UNREC: Report of the Secretary-General 2018

The report contains an account of the activities undertaken by UNREC from July 2017 to June 2018. During the reporting period, the Regional Centre continued to assist Member States, at their request, in cooperation with intergovernmental and civil society organizations in Africa to promote peace, security, disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation.

♦ Past Reports from 1995 to 2017 [www.goo.gl/86uVVL](http://www.goo.gl/86uVVL)

USG/HR Nakamitsu Inaugurates New UNREC Premises, Launches Activities of Arms-Marking Project in Togo and Madagascar, 4-6 July 2018, Lomé, Togo

During her visit, the High Representative inaugurated the new premises for UNREC. On the same occasion, the High Representative, alongside Togolese authorities and representatives from Japan, officially launched the project on “Technical assistance for physical security and stockpile management, marking and destruction of small arms, light weapons and related ammunition in Madagascar and Togo”.

Ms. Nakamitsu met with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Foreign Affairs and the Minister of Security and Civilians Protection of Togo. She also conducted meetings with the diplomatic corps in Lomé, as well as the UN Country Team. The High Representative met with UNREC’s staff to discuss the Secretary-General’s disarmament agenda and UNODA’s initiatives and potential projects in the region. For more information visit: [www.goo.gl/9Jm7ap](http://www.goo.gl/9Jm7ap)
International day of Peace: 21 September

To commemorate the International Day of Peace in accordance with its mandate of promoting and supporting peace initiatives, UNREC’s staff produced a *video message in several African languages* including Dioula, Swahili, Houssa, Kabyè, Fon, Mamprusi, Akposso, Losso, Moba, Guin in addition to French, English, German, Chinese and Spanish. It also produced an awareness spot in French.

The Centre supported the youth of the peace and security group of the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) in Togo and Côte d’Ivoire.

Discussions between UNREC and Malagasy authorities on ATT and Arms Marking Project, 10 – 14 September, Antananarivo, Madagascar

A delegation from UNREC led by the director of UNREC met Malagasy authorities to discuss the feasibility, the desired type of support and the timing of implementing a project to support the Governments of the Republic of Madagascar in their efforts in arms marking, rehabilitation of depots and destruction of obsolete weapons and ammunition. The Prime Minister, the Defense and Interior Ministers, the Civil Society and the Human Right Commission were among the Stakeholders met by the UNREC delegation.

ECCAS-UNOCA-UNREC: Close collaboration in strengthening the control of small arms and light weapons in Central Africa, 6 – 7 September, Libreville, Gabon

A working session was organized with the staff of UNOCA and ECCAS led respectively by SRSG François Louceny Fall, ECCAS Secretary General Ahmad ALLAM-MI and director Anselme Yabouri. This tripartite ECCAS-UNOCA-UNREC meeting paved the way for collaboration between UNREC and the Secretariat of ECCAS in the implementation of the project ‘Supporting the implementation of the Kinshasa Convention’. The project aims to support Central African states in addressing the various aspects of illicit proliferation of SALW, through the effective implementation of the Kinshasa Convention, in line with the vision of "Silencing the Guns in Africa". 2020 ”of the African Union (AU). More information: [www.goo.gl/bmn4sx](http://www.goo.gl/bmn4sx)
Workshop on experimental technologies in Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM), 28-29 August 2018, Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso

Organized in the framework of the PSSM Project in the Sahel Region, implemented by UNODA through UNREC, the purpose of the workshop was to establish a long-term roadmap on the use of new technologies to reduce the risk of diversion from Government stockpiles and storage sites.

The workshop brought together representatives from National Commissions on SALW, defense and security forces, and Information Technology experts from Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Madagascar, Niger, Nigeria and Togo as well as representatives from Regional and International organizations and private sector companies.

The rich profile of participants allowed the workshop to discuss the new technologies that could be implemented by national authorities to enhance the management of stockpiles and secure their arms and ammunition storage sites.

UNREC Staff Retreat 16 – 17 August, Notse, Togo

The Regional Centre held a staff retreat capitalizing on the momentum of relocation to new premises and expanding staffing, it was an opportunity to take stock of the work done, share and discuss good practices and finally reflect on the challenges faced by UNREC. The event focused on a set of agenda points which covered among others, UN core values & competencies, UNREC’s mandate within the UN disarmament framework, the development of a strategy for UNREC’s future activities, the mapping of current activities and the streamlining of administrative and organizational procedures.
UNREC trained 22 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. The participants were given a handbook prepared by UNREC which provides a comprehensive approach to safe and secure management of conventional arms and ammunition stocks in accordance with international standards. This activity is part of UNREC’s Physical Security and Stockpile Management in the Sahel project.

Funded by the European Union, the project aims to assist six states in the Sahel region (Burkina Faso, Chad, Mali, Mauritania, Niger and Nigeria) in their effort to prevent the diversion and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and their Ammunition.

**Joint Pilot Training on weapons and ammunition management for practitioners in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR), 25-29 June 2018, Lomé, Togo**

Hosted by UNREC, the training course was conducted by the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) and the Office for Disarmament Affairs (ODA).

The training course was designed with the methodological support of the United Nations Institute for Training and Research (UNITAR) and based on the handbook “**Effective Weapons and Ammunition Management in a changing Disarmament, DDR context**”.

The pilot training allowed for a review of how well the training corresponds to the needs of both DDR practitioners and other UN peace operations personnel in the field. It also assessed to what degree the highest international standards for weapons and ammunition management and innovative training approaches have been reflected.

**Workshop to validate the draft study on the flows of illicit weapons in Africa, 19 – 20 September, Addis Ababa, Ethiopia**

The workshop was organized by the African Union Commission, in collaboration with the Small Arms Survey. During the meeting, UNREC helped review and provided guidance to finalize a report mapping illicit arms flows in Africa as well as discussed the policy implications of their findings.
Training of trainers of the security election force (FOSE) 2018, 17 to 20, September, Lomé, Togo

Hundreds of officers mainly from the Togolese police and gendarmerie participated in this training. Through these activities, the security forces were trained to operate in line with best practices on rights-based policing, which will be crucial to the development of a safe and secure electoral environment.

UNREC covered three themes: The basic principles of the use of force and firearms, the code of conduct for defense and security forces and international standards for the control of small arms and light weapons. The training was jointly implemented with UNDP-Togo.

Workshop on the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty ATT, 4 – 5 September Antananarivo, Madagascar

Organized by UNDP Madagascar, the purpose of the meeting was to help inform and sensitize focal points from Government institutions on the Arms Trade Treaty and other international and regional legal instruments, as well as initiatives and standards on arms control, including the POA, ISACs and the African Union Roadmap to “Silencing the Guns by 2020”. The workshop was the initial undertaking of a series of activities that will take place in the framework of a Security Sector Reform (SSR) project, which is being carried out by UNDP in the Republic of Madagascar. During the meeting, UNREC’s deputy Director delivered remarks on the Implementation of the ATT Madagascar.

Workshop on Youth, Peace and Security in the Context of the Sustainable Development Program, 8-10 August; Abidjan; Ivory Coast

The meeting was initiated by the Division for Social and Inclusive Development of the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA) and is being implemented with UNREC participation. More than 60 participants representing local committees of the National Young’s Council, political parties and youth NGOs participated in the workshop. During this workshop, UNREC delivered presentations on “Peacebuilding and Security: a collective responsibility” and “Conflict prevention, disarmament and peace education”.

Regional Workshop on Science and Technology: Developments Relevant to the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) for Sub-Saharan Africa 25 – 26 July 2018, Pretoria, South Africa

Organized by the Implementation Support Unit of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (BWC ISU/UNODA). The objective of the workshop was to raise awareness of the BWC developing capacities for more effective implementation of the Convention, and facilitating cooperation for peaceful purposes.

UNREC shared with participants its recent work and activities in implementing the BWC in Africa.
UNREC recently welcomed the following new staff members:

**BASTOS-CREPPY Mireille**  
Project Manager

**FRANCOIS Maïté**  
Legal Affairs Specialist

**IBOURAIMA Mouhammed-Awali**  
Project Assistant

**KABIYA B. Passa**  
Project Manager

**ROUMONGI Jean Bosco**  
Project Coordinator

**PALATITZ Andras**  
Project Manager

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**PUBLICATIONS OF INTEREST**

**ODA Report on Programmes Financed from Voluntary Contributions (2017-2018)**

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 is in attaining important disarmament goals.

This report also includes details of voluntary contributions to support the implementation of UNREC’s project and activities. We would like to thank the European Union, Japan, Swedish, Togo, UN Peace and Development Trust Fund and UN Counter-Terrorism Centre for their support. Available for download at [www.goo.gl/mA9YAd](http://www.goo.gl/mA9YAd)

**Implementation Plan for the Secretary-General’s Disarmament Agenda**

This implementation plan details how various entities in and beyond the United Nations system will carry out each of the 40 actions contained in “Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament” available for download: [www.un.org/disarmament/sg-agenda/en/](http://www.un.org/disarmament/sg-agenda/en/)

**UNODA Occasional Papers – No. 32**

The Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons on the Dark Web: A Study available for download: [www.goo.gl/Z8wcnm](http://www.goo.gl/Z8wcnm)

For more information on any aspect related to the UNREC Focus, please contact mail(at)unrec.org  
UNREC  
TEL : (228) 22-53-50-00  
www.unrec.org

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