunition. These activities are part of UNREC’s PSSM Sahel project. The project aims to assist six States in the Sahel region (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria) to prevent the diversion and trafficking of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition. For more information: www.goo.gl/xxoUi6

Regional Preparatory Meetings for African States ahead of the Third Review Conference on the United Nations Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons (UN PoA), 10-13 April 2018, Lomé, Togo

These series of regional preparatory meetings for the Third Review Conference on the implementation of the UN PoA to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects for African Member States were organized by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) through UNREC to support African States to reach the best possible conference outcome.

At each meeting, participants had the opportunity to interact with presenters and share views and experiences on the implementation of the UN PoA at national and sub-regional levels. For more information: www.goo.gl/zj38Qy

Official Presentation of the Practitioner’s Handbook on Disarmament in Africa, 15 March 2018, Lomé, Togo

UNREC, in collaboration with the International Organization of the Francophonie (OIF), presented the practitioner’s handbook on disarmament in Africa.

Developed in French for diplomats and experts from African States, this guide aims at strengthening the capacity of francophone countries to engage in issues relating to peace and security, disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation. The guide elaborates on a range of topics related to these issues, including detailed references on international, regional and sub-regional instruments. Available for download at: www.unrec.info/guide
UNREC supported the organization of this workshop whose objective was to facilitate dialogue among Francophone member states on the implications of a future treaty and its relationship with already existing global and regional instruments. The meeting allowed experts involved in nuclear security issues to share knowledge and information on issues relevant to banning the production of fissile material for nuclear weapons or other nuclear explosive devices. For more Information: www.goo.gl/uvv5K1


A policy workshop for senior government officials and a technical workshop for experts and practitioners directly responsible for PSSM in Mauritania. 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 in conformity with the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISASCs) and International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATGs).

Weapons and Ammunition Management Course Module Development workshop, 5-9 February, Lomé, Togo

The United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA) and the Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) are furthering their cooperation to improve weapons and ammunition management in the context of disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR).

Based on their jointly developed handbook, they are developing a training course for DDR practitioners on weapons and ammunition management.

During the workshop, participants from UNREC, DPKO and the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) identified the different modules of the training, validated the finalized training programme and developed a road map for its implementation. For More information: www.goo.gl/eVkNsX
4th Africa Security Symposium East and Sub-Saharan, 30-31 May 2018, Nairobi, Kenya

Organized by GRV Global, the meeting brought together security experts, practitioners from government and non-government organizations, industry and academia.

The aim was to promote sustainable peace and security across Africa through public and private partnership and advanced technologies/solution.

UNREC updated the participants on its projects and shared its experiences in support of Physical Security and Stockpile Management activities. For more information: www.goo.gl/7WoLpu

46th Ministerial Meeting of the United Nations Standing Advisory Committee on Security Questions in Central Africa (UNSAC), 29 May – 01 June 2018, Brazzaville, Congo

The meeting assessed the general security and geopolitical situation in Central African States.

UNREC updated the 11 States members of the Committee on developments in the field of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation at the international, regional and subregional levels and on international and regional efforts in promoting and supporting the implementation of disarmament instruments as well as on a new project entitled "Supporting African States towards the Vision of Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2020: Capacity-Building in Central Africa". For more information www.goo.gl/MpvdfM

Working visit of Master's students in public law from the Catholic University of West Africa to UNREC, 28 May 2018, Lomé, Togo

At the request of the Catholic University of West Africa, the Centre organized a Working visit of Master's students in public law from this University at UNREC office. This working meeting gave the students the opportunity to learn about issues related to disarmament and to interact with the staff of UNREC. The event also served to encourage them to strive towards a career in the area of preventive diplomacy, peace and security. This activity complies with the Secretary-General's call on the Disarmament and Non-Proliferation Education Study in his report A/57/124

The meeting was conveyed by the United Nations Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA) to serve as an exchange platform between heads of United Nations entities operating in the central Africa sub-region, with a view to enhancing information exchange, coordination and synergy of action. During the meeting, UNREC Director made presentations on two topics: UNREC's assessment of the current peace, security; and socio-economic situations in Central Africa and the proliferation of armed groups along with illicit proliferation and flow of weapons in the context of Political dialogue and agreements in Central Africa. For more information: www.goo.gl/KzB49s

Implementing SDG 16.4 – Increasing detection and reporting of illicit SALW: common challenges and shared solutions, 26 February - 1 March, 2018, Pretoria, South Africa

This workshop organized by Wilton Park brought together law enforcement agencies, international organizations, SALW institutions, civil society and industry to discuss the challenges of detection and public reporting initiatives as well as the opportunities to bridge the gap between law enforcement agencies and the public.

UNREC contributed to the discussion on the challenges and innovative solutions that can facilitate the detection and reporting of illegal SALW in commonwealth countries, with a particular emphasis on Eastern and Southern Africa.

Regional Conference on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in Central Africa, 4-5 April, Bangui, Central African Republic

The meeting aimed to strengthen control of SALW in the Central African sub-region through the sharing of best practices and the development of recommendations among the various government agencies, especially National Commission on SALW.

UNREC’s Deputy Director attended the meeting and spoke about the implementation of the Kinshasa Convention at the Plenary Session of the Regional Conference on SALW in Central Africa. For more information: www.conferenceregionale-alpc-rca.org
Youth capacity building workshops for peace and security, 1-3 March, Lomé, Togo and 8-10 March 2018, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Two capacity development workshops on “Youth Peace and Security in the context of the Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development Goal.” These workshops were one of the outputs of a joint project with United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) focusing on the role of youth in peace building. During the workshops, UNREC delivered training sessions on issues related to disarmament, peace education and prevention of proliferation of small arms and light weapons. The youth representatives were also sensitized on Resolution 2250 on youth peace and security and its interconnection with the SDGs as outlined in Agenda 2030.

Regional Seminar “Connecting the Dots”: Increasing parliamentary ownership of international arms control instruments, 2-3 March, Johannesburg, South Africa

This seminar aimed to increase parliamentary commitment, understanding and participation in the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the UNPoA and 2030 Agenda, more concretely the Sustainable Development Goal 16, Target 4 which aimed to significantly reduce illicit arms flows.

UNREC was represented by the Deputy Director as a keynote speaker for these sessions: Implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goal 16.4.2 in Africa and the International Conventional Arms Regulation Instruments – implementation and universalization of the ATT, the UNPoA and the SDG 16.4.2. For more information: www.goo.gl/k7zzU8
UN Secretary-General’s Disarmament Agenda: Securing Our Common Future
This document presents an overview of awareness-raising and capacity building projects by UNREC and its partners in the Sahel, with a view of better understanding and containing the phenomenon of weapons proliferation and diversion to non-state actors. Available for Download: www.goo.gl/1f6fkq

Effective Weapons and Ammunition Management in a Changing Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration Context: Handbook for United Nations DDR practitioners:
In response to the need for arms control activities in DDR, the handbook equips DDR practitioners with practical resources to design effective weapons and ammunition management operations that can be implementated across the peace continuum. Available for Download: www.goo.gl/D4LRK9

The human cost of uncontrolled Arms in Africa (Oxfam)
This report recounts the stories of people affected by armed conflicts to document the human costs of uncontrolled arms in Africa., it provides arms control recommendations to African states, the African Union and Regional Economic Communities, donor communities, and the private sector. Available for Download: www.goo.gl/bZ9mXR

Small Arms Survey’s new data on global firearms
- Military-owned: www.goo.gl/D2oquK
- Civilian-owned: www.goo.gl/YFZz7G
- Law enforcement: www.goo.gl/GYJiLn

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

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