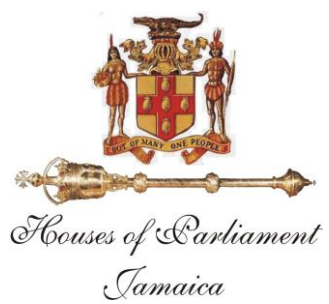




PARLIAMENTARY FORUM
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS



**Inter-Parliamentary Conference
25-26 June, 2015 Kingston, Jamaica
Hosted by the Parliament of Jamaica
at the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel**

**“Enhance ATT and UNPoA Implementation
by Parliamentary Exchange and Cooperation”**

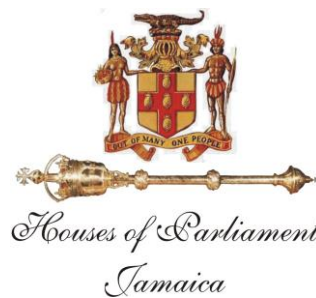
FINAL REPORT



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Introduction

The conference was held on the 25 and 26 of June 2015 and organised by the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons, in cooperation with the Parliament of Jamaica.

Members of Parliament from Dominican Republic, Grenada, Jamaica, Nicaragua, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago participated along with experts from Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS), Saferworld, Small Arms Survey and United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC). A list of participants is attached.

When the arms trade is unregulated, weapons easily find their way into the wrong hands. The recently adopted Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is a huge step in the right direction to stopping the uncontrolled proliferation of arms. The 2001 United Nations Programme of Action to Combat, Prevent and Eradicate the Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (UNPoA) was established to tackle the issue of the illicit trade and the two instruments are hence complimentary and mutually reinforcing.

The UNPoA is in its initial stages and while the ATT has been signed by 130 states, ratification and implementation are the next tasks. Parliamentarians have an important role in legislative measures, parliamentary oversight of the government and awareness-raising. A Final Declaration was adopted at the end of the conference (attached).

The event was funded by the [UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation, UNSCAR](#), a multi-donor funding mechanism designed to fund projects aimed at supporting the implementation of the ATT and the PoA.



Opening session

Hon. José Figueroa, MP Nicaragua and Board Member of the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) opened the meeting and welcomed all participants. He gave a brief introduction to the Parliamentary Forum and explained that the Forum is the only global network of parliamentarians specifically dedicated to matters of arms control and violence prevention. The Forum is a relatively young organisation which comprises of members from Africa, Europe, Latin America and the Middle East. Hon. Figueroa explained that the members lead the work of the organisation and receives support from the secretariat the in the task to achieve better control of arms as well as to fight armed violence.

One important objective has been to work for the signing, ratification and implementation of the [Arms Trade Treaty \(ATT\)](#) as well as to give follow up to the [United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects \(UNPoA\)](#). Armed violence is a serious problem and even though SALW are not the reasons or sources behind it they work as multipliers of violence. According to recent studies around 40 % of homicides are committed with firearms worldwide. In Latin America the average is closer to 70 % and in some countries it reaches beyond 90%.¹

Hon. Figueroa expressed his highest expectations for the conference to be fruitful and hoped that the participants would have the opportunity to learn and discuss their own experiences in order to gain knowledge to improve laws and other measures to foster peace and tranquillity.

Hon. Michael A. Peart, MP, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Jamaica began his speech by welcoming all participants to Jamaica and Kingston. Hon. Peart welcomed the conference as a great opportunity to discuss regional developments regarding SALW and arms trade, and he stated that Jamaica, as well as many other states in the region, is experiencing problems with illicit trade in arms. Mr. Peart further noted the devastating effects of SALW-related violence, highlighting the large numbers of arms that are in circulation globally and that the majority of these weapons are in civilian hands.

¹ http://www.unodc.org/documents/gsh/pdfs/2014_GLOBAL_HOMICIDE_BOOK_web.pdf



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Hon. Peart emphasised that at the local level, Jamaica has sought to control the supply and possession of illicit weapons, and has taken steps to ensure the responsible use of small arms and light weapons both at the national and community level. Hon. He welcomed the ATT and the UN PoA and stated that together with national Small Arms policy there are effective tools available to address these issues. He urged parliamentarians to promote effective ratification of the ATT and adherence to the UNPoA.

Hon. Michael A. Peart concluded his speech by thanking the Parliamentary Forum on SALW for arranging the conference and wished participants all the best.

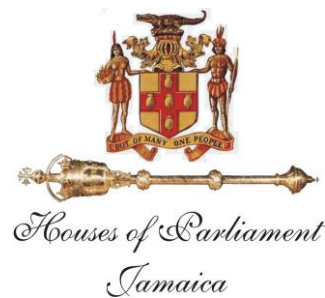
Objectives of the Conference - *Parliamentarians' contribution – from N'djamena to Lima*

Mrs. Teresa Dybeck, Programme Manager, Parliamentary Forum on SALW gave an overview of the objectives of the conference. She explained that the Parliamentary Forum on SALW is a unique global network of 250 parliamentarians from 85 countries in Africa, Latin America, Europe and the Middle East attracting politicians from all political factions – left, right and centre.

It provides a space for parliamentarians to debate, join forces and contribute to the advancement of the small arms and armed violence reduction agenda. The Forum was founded 13 years ago and has since contributed to strengthening the legislative framework for SALW control; increase the understanding of SALW violence amongst parliamentarians and the development of best-practices on SALW violence reduction and prevention.

An important part of the Forum's work is international treaties and conventions i.e. increasing parliamentary involvement in the work for the Arms Trade Treaty and the UN Programme of Action on Illicit SALW. The ATT is a major achievement and offers a tool to parliamentarians worldwide to improve international standards and praxis to cope with the negative effects of arms transfers.

The particular focus of the Conference is to provide a forum for exchanges of experiences between Caribbean states. The ATT poses a specific set of challenges to Island States, as they have limited capacity to exercise control over their relatively vast territorial waters, which, consequently, can be easily used for illicit transit or trans-shipment of weapons and ammunition. She stressed the importance of South-South cooperation. Members of the Forum come from diverse backgrounds and various political convictions, but they all experience the problems caused by the wide availability of



arms and their misuse. Whilst these problems might differ in relations to the national and regional contexts, parliamentarians can still learn from measures implemented in other countries and share best practices.

Mrs. Dybeck also mentioned the Forum's partners in the work to foster cooperation and share information; these partners include governments, civil society organisations (CSOs), and other parliamentary initiatives. Before thanking the audience and welcoming the first session of the conference, Mrs. Dybeck explained that the Forum is available to support the parliamentarians in their work on these issues whenever assistance is needed.

Session I: The Arms Trade Treaty

Hon. Tobias Clement, MP, Grenada, facilitated the session.

Hon. Clement began by welcoming the participants to the first session of the conference. He continued by giving a brief overview of the SALW-related problems in his country and stated that firearms, throughout history, have been commonly used in Grenada. Hon. Clement claimed that there are more guns in Grenada than the population itself. He further highlighted that Grenada, however, has seen improvements recently and that laws have been strengthened to deal with the problem. Hon. Clement argued that there is still much to do and mentioned the poor border control as an example. Transshipment of money, drugs and guns is a problem throughout the region and the proliferation of arms further entails criminal activities. Hon. Clement expressed his expectations for an interactive session and welcomed Mr. Roy Isbister to make his presentation.

Mr. Roy Isbister, Head of Arms Unit, Saferworld began by thanking the Parliament of Jamaica and the Parliamentary Forum on SALW. He then gave a brief presentation of himself and his organisation. Mr. Isbister is the representative of the civil society at the Board of the Parliamentary Forum on SALW, and is employed by the UK-based organisation Saferworld, which works to prevent armed violence and to build safer lives.

Mr. Isbister began his presentation on the ATT by explicating the history, status and prospects of the Treaty. He mentioned that the idea of controlling arms transfers through the application of universally-applied criteria began to gather traction after the Iran-Iraq war in the 1980s and that the end of the Cold War provided space for progress. It started on sub-regional and regional level mainly in Africa, the Americas and Europe and during this period NGOs, including Saferworld, pushed for

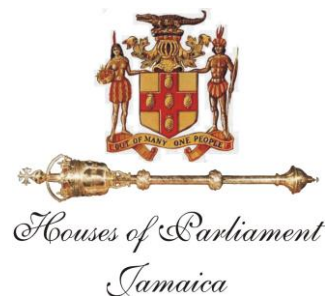


international adherence. In 2005 the UK picked up the idea of the Treaty and changed its position to support the concept and diplomatic power was also put behind the idea. Mr. Isbister further highlighted the important contribution of CARICOM states in shaping the Treaty and argued that the importance of these states has grown over time. Mr Isbister further claimed that CARICOM states have developed a somewhat disproportional role i.e. that despite being small in terms of population CARICOM states have ‘punched above their weight’ together with some African states have during the process made evident the actual human costs that this issue entails.

Mr. Isbister explained that Treaty entry-into-force (on December 24, 2014) has been remarkably rapid, and that the number of ratifications among CARICOM states has been especially impressive. Regarding the prospects of the Treaty, Mr Isbister argued that the ATT is not an end in itself but that it needs to lead to actual changes, such as mitigating human suffering and armed violence. The Treaty obliges states to have actual control mechanisms in place. It further obliges States Parties to carry out risk assessments before any prospective exports, to make sure that no export takes place without prior approval, and to refuse transfers where international humanitarian or human rights law is at risk of being violated. States Parties are also obliged to produce reports on imports and exports.

When talking about weaknesses of the Treaty Mr. Isbister argued that the scope of the Treaty is not wide enough, that there is a significant range of conventional arms not covered by the Treaty. He brought up as an example the barrel bombs used in the ongoing conflict in Syria – neither the bombs nor their preferred means of delivery are controlled within the framework of the Treaty. Further Mr. Isbister argued that the Treaty is “thick on exports and thin on imports” and that there are some loopholes regarding reporting obligations. However, he argued, the ATT provides State Parties with a chance to lead by example, that rigorous implementation can make a real difference, and that it is important that early implementing states set a strong example. He argued that as long as implementation is strong, as new State Parties become familiar with the Treaty it will render positive effects. Mr Isbister also mentioned the inclusion of ammunition as an especially important part of the Treaty.

When discussing ATT from a CARICOM perspective, Mr. Isbister stated that these states have important roles to play in shaping the Treaty and he encouraged CARICOM states to make use of this opportunity. CARICOM states need to engage fully in the process leading to the first Conference of States Parties (CSP1). Decisions regarding financial rules, rules of procedure, and the secretariat are to be made in CSP1. Mr. Isbister explained that the process so far has been dominated by conservative states aiming not to scare away non-signatories. Although this is an understandable concern it is evident that for many of these countries there is still a long way to accession or ratification. During



the preparatory process for CSP1 there has also been a push to maximize the role of signatories, mainly led by the US. There has also been lively debate about how decisions will be made (by consensus or by simple or two-thirds majority, while France has led calls for a deferral period before any decisions can be made, which according to Mr. Isbister would be problematic. Discussions about the Secretariat have focused on its size and cost (with a major drive to minimise both), which would then determine function. Mr. Isbister argued that it is better to look at what the Secretariat is expected to do and then build around that idea.

Before concluding his presentation, Mr Isbister explained that in the last preparatory conference the only participating African state was South Africa, and from CARICOM only Trinidad and Tobago and Jamaica were participating.. Mr. Isbister ended his presentation by stating that for the ATT to be effective it will take effort and require that states make the best use of the Treaty.

The facilitator thanked Mr. Isbister and continued to introduce the next speaker, Mr Calixtus Joseph.

Mr. Calixtus Joseph, Regional Crime and Security Strategy Coordinator, CARICOM IMPACS began by thanking the organisers and the host country. He referred to the previous presentation that focused on what the Treaty is and is not and explained that he aimed to make a presentation on what is included in the Treaty. In the beginning of the process, Mr Joseph argued, the mentioning of SALW raised no interest and SALW was not to be included in the Treaty. He stated that the effort of CARICOM member states helped to change this and make it possible to include SALW and also ammunition in the Treaty.

He elaborated on the importance of the ATT: the Treaty has power to save lives. He mentioned that there are tougher laws for pens and bananas than for arms. The ATT is the first international legally binding instrument to set a common standard for the trade of conventional arms, and contains a risk assessment provision based on article 6-7.

The object and purpose of the Treaty is to establish the highest possible international standard in the control of conventional arms trade. Mr. Calixtus Joseph mentioned that in the Caribbean, we often complain about the spread of SALW, but the ATT is another (global) instrument to help control SALW proliferation. The ATT applies to the 7 + 1 category of conventional arms, battle tanks, armoured combat vehicles, large-calibre artillery systems, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships, missiles and missiles launchers. He mentioned that the ATT is not ceiling but a floor – in terms of national laws we can always go higher when implementing and adapting national law.



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Mr. Calixtus Joseph highlighted the active role that CARICOM states have had in the ATT process, despite of the limited capabilities. A remaining challenge in the region is the costs of sending delegates to the international meetings. He also talked about the myths surrounding the ATT, emphasizing the fact that the Treaty does not seek to regulate domestic gun ownership, does not seek to limit the number of legally owned civilian firearms and it is not a disarmament treaty. He further explained that the ATT apply to the export/import/ transit/ trans-shipment/brokering (heavily rely on exports).

He continued his presentation by contrasting the challenges and problems faced by the CARICOM states with the willingness of the countries to implement the ATT and the activities to promote it. He mentioned the case of Trinidad & Tobago, who has been a country who has championed the spirit of the ATT, besides the fact that is seeking to host the Secretariat. State Parties must implement ATT in a consistent manner, for instance, only 2% of containers are checked today. By thoroughly implementing the ATT, shipment of arms and ammunition could be better monitored. He finalised his intervention by encouraging the participants to promote the candidature of the Trinidad as host for the Secretariat, as well as support the future work on implementation.

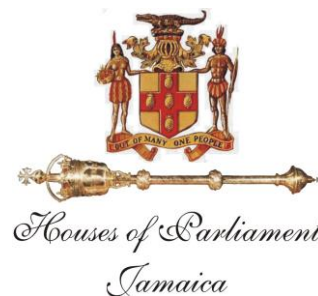
Hon. Tobias Clement thanked Mr. Joseph for the presentation and opened up for questions from the audience.

Hon. Manuel Elpidio Baez Mejia, MP Dominican Republic took the floor to explain the situation in his own country. He mentioned that the Dominican Republic was one of the first 50 states to sign the treaty and ratified it last year (August, 2014). Steps towards implementation have been taken and a first vote has been made in the national legislature. Hon. Baez further explained that in the Dominican Republic private security firms are one of the concerns since these to a large extent are the holder and users of SALW in the country. He stated that parliamentarians are concerned about the use of SALW and armed violence and that over the past ten years there has been a change globally towards an increase in use of weapons, conflicts and arms in circulation. Further, he argued, there is a situation of rearmament that is problematic and resembles the situation during the cold war. In news reports and media people can clearly see the terrible effects of these weapons and Mr Baez said that he wanted to make a brief intervention to address the problem of this issue worldwide.

Hon. Tobias Clement thanked Mr Baez for his intervention and for bringing up these important points. He highlighted further that armed violence has effects on all layers on society. Hon.. Clement



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then welcomed the Hon. Wade Mark, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Trinidad and Tobago to conclude the first session with a parliamentary response.

Hon. Wade Mark, Speaker of the House of Representatives of Trinidad and Tobago thanked the facilitator and the previous speakers. He began by highlighting that SALW have been described as the weapons of mass destruction of the CARICOM region and that on national level Trinidad and Tobago has continued to be affected by the use of such weapons. In 2013, the percentage of homicides by firearms was 79% in Trinidad and Tobago, the highest among the CARICOM states. Hon. Mark explained that the link between the high rates of homicide is directly attributed to the illegal use and diversion of SALW from the licit to the illicit market. He explained that limited border control, due to underfunding and lack of expertise and training contributes to this problem and that Small States require international instruments to provide the legal framework in order to properly regulate the international trade in conventional arms. Mr. Mark stated that Trinidad and Tobago has begun to closely examine its existing legislation in order to find out what is required to implement the ATT efficiently, and that the articles 15 and 16 (International Cooperation and International Assistance) are of special importance. He further explained that the Model Law of the ATT has been useful as it can be adapted or adopted into national legislation and he brought up some of the core areas of the Treaty (such as article 6-7, 15-16, and 23). Mr. Mark then mentioned his country's candidacy to host the Secretariat of the ATT, and he explained that Trinidad and Tobago has received great support in this from Latin American and Caribbean states as well as African and European states. He thanked for this support and wished for further support from other countries in this process. Mr Mark ended his speech and thanked the facilitator.

Hon. Tobias Clement thanked Mr. Mark and agreed that problems in the region affect all countries, he explained that what happens in neighbouring Trinidad and Tobago affect heavily his own country Grenada and highlighted that CARICOM states need to work together in this issue. He thanked all speakers and participants and closed the session.



Session II: Parliamentary Dialogue

Hon. José Figueroa, MP Nicaragua and Board Member of the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons, facilitated the session.

Hon. Figueroa opened the session and explained that he hoped to facilitate an interactive dialogue on responsible arms transfer that could serve as a tool for parliamentarians in their work. He continued by expressing his wish to discuss the main challenges; the process of implementation and possibilities for cooperation among the countries participating in the conference. Hon. Figueroa stated that it is important to look at the coordination of these processes among experts and parliaments. He gave an example from his own country, Nicaragua, which has been seeking assistance in conjunction with ATT implementation and he stated that there is a lot to learn from experts in the field, like Mr. Isbister and Mr. Joseph. After this introduction Hon. Figueroa opened the floor for a broader discussion among the participants.

Hon. Tobias Clement expressed his concerns regarding the participation of smaller CARICOM states in the work with ATT. He said that it is clear that Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago have taken leading roles in this work but wanted to have a discussion about how to strengthen the roles of smaller states and increase their participation.

Mr. Roy Isbister responded that the next preparatory committee will deal with the rules of procedure. He explained that among the CARICOM states there are eight states registered and seven have not, this is part of the problem since participating in these meetings are important for states to make their voice heard. Mr. Isbister further explained that there is a sponsorship programme available that aims to support states to participate in these meetings.

Mr. Calixtus Joseph brought up the aspect of private security in the region. He stated that there is a need for private security in the region due to high crime rates and a widespread fear of crime. He argued that most states only have limited control in this area and that when it comes to private security, legislation deals with companies rather than individuals.

Ms. Rosalynn Campell, Executive Director of the Private Security Regulation Authority (PSRA), Jamaica continued on the same topic and explained that Jamaica has a rigid but rather outmoded legislation regarding private security. She further explained that a large part of SALW in Jamaica is held by private security companies, and that the PSRA is working on a code of conduct regarding private security companies.



Mr. Calixtus Joseph noted that in Jamaica, as well as in the region in general, private security companies store a lot of SALW and that it is important to ask whether these companies have the capacity to control these weapons and capacity in terms of storage.

Hon. José Figueroa made a comment that in Nicaragua a new law for private security companies was introduced a couple of weeks ago. Parliamentarians worked together with experts, police and representatives from the industry to arrive at consensus and to come up with a law that covers both technical and political aspects. Mr. Figueroa said he would happily share with other MPs from the region the content of this legislative work.

Hon. Rosendo Arsenio Borges Rodriguez, MP, Dominican Republic, said the discussion about private security companies is of special importance in the region since these companies deal with large amounts of SALW. He stated that it is important to have legal control and constraints on these issues and hence he welcomed the example from Nicaragua brought up by Hon. Figueroa. Hon MP Borges further explained that in the Dominican Republic they are currently working to adapt a new law on private security companies. He further argued for the importance of providing for rules regarding technical training and control of personnel working in the private security sector. He claimed that there is a risk that weapons from this sector are stolen or sold and hence end up in the hands of criminals.

Mr. Manuel Martinez, Project Advisor, UNLIREC, stated that this topic is somewhat out of the reach of the ATT in regards of internal regulatory frameworks in private security sectors but still of high importance for the region and the participants of the conference. He continued by sharing with the participants the work that UNLIREC is doing together with the Geneva Centre for the Democratic Control of Armed Forces (DCAF). Mr. Martinez then brought up four aspects that are of special concern when working with regulations on private security companies: risks of firearms and ammunitions being stolen from the private security guard on site, risk of diversion from stockpiles and during transportation, the role of the private security guard in armed violence (as victim, perpetrators or involved in accidents), and irregularities in registration of the private security company as such or the firearms used in their activities.

Mrs. Teresa Dybeck briefly intervened to inform that the Parliamentary Forum on SALW has published a Parliamentary Handbook on Small Arms and Private Security Companies, and that this could be distributed to the participants. She further explained that the Forum provides support to the parliamentarians in the ATT related work, and she encouraged the parliamentarians to inform the



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Forum of what kind of support they need in order to exercise parliamentary control over the processes of implementation and ratification of the Treaty.

Mr. Roy Isbister referred back to the comment made by Mr. Martinez and argued that there is indeed a link between the ATT and private security companies. He stated that every export of arms is also an import and that exporters should take responsibility to look at the misuse of the arms. By controlling private security companies legislatively it will contribute to the effectiveness of the ATT.

Hon. José Figueroa added that the topic of the Conference is not only the ATT but also the UNPoA and continued by stating that in 2009 there was conference with the main topic of private security companies. In Nicaragua, he explained there are 126 private security companies with no specific regulations and together they have 3-4 times more armed personnel than the armed forces. Hence, he argued it is of highest relevance to discuss this topic at this forum.

Hon. Manuel Elpidio Baez Mejia added that this is a very complex and sensitive issue. The level of crime in many states is so high that private security companies are necessary to provide security. He continued by stating that sometimes police or military staff also work as private security personnel. Another important matter, he stated, is the lack of control of the arms that are in circulation and this requires stricter regulations as well as better control over borders.

Mr. Kevin Williams, Marshal to the Houses of Parliament, Jamaica argued that when there is no legal framework to track weapons as it is difficult to know when and where these weapons disappear, which is a major problem when trying to address the issue. He put forward the question of where these weapons go from the legal market into the illicit market.

Ms. Sarah Parker, Senior Researcher, Small Arms Survey, responded that it might be as a cause of poor stockpile management and in situations where there is not enough control, often in conflict zones. During transport of weapons false documentation might be used to move weapons into the illicit market. Ms. Parker further explained that what the ATT, and other instruments, do is to make sure that there is communication between exporter and importer so that it can be controlled that arms are delivered to the correct end user. She stated also that it is difficult to monitor the exported weapons as soon as they have left the territory of the exporting state. She added that the ATT has been developed explicitly not to interfere with national control, and hence it might be difficult to make sure that weapons are handled correctly once they are received in the importing country.



Mr. Calixtus Joseph added that biggest diversion into the illicit market in the region is through loss of arms, death, theft and robbery. He added also that smuggling is a problem but that is rather labelled as illegal trade than diversion of arms. He suggested that one way to address these issues is to increase the possibilities to trace weapons, which could be facilitated through marking, registration and ballistic tests.

Mr. Manuel Martinez asked about what possibilities there are today to identify and track weapons.

Mr. Calixtus Joseph responded that there are options available but that it is a matter of cost calculation. It is expensive and time consuming to establish a system of total control. And he added that for already “diverted” arms there are also considerations regarding the incentives of the owners; do they really want to make their weapons available for tracking?

Senator the Hon. Stanley Felix, Minister for Physical Development, Housing and Urban Renewal, St. Lucia, intervened and stated the importance of making use of existing technology for addressing the issue. Regarding the costs of tracing these weapons he agreed that it might be a high cost for establishing a system of total control but, he argued, for many countries in the region living out of tourism, the price for not addressing the issue of SALW might be even higher.

Mr. Calixtus Joseph brought up the issue of 3D-printed weapons, and that arms that can be produced without any possibilities for marking and tracing. In a few years’ time, he added, this technology might be affordable for any person, and these weapons will be difficult to trace. He explained that polymer weapons, weapons made out of a plastic material, are cheap to produce and very durable will be problematic to keep control. The same problem applies to modular weapons – weapons consisting of many exchangeable parts.

Mr. Roy Isbister continued on the issue of marking. He linked this topic to the UNPoA and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI), which creates opportunities to keep track of weapons. He acknowledged that the issues around new technologies is important to bring up, but stated that it is important to have in mind that there is still a lot of weapons of older technology in circulation around the world. It is likely, he argued, that new technology will be addressed in instruments and legislation in the future. Mr. Isbister brought up US as an example where domestic players work strongly against new measures that would facilitate control of weapons. He also gave an example of how technology can be used to strengthen control over weapons and the use of them, by having police forces being logged into a computer to keep track on the use of arms. The same technology, he argued, could be used to better keep control over private security companies’ use of firearms.



Mr. Manuel Martinez clarified that ATT does not completely exclude private security companies, since the topic is clearly linked to import and export of weapons and private security companies should be thoroughly scrutinized when conducting end user checks. He continued by stating that technology is developing regarding marking and tracing. Regarding marking of ammunition he argued that it is feasible and that it is becoming cheaper and he explained that producers install these technologies in their production lines already.

Hon. Tobias Clement expressed his concerns regarding the limited cooperation between countries in the region. He argued that it is problematic that countries sometimes operate individually and called for enhanced cooperation in order to deal with trafficking and illegal trade of guns and ammunition. He argued that these illegal activities often are conducted by the same group of people that operate throughout the region and hence increased cooperation among security forces in the region is necessary to achieve results.

Mr. Calixtus Joseph responded that there already is some cooperation in the region and gave an example of the Regional Integrated Ballistic Information Network (RIBIN), which is a network for sharing and comparing ballistic data. The big question, Mr. Joseph argued, is how to stop illegal guns, which often stems from powerful states, to arrive in the region.

Mr. Kevin Williams restated that the problem in the region is not the legal weapons as such but how to plug the gaps in the diversion of arms into the illegal market. He continued by arguing that it is important that CARICOM states come together and establishes common regulations regarding arms transfers. He suggested that to have one main hub for arms import to the whole region might facilitate the efforts to control transfers.

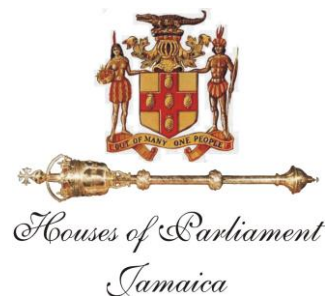
The participants briefly discussed the role that the US is playing in these issues as a powerful state with close links to region.

Ms. Sarah Parker clarified that the US has not blocked the ATT but rather stated that it is not ready to ratify it. She continued by stating that the US is a diversion risk and gave an example from Mexico where 40 % of all weapons traced were imported from the US. It is problematic, she argued, since within the US there is no national control system but each state has its own rules.

Mrs. Teresa Dybeck explained to the participants that the Parliamentary Forum on SALW has a dialogue with the US Congress since 2008. The Forum has annually met with representatives of the



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Congress and shared experiences. She further explained that a delegation on Latin American parliamentarians is present during these meetings but until now there has not been any representatives from Caribbean states, but she urged the participants of the conference to inform the Forum of any interest in participating in these meetings in the future.

Hon. Tobias Clement suggested that looking too much towards the US might be ineffective. Sharing his experiences from living in Texas, Mr. Clement argued that Congress might not be the right place to look for support and cooperation. He argued that the power of the National Rifle Association (NRA) is sometimes stronger than the power of individual Congressmen.

Hon. José Figueroa thanked the participants and closed the session.

Session III: National and regional ratification and implementation

Hon. Fitz Jackson, MP and Co-chair of the ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly Group, Jamaica, facilitated the session and welcomed the participants. He began by introducing himself and his role in this area. He continued by briefly explaining the special challenges regarding SALW that Caribbean states experience, and then introduced the experts constituting the panel for the third session; Mr. Tarik Weekes from Violence Prevention Alliance (VPA), and Mr. Manuel Martinez from UNLIREC.

Mr. Tarik Weekes, Research Associate, Violence Prevention Alliance – Jamaican Chapter, made a presentation on ATT and Jamaica “how to achieve results on the ground”. He began by stating that there are compelling reasons to support agreements, such as the ATT, that will lead to reduction of factors contributing to armed violence in Jamaica. The high rate of death by guns is one, he argued. Mr. Weekes continued by explaining the situation of armed violence in Jamaica, a problem that is affecting the whole society. He argued that the absence of police and the low level of trust towards the police have created a society where people arm themselves for protection. He further stated that efforts to reduce gun violence will be hard and difficult since not everybody agrees that zero tolerance towards carrying guns is necessary. Mr. Weekes continued by providing statistics regarding armed violence in Jamaica which showed that: the main perpetrators and victims of such violence are male youth; more than 77 % of homicides in Jamaica, and in Caribbean islands, are gun-related. He further showed, through statistics, that the estimated GDP loss is somewhere between 7-11%, this is because money has to be allocated into the health and security sector. Even though increased amount of funds is given to the police, even more is required to effectively address the problem.



Mr. Weekes went on to explain possible solutions to the problem. He argued that for successfully achieving results it is necessary to promote a systematic cultural shift to reduce the demand for guns among the population. It is necessary, he argued, to limit the use of guns by youth through addressing the demand and increase the perception of risks. A stronger presence of the state at the community level is also decisive, as well as greater transparency in stockpiles for private and state security, Mr. Weekes stated. He continued by arguing that not only the transnational flow of weapons is of concern but also the internal flow of weapons as well. He presented statistics that showed that 2010 a M16 gun could be bought cheaply in Jamaica and even rented for a cost around JMD 150,000, a Glock pistol could be rented for only JMD 30,000, which proved that access to firearms is both cheap and easy. He explained that these types of guns are long-lasting and once they are in circulation in the country they can be used and traded easily among criminals for a long time.

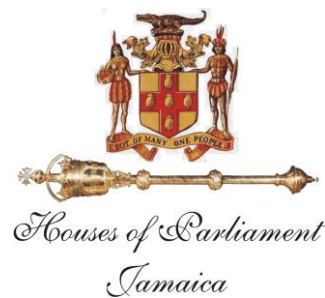
Mr. Weekes welcomed the entry into force of the ATT and explained that Jamaica has enabling mechanisms already in place that will facilitate implementation. He ended his presentation by suggesting an initiative to create a meeting place for police and society to establish better opportunities for functional work of the police forces.

The facilitator highlighted that in terms of costs of gun violence it is important to also include the costs of health care, especially when talking about the effects that gun violence has on GDP. He stated that in Jamaica especially, the health sector is strained by the high level of armed violence. He asked Mr. Weekes about available data on the impact that gun violence has on society, and he asked about the relationship between SALW and domestic violence.

Mr. Tarik Weekes responded that the health sector is allocated 6 % of the GDP and that the entire chain of the health sector is affected by this issue. Regarding domestic violence, he argued that gang violence also has an aspect of domestic violence entailed in it, where rival groups might use this as an excuse to instigate violence between communities. These situations often include female victims of violence and abuse.

The facilitator thanked Mr. Weekes for his presentation and then gave the floor to Manuel Martinez.

Mr. Manuel Martinez, Project Advisor, UNLIREC, began his presentation by briefly explaining the work of UNLIREC. UNLIREC provides support to Latin American and Caribbean states in maintaining peace and security through disarmament and arms control measures and it also aims for strengthening capacities of national authorities and security sector entities. Mr. Martinez stated that UNLIREC works specifically to achieve effective implementation of the ATT and other international



instruments. By providing statistics on the high rates of firearms and firearm related crimes he pointed out the importance of the ATT for the region. Diversion of firearms, he further stated, is one of the biggest concerns in the region and the ATT will contribute to address this issue. Mr. Martinez further brought up several factors affecting the security situation in the region, e.g. maritime borders, transfers of arms through the region, and lack of control of these transfers. He stated that the region is not a major player in the global arms trade but that there has been an increase in trade with SALW to the region and within the region. He argued that by dividing states into exporters and importers a false dichotomy is created and that all states in the region are involved in transit or trans-shipment and hence have a joint responsibility to control this. Regarding the status of the ATT, Mr. Martinez stated that compared to the rest of the world, the Latin American and Caribbean region is doing better in terms of signatories and ratification.

Mr. Martinez then discussed why the ATT is different from other instruments and he explained that it is a legally binding instrument that aims to establish standards to regulate the conventional arms trade and prevent diversion. The Treaty covers 8 categories of conventional arms, ammunition and parts and components and complements other international instruments. Mr. Martinez continued by explaining the obligations that the ATT imposes on State Parties, including: the designation of a national control authority; establishment of a national control system and development of control lists; prevention of diversion; record keeping and reporting. He continued by discussing what the ATT does and does not do. He stated that it does regulate international transfers of arms, ammunition and parts and components; establish criteria for prohibitions on some transfers; and establish additional criteria to conduct export assessment. Mr. Martinez explained that UNLIREC has established an export assessment methodology to facilitate this process. He further stated that the ATT does not regulate civilian access to firearms and it does not prohibit states to trade with arms or puts limits on import and export. Nor does it regulate movements of arms for Peacekeeping Operations or for states' own use.

Regarding the special challenges for Small Island States (SIS), Mr. Martinez argued that effective national implementation is the key for addressing these challenges. The ATT, he stated, gives a lot of autonomy to State Parties and hence effective implementation depends on the nations themselves. He explained that the role of UNLIREC in the process of implementation is threefold. First, UNLIREC has developed a manual with tools and activities to explain the Treaty and what is needed to comply with it. The final version of this manual is finished and UNLIREC now awaits final approval to have it used in English speaking countries. Second, UNLIREC can provide institutional assistance to states implementing the Treaty. Third, UNLIREC can help to set up risk mitigating measures including end use documentation, stockpile management, destruction of arms and ammunition, and marking and



tracing. Mr. Martinez also presented UNLIREC's Arms Trade Treaty Implementation Course (ATT-IC). He explained the objectives of the course including: identification of elements covered by the ATT; explanation of obligations and dispositions; practical methodology for export assessments; and import control measures. The ATT-IC target audience is officials that in some way are involved in the process, as well as monitoring entities of civil society. Mr. Martinez explained that the course consists of five modules containing: best practices and examples; interactive and dynamic tools; and practical exercise. Mr. Martinez concluded by explaining that the ATT-IC is available to ratifying states throughout Latin America and the Caribbean to assist in the creation of national control lists, to build capacities of officials, to help evaluate the risks involved in arms transfers, and to make use of standardized end user documentation to help mitigate these risks. Mr. Martinez then ended his presentation and thanked the audience.

Hon. Fitz Jackson posed a question to Mr. Martinez. He explained that Jamaica, as well as other Small Island States has a particular vulnerability regarding transshipment and transit of small arms since these states has virtually open borders. Trade, especially trade of arms, does not take place at established ports but in other non-controlled ports and harbours. What then, he asked, is the obligation, if any, of states to control the movement of arms within states?

Mr. Manuel Martinez responded that the ATT establishes that there has to be mechanisms controlling transfer and transshipment, but it does not go further than that. He continued by explaining that the source of the illicit trafficking is in the exporting countries and hence it requires control over illicit trafficking through law enforcement, which is not the same as controlling the legal trade through the ATT mechanisms.

Hon. Fitz Jackson claimed that domestic regulation of ports and harbours is not adequate. He further stated that Small Island States (SIS) are dependent on arms producing nations to use their resources and authority to substantially control the movement of small arms from their borders. He said that cooperation is taking place when it comes to tracing but this is when arms already have entered the country, what then, he asked, could be done to prevent the arms from reaching countries such as Jamaica illegally?

Mr. Manuel Martinez responded and suggested that strengthened cooperation between security forces and intelligence services might be a way to address this problem.

Hon. Fitz Jackson opened up for questions from the other participants.



Mr. Calixtus Joseph stated that there are many differences between Latin American countries and Caribbean countries, and that a lot of focus is on exporting/importing states. He argued that Caribbean states, with their “open” borders, require special efforts, and he asked Mr. Martinez what work UNLIREC can perform in this regard.

Mr. Manuel Martinez responded that the work of UNLIREC is based on the wishes of the states in the region, and that UNLIREC can adapt and focus on specific issues in the Caribbean if such wishes are expressed.

Mr. Roy Isbister had a question regarding the access to arms. He asked whether the lowered availability of arms, referring back to the presentation by Mr. Weekes, can be interpreted as a sign of policing success.

Mr. Tarik Weekes responded that it might be labelled as a victory. He continued by explaining that there has also been a push for amnesty in bringing in arms for collection. He argued that harder pressure by the police on criminal gangs as well as better tactics to find and confiscate illegal arms have contributed to lowering the availability.

Hon. Fitz Jackson continued on the topic of criminal gangs. He argued that it is difficult to debate the reasons for engaging in criminal activities, but that the economic crisis might have had an effect. Joining gangs, he argued, is often considered an easier way to earn a living, even though there might be other options available.

Mr. Tarik Weekes agreed that economic incentives might be a reason for some to join criminal gangs.

Mr. Kevin Williams continued by saying that even if we get to the point where the ATT is successful and manages to obstacle the access to arms, criminal activity will still be around and people will continue to commit crimes. He argued that any country that wishes to prevent crime and gun transfer must have also a human intervention to address the incentives for people to commit crimes. He highlighted the importance of working with children and youngsters on this issue to “get the gun out of their heads before they get it in their hands”.

Hon. Tobias Clement agreed with Mr. Weekes regarding the importance of working with children and youngsters. He gave an example from Grenada where toy guns and similar toys are not sold to children, which he argued, have had a positive effect and contributed to change the culture around guns.



Mr. Manuel Martinez turned back to the issue of the ATT implementation and asked what results are being pursued. He argued that it is important to talk about the gun culture, education, and the problems of border control. What are the challenges in implementation, he asked. He argued that one major issue is that young people cannot escape the life in illegal activities, in which the main tools are guns. For effective implementation, he argued, it is important to include access to education in order to provide a better future for children and young people.

He stated that successful implementation of the ATT requires legislative framework and increased capacity of institutions. To be successful in addressing the problems of SALW it is important to work with several variables, one of them being the supply. He concluded by stating that the implementation of the Treaty will not solve all problems but it is important to start somewhere.

Hon. Fitz Jackson thanked the speakers and participants and explained that the session will be continued the next day. Mr. Jackson then closed the first day of the conference.

Hon. José Figueroa made a suggestion regarding the program for the second day.

The suggestion was considered and slight change of schedule was accepted for the second day.

Session III: National and regional ratification and implementation (due to logistical reasons Session III was continued on the second day of the conference).

Mrs. Teresa Dybeck welcomed the participants to the second day of the conference and explained that session III was to be continued by a presentation from Mr. Lincoln Allen and Ms. Michelle Walker.

Ms. Michelle Walker, Head of Legal Unit, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, Jamaica began the presentation by explaining that the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Trade, and the Ministry of National Security are responsible for the implementation of the ATT. She continued by briefly explaining Jamaica's status of the ATT; the Treaty was ratified on 3 June 2014 and the country's ratification was one of the first 50. Ms. Walker stated that CARICOM states effectively advanced their positions during the negotiations through successful cooperation and strongly contributed to the inclusion of SALW and ammunition in the Treaty. She argued that these coordinated efforts made the states' voices heard and had a stronger effect than if each country would have negotiated



individually. Further she argued that SALW threatens the existence of society as it is, hence the ATT is very welcomed. Ms. Walker moved on to explain the process of ratification which is based on stakeholder consultation, legal review and finally a Cabinet approval. Regarding the review of existing legislation she argued that changes are needed to adapt to the ATT since none of the existing laws include SALW. She stated that Jamaica has to move quickly to put in place the necessary legal provisions.

Regarding implementation Ms. Walker explained that Jamaica is a party or signatory to several other transfer instruments and that full adherence to UNPoA and ITI are important steps forward. The priority in implementation, she argued, is to implement the ATT and other instruments in a comprehensive and coherent legal framework. She highlighted the importance of coherence and the link between the different instruments. She then explained that the Ministry is looking at the idea of developing a CARICOM Model Bill for implementation of the ATT, similar to the Arms Trade Treaty Model Law that was developed by the Small Arms Survey and the New Zealand Government.

Mr. Lincoln Allen, Director of Protective Security, Ministry of National Security, Jamaica continued on the topic of implementation. He stated that the Ministry of National Security (MNS) plays a central role in the regulation of trade and explained that the cabinet has approved that the MNS is best suited for this task. He further stated that transshipment of SALW fall under the MNS and continued by mentioning a few critical stakeholders included in the process of implementation e.g. Jamaica Customs Department, Jamaica Defence Force, Port Security Corps, and Port Authority of Jamaica. To address the issues of SALW and obstacle the illegal transfers Mr. Allen highlighted the importance of cooperation and collaboration within all state agencies. He argued that it is necessary to have an established list of points of contacts to facilitate communication and to establish a culture of trust, not only on the national level but also regionally. Regarding implementation of the UNPoA Mr. Allen explained that Jamaica has conducted several activities, including destruction of firearms and ammunition and increased control of ports and borders.

Ms. Michelle Walker continued by stating that countries like Jamaica need technical assistance in several areas of implementation. Specific areas in which support is likely to be needed include: the development of legislation and control lists; adapting institutional arrangements; enhancing enforcement capacity; sensitization of key stakeholders and training of personnel. She mentioned that Jamaica is currently benefitting from assistance from EU – ATT outreach project, through which the EU has assisted by sending a technical team, developing an “Assistance Roadmap” and holding seminars on interagency cooperation and enforcement. She also mentioned that other agencies, such as the UNDP and UNLIREC have assisted Jamaica.



Regarding the future of the ATT, Ms. Walker stated that the effectiveness of the ATT depends on several factors. She stated that universal acceptance would send an important message; another important signal would be compliance with the reporting requirements under article 13. Ms. Walker ended the presentation by explaining that by the terms of the ATT it will not be possible to pose amendments until after 6 years, but, she added, there is great hope that in 2020 aspects of the Treaty that was not included now would be added to the Treaty.

Hon. Wade Mark posed a question to the two speakers saying that in terms of stakeholders parliamentarians, as legislators, will have an important role in the implementation of the Treaty. At what stage, he asked, can parliamentarians/legislators be expected to be brought into the process. He further asked whether this is something that will come after the decisions on the secretariat are announced. Mr. Mark argued that since the cabinet ratifies treaties parliamentarians' role has been rather diminished in the debate on ratification, and he asked for the speakers' opinions on this.

Ms. Michelle Walker responded that efforts have been made in Trinidad and Tobago to put together a program of sensitization of the Treaty; in the CARICOM region this is an opportunity for parliamentarians to be better included. She continued by stating that after the first Conference of State Parties (CSP1) in August, it is important to include also legislators because the Treaty needs the inclusion of parliamentarians.

Hon. Wade Mark asked about the expected timeframe for the Treaty to be included into national legislation among the CARICOM states, and when legislation is expected to be effected.

Ms. Michelle Walker asked Mr. Calixtus Joseph for an answer to this.

Mr. Calixtus Joseph explained that it will be a 6 month project. By December, he argued, the model bill within CARICOM should be in place to be used by the states of CARICOM.

Session III was declared ended and a brief pause was announced before the next session.



Session IV: The UN Programme of Action

Senator the Hon. Victor La Corbiniere, Minister of Home Affairs and National Security and Minister of Legal Affairs, St. Lucia facilitated the session.

Mrs. Teresa Dybeck began the session by briefly presenting the Facilitator. Senator La Corbiniere is attorney at law with 25 years' experience. He is the former legal counsel to the organisation of Eastern Caribbean States and former Attorney General and Minister of Justice of St. Lucia. At present Mr La Corbiniere is the Minister of Legal Affairs and Home Affairs, as well as Minister of National Security of St. Lucia.

Hon. Victor La Corbiniere first thanked Ms. Dybeck for the presentation and continued to thank the Parliamentary Forum on SALW. He briefly gave his perspectives on the first day of the conference argued that all avenues for regional cooperation on this issue has to be brought in, CARICOM will continue to be the most important, he stated, but also other organisations might have important roles to play. He continued by stating that how to ensure border control is an important issue, and states have to find solutions to these problems. He gave an example from St. Lucia, where the country has worked together with its neighbours to establish a maritime surveillance system to share information and increase capacity. He stated that it is possible for states to learn from each other to cooperate in this issue.

Hon. La Corbiniere then presented the topic of the fourth session, the UNPoA, and introduced the speaker of the session, Ms Sarah Parker.

Ms. Sarah Parker, Senior Researcher, Small Arms Survey, Geneva, Switzerland, began by thanking the hosting parliament and the organisers before she explained that her role was to talk about the relationship between the ATT and other international commitments, such as the UNPoA, and how they relate to each other. She stated that a common misperception is that once the ATT is in place other instruments will become obsolete, which is not the case.

Ms. Parker continued by comparing the international instruments ATT, UNPoA, ITI, and UN Firearms Protocol (FP). Among these instruments only the ATT and the UNPoA are legally binding, whereas the other two instruments are politically binding. She stated that the FP focuses more on so called "crime guns" whereas the UNPoA focuses on illegal trade, and that ITI is an important instrument in opposing diversion.



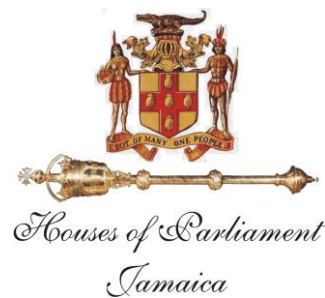
In the Americas, Ms. Parker continued, there are several other instruments as well, such as the Inter-American Convention (CIFTA), the Andean Plan, the Code of Conduct of Central American States, and the CARICOM Declaration on SALW. Many Caribbean states are parties to these instruments as well, a fact that has to be considered during implementation of the ATT and UNPoA.

She continued to talk about control measures to address the problem of SALW, and argued that there are several measures not mentioned in the ATT and hence the Treaty is not comprehensive in the control of SALW. The ATT, she stated, is broader than FP, UNPoA and ITI, when it comes to the inclusion of arms, and the Treaty was considered to be relevant for many states only if SALW was included. ATT is, however, less broad in terms of measures it requires states to implement.

Ms. Parker continued to go into discussing ATT implementation and how it differs from other instruments. She stated that for general implementation, as stated in Article 5, the ATT requires established national control system and national control lists – including definitions. It also requires designated competent national authorities and national points of contacts. Regarding transfer control, prohibitions are outlined in Article 6, which explains under what circumstances transfer should not be authorized. Article 7, concerns export and export assessment, which should be undertaken before transfer takes place. The export assessment requires states to, inter alia, consider risk mitigation and take into account risks of gender based violence in the importing state. Ms. Parker stated that although Caribbean states are not manufacturers they still engage in some level of export.

Ms. Parker explained that also importing states have obligations that are to be fulfilled before transfer can take place, as stated in Article 8. The first obligation is to provide information to the exporting state, information that may include end use documentation. Here she stated the ATT differs from other instrument where this is harder controlled, e.g. the UNPoA where end-user certificate is required and not optional. Importing states are also required to take measures to regulate, where necessary, imports of conventional arms, and such measures may include import systems. Also here is the ATT less strict than the other instruments; the UNPoA, FP and CIFTA, she stated, all require a system of import licenses.

Transit or trans-shipment, regulated in Article 9, is of special importance for countries in the region, Ms. Parker stated. It is stated that states shall take measures to regulate, “where necessary and feasible”, transit or trans-shipment through its territory in accordance with relevant international law. Also here, she stated, do other instruments have a stronger language, e.g. UNPoA where it is stated that states shall take measures to “ensure effective control over transit”; and CIFTA requires a



system transit licenses. She stated that also regarding brokering, regulated through Article 10, the ATT is less strict than other instruments.

Ms. Parker further explained that regarding diversion, which is stipulated in Article 11, states shall take measures to prevent diversion, which includes; assessing the risk, cooperate and exchange information and address diversion when detected. The UNPoA, she stated, is stronger also in this sense since it provides guidance on how to address diversion. Ms. Parker mentioned also Article 12, record-keeping, and explained that states are required to keep records of export authorization or actual exports for at least 10 years. Article 12 further encourages states to keep records of imports and transit, although it is not a requirement. She compared here the ATT to ITI which requires states to keep manufacturing records for 30 years, and all other records (including export and import) for at least 20 years. Ms. Parker also discussed Article 16, international assistance, and stated that several tolls are available including access to funding.

When summarizing the ATT Ms. Parker stated that it is a huge breakthrough as the first legally binding instrument on arms trade. She argued that the Treaty creates benchmarks and fill important gaps; it reinforces and enhances certain commitments; clarifies some important ambiguities; and enhances the focus on preventing diversion. She further brought up a few weaknesses with the Treaty, arguing that certain commitments are unclear (e.g. regarding brokering); that certain commitments are clearly weaker than other instruments (e.g. record-keeping); and that many commitments are qualified.

Before ending her presentation Ms. Parker gave examples of resources available for effective implementation of the Treaty, including model legislation and guidelines; ATT Handbook and ATT Legal Commentary; and also resources available through institutions such as the UN Agencies, regional organisations and NGOs. She also mentioned the Small Arms Survey publications 'A Diplomat's Guide to the UN Small Arms Process' and 'the Arms Trade Treaty Model Law'. Ms Parker thanked the audience and the Facilitator and ended her presentation.

Hon. Victor La Corbiniere asked and encouraged the participants to make comments and asked the present parliamentarians how this links back to their work in this field.

Hon. Manuel Elpidio Baez Mejia explained the progress of the ATT process in the Dominican Republic stating that ratification is approved by the Parliament and the next thing is to get the executive power to sign it before it goes to the judiciary to find out if there are any legal restrains for



ratification, which there is not, he argued. He stated that his country gladly implements the ATT and argued that there are several fora available to promote sensitization of the Treaty.

Hon. Victor La Corbiniere encouraged the Jamaican participants to give their view.

Hon. Lincoln Allen explained that the plan is to use the existing system to deal with the trade of conventional arms. In practice, he stated, the protocols are the same although it is necessary to incorporate all of items included in the Treaty, such as SALW.

A brief discussion of the available resources and the costs of implementation followed, including the aspects of regional cooperation and shared operational costs, before the Facilitator thanked the participants and Sara Parker for her presentation and closed the session.

Session V: Interactive group session: Arms Transfer Practical Exercise - *Taking the role of an export control authority in arms transfer scenarios*

Mr. Manuel Martinez, Project Advisor, UNLIREC, managed and introduced the exercise session of the interactive group work. The first step in the exercise was to examine the chain of co-responsibility through a role play exercise. Each participant was given a card explaining a person involved in the process of arms transfer. The participants explained their roles to each other in a specific case of diversion of weapons with three states and several institutions involved. The purpose of the exercise was to analyse shared responsibilities between states and institutions in controlling arms transfers. The end of the exercise included a group discussion of the simulated situation, the relationship between the different roles and the consequences of lack of control over transfers.

The second part of the group session was designed as a simulation of a decision making process of an export control authority. The participants were divided into two groups, each with the task to analyse a fictive arms export application and come up with, and justify a decision. Each group received a folder containing the following documents: application for an export license for firearms and ammunition, technical characteristics of the weapon, end-user certificates, a country profile including general information about the country's security and social situation, intelligence reports as well as various other materials for analysis. Based on these materials, the groups were asked to analyse the information and advise whether export could be authorised or not.



The exercises were appreciated by the participants and contributed to a better practical understanding of the different international instruments controlling arms transfer.

Session VI: Discussion and Adoption of the Final Declaration / Concluding Remarks

The concluding discussion was led by **Hon. José Figueroa, MP Nicaragua and Board Member of the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons.**

Due to the time factor and the departure schedule of some of the participants it was suggested and approved that comments on the Final Declaration was to be submitted in writing after the conference.

Hon. Figueroa began by stating that the two days of the conference had been very informative and that statements and presentation had contributed to establish a better understanding of the ATT and the UNPoA, as well as the role of parliamentarians when it comes to arms export. He then gave the floor to Manuel Martinez for his concluding remarks.

Mr. Manuel Martinez began by, on behalf of UNLIREC, thanking the organisers and the participants for a fruitful conference. He argued that before the ATT there was no international system at place to control international arms transfers He continued by stating that the ATT is a tool to help states achieve control over transfer and trade of arms and ammunitions. Illegal arms, he claimed, start their lives legally hence it is of high importance to control the transfer of arms and the ATT is a useful tool. Mr. Martinez argued that parliamentarians have an important role to play in the implementation of the Treaty, through their responsibility in legislative and budgetary issues. He explained that UNLIREC is willing to help and provide assistance to all countries in the region regarding implementation of the ATT. He concluded by encouraging all participants to go home and continue the important work on this matter.

Hon. José Figueroa welcomed the Speaker of the House of Parliament, Hon. Mr. Michael Peart to give his concluding remarks on the conference.

Hon. Michael Peart began his speech by stating that the two days of conference reminded the participants of the negative impact of the proliferation of SALW in the region. He highlighted the



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importance of working together in the region and to continue the dialogue between countries to be able to address the issues. He emphasized that support and assistance is available and mentioned the CARICOM Model Law as an example. Mr. Peart concluded by thanking all for the participation in the meeting and he wished the best of luck in the continuing work in this field.

Hon. José Figueroa thanked Mr. Martinez and Mr. Peart for their concluding remarks and asked the audience for any last comments before ending the session.

Hon. Victor La Corbiniere took the opportunity to, on behalf of all participating parliamentarians; thank the Parliamentary Forum on SALW for arranging the conference and for the invitation to it. He also thanked the Parliament of Jamaica for hosting the conference.

Hon. José Figueroa thanked Senator La Corbiniere for his final comment and closed the conference.



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Annex 1: Final Declaration

**Inter-Parliamentary Conference
25-26 June, Kingston, Jamaica
Hosted by the Parliament of Jamaica at
the Jamaica Pegasus Hotel**

**“Enhance ATT and UNPoA Implementation
by Parliamentary Exchange and Cooperation”**

FINAL DECLARATION

Parliamentarians from Caribbean states; meeting at the “Inter-parliamentary Conference to Enhance the Arms Trade Treaty and United Nations’ Programme of Actions Implementation by South-South Parliamentary Exchange and Cooperation”, in Kingston, Jamaica, June 25-26 2015, recognizing the important role that Island States are playing in shaping the Arms Trade Treaty to reflect their concerns, in particular to ensure that small arms, their parts and components, and ammunition were included in the scope of the treaty.

Control of international transfers of small arms and light weapons (SALW) their parts and components and their ammunition is at the centre of the global agenda for tackling the proliferation of such arms. The nature of SALW, their characteristics, as well as the sheer number or global stock, and the range of actors that possess or trade with them, makes it particularly difficult to control the movement of SALW not only within states, but also between them. Weak institutions and border-controls, as well as social unrest and organised criminal activities, often add to the difficulty.

The recently adopted ATT is an important step in the right direction to impede the proliferation and misuse of arms. The entry into force of the Treaty on December 24, 2014, following 50 ratifications, allows for enhanced control over arms transfers through established regulations for transferring conventional arms. Further, the treaty seeks to prevent conventional weapons from falling into the hands of terrorists and organized criminal groups, of which SALW and their ammunition are most commonly used.

Island States in Africa, Latin America, the Pacific and the Caribbean have been identified as a priority for ATT-related efforts as these nations will face specific challenges with respect to regulating the transit of arms through their territorial waters’.



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The participants hence welcome the positive development in terms of ratification of the ATT which has yielded a solid representation of the CARICOM Member States among the Treaty's State Parties – 13 in total, including Dominican Republic, as well as two signatory states.

The participants highlight and recognize other important parliamentary efforts on the topic, such as the Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) which is doing excellent work on promoting the ATT and has a number of tools available. Also the British Group of the IPU has contributed greatly through dedicating their annual conference that took place in November 2014 to the ATT. The participants further highlight the role of Civil Society Organisations (CSOs), their fruitful cooperation with Parliamentary networks and their contribution to effective implementation of the ATT through capacity building, sharing of experiences, and technical expertise that provide support for interpretation of the Treaty.

Entry into force of the ATT is much welcomed and appreciated, however the 2001 *United Nations Programme of Action to Combat, Prevent and Eradicate the Illicit Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects* (UNPoA) still remains essential in relation to addressing the illicit trade in small arms in all its aspects. The ATT and the UNPoA are hence complementary and mutually reinforcing in preventing and addressing diversion of weapons.

The PoA provide opportunities for disarmament and arms control measures through weapons and ammunition destruction, stockpile management, and marking and tracing instruments. The participants point out that such effort must be promoted.

The PoA also offers opportunities for national governments to reduce the high rates of injury and death associated with armed violence by investing in research on firearm-related injuries and deaths, armed violence prevention and peacebuilding programs at the community level, and harmonization between health and other sectors, such as the World Health Organization's national focal points on violence prevention and the PoA National Commissions on Small Arms.

Parliamentarians from all regions see the consequences of uncontrolled proliferation and misuse of SALW and their ammunition on a daily basis and acknowledge that armed violence is a serious public health issue with consequences that stretch beyond the immediate victims. They strongly condemn all illegal use of SALW and their ammunition and express their solidarity with the victims and survivors of such violence.

The participants express their consent to the formal adoption of the ATT while underlining the significant role that parliamentarians still have to play to ensure that the Arms Trade Treaty effectively prevents and reduces armed violence, and in particular SALW-related violence. The obvious next step is to ensure the broadest possible ratification globally and effective implementation for the many State Parties among the CARICOM members.

The Conference underlines the several important roles that parliamentarians have to play with regard to the ATT and the PoA. Following ratification of the ATT, parliamentarians are in position to review the necessary legislation for full compliance with the Treaty, and manage its passage through parliament consistent with the dictates of the national system. Further, parliamentarians *are responsible for*



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monitoring government implementation of the ATT and all aspects of the PoA, including the International Tracing Instrument and encourage government to adopt best practices in the context of the ATT and the PoA, rather than a culture of minimal compliance.

Among the roles of parliamentarians is also included the promotion of a fully transparent approach by government to the ATT and the PoA, including through proactive and comprehensive participation in relevant reporting mechanisms. It is important that parliamentarians remain excised of the impact the ATT and PoA are having on their national and *regional* populations, with a view to developing recommendations where appropriate for how the government should engage in the follow-on processes (e.g. Conferences of State Parties for the ATT, Biennial Meetings of States and Review Conferences for the PoA).

The participants further underlines the importance of parliamentarians continuing to raise awareness of the ATT and PoA with other parliamentarians from both within the country and elsewhere, and that they champion ongoing substantive interaction among government, parliament and broader civil society on these issues.

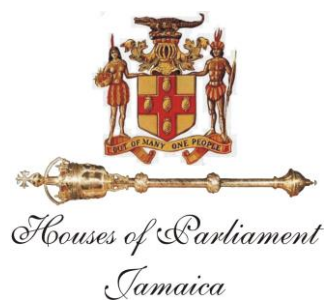
In countries that have not yet ratified the Treaty, parliamentarians are encouraged to promote parliamentary debate on the importance of doing so. And, for countries that have ratified, parliamentarians are encouraged to review legislation and make proposals to bring national norms in line with the Treaty obligations and establish parliamentary bodies to oversee implementation over time.

The Conference urges parliamentarians worldwide to take action regarding the Arms Trade Treaty and to ensure the most comprehensive implementation at the national level of the UNPoA, which offers many opportunities to reduce diversion of lethal weapons.

The participants extend their heartfelt thanks to the Parliament of Jamaica for generously hosting the meeting.



PARLIAMENTARY FORUM
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS



*Houses of Parliament
Jamaica*

Annex 2: List of participants

<u>Country/Organisation</u>	<u>Name:</u>	<u>Title:</u>
Dominican Republic	Manuel Elpidio Baez Mejia	Member of Parliament, Chamber of Deputies
Dominican Republic	Rosendo Arsenio Borges	Member of Parliament, Chamber of Deputies
CARICOM IMPACS	Rodriguez	Member of Parliament, Chamber of Deputies
Firearm Licensing Authority, Jamaica	Calixtus Joseph	Regional Crime and Security Strategy Coordinator
Grenada	Letine Allen	
Jamaica	Tobias Clement	Member of Parliament
Jamaica	Michael A Peart	Speaker of the House of Representatives
Jamaica	Fitz Jackzon	Member of Parliament, Co-chair ACP-EU Joint Parliamentary Assembly Group
Jamaica	Derrick Smith	Member of Parliament, Opposition Spokesperson on National Security
Jamaica, Parliament	Heather Cook	Clerk to the Houses
Jamaica, Parliament	Cheryl Gibson	Deputy Clerk to the Houses
Jamaica, Parliament	Camika Facey	Legislative Council
Jamaica, Parliament	Kevin Williams	Marshal to the Houses
Jamaica, Ministry of National Security	Lincoln Allen	
Jamaica, Ministry of National Security	Samantha Allen	Director, Protective Security
Jamaica, Ministry of Foreign Affairs	Michelle Walker	Head of Legal Unit
Jamaica, Private Security Regulation Authority	Rosalyn Campbell	Executive Director
Jamaica, Violence Prevention Alliance	Tarik Weekes	
Nicaragua	Josè Figueroa	Member of Parliament/ Board Member Parliamentary Forum on SALW
Parliamentary Forum on SALW	Erik Vestin	Programme Officer
Parliamentary Forum on SALW	Teresa Dybeck	Programme Manager



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Saferworld, UK
Saint Lucia
Saint Lucia
Small Arms Survey, Switzerland
Trinidad & Tobago
UNLIREC, Peru

Roy Isbister
Victor La Corbiniere
Stanley Felix
Sarah Parker
Wade Mark
Manuel Martinez



Houses of Parliament
Jamaica

Head of Arms Unit, Co-Chair Control Arms Coalition, Board Member of PFSALW
Senator, Minister of Home Affairs and National Security and Minister of Legal Affairs
Senator, Minister for Physical Development, Housing and Urban Renewal
Senior Researcher
Speaker of the House of Representatives
Project Advisor