



PARLIAMENTARY FORUM
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS



Inter-parliamentary Conference

22-23 May, Lomé, Togo

National Assembly of Togo

“Enhance ATT and UNPoA Implementation
by South-South Parliamentary Exchange and Cooperation”

FINAL REPORT



Introduction

The conference was held on the 22 and 23 May 2014 and organised by the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons, in cooperation with the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, UNREC and the National Assembly of Togo.

Over 30 Members of Parliament from Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Jamaica, Liberia, Mali, Nicaragua, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo and Zimbabwe participated along with experts from Control Arms, Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), Nigeria National Commission on SALW, Small Arms Survey, The United Nation Regional Centres for Peace and Disarmament in Africa and Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC and UNREC), the West African Action Network on Small Arms (WAANSA) and World Council of Churches. A list of participants is attached.

Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean are regions heavily affected by armed violence. 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. The ATT and the UNPoA are complimentary and mutually reinforcing.



The UNPoA is in its initial stages and while the ATT has been signed by over 100 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.

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Opening session

Hon. Drissa Sanogo, MP from Burkina Faso and Board Member of the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons opened the event. He explained that the Forum is a young organisation composed of members of parliament from all over the world, with the bulk of its membership in Africa, Latin America, Caribbean and Europe. The Forum provides parliamentarians with a platform to meet and brainstorm ideas and supports its members in their work related to Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). The issue of SALW is highly complex which causes serious concerns especially give its close connection to economic development and public security. The trade of arms destabilizes and even destroys countries and constitutes a nightmare for young democracies. SALW are therefore a danger to mankind; they are a sickness which must be treated and he hoped that this conference would bring parliamentarians a step closer to achieving this goal.

H.E. Ms. Ayawavi DJIGBODI DAGBAN, 3rd Vice President of the National Assembly of Togo continued and on behalf of the President of the Assembly, welcomed everyone. She started by highlighting the aim of the conference which is to discuss the specific issue of violence and the proliferation of SALW but also the role of parliamentarians in ratifying the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and to promote south- south cooperation. She noted that sharing viewpoints and experiences is key for peacekeeping. Calls for an ATT started already in 2006 and thanks to the hard work of its champions the Treaty was finally adopted last year at the UN General Assembly. Parliamentarians have an obvious role to play in signing and ratifying, but they also have a very important role in terms of implementation, ensuring a strong treaty. She mentioned the so-called [Parliamentarians' Declaration](#) which was signed by over 2000 parliamentarians and which was an important

contribution to a successful Treaty. She ended by quoting United Nations Secretary General Ban Ki Moon “The treaty ... will make it harder for weapons to be diverted into the illicit market, to reach warlords, pirates, terrorists and criminals or to be used to commit grave human rights abuses or violations of international humanitarian law,” .

She then declared the meeting opened.



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

Ms. 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 200 parliamentarians from 70 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 12 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.

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.

This conference is the first of a series of activities on the topic. A similar inter-regional conference will be held in Lima, Peru at the beginning of 2014 and in between there will be a series of national activities.

She also highlighted other important parliamentary initiatives on the topic. In April the Economic Community for Central African States (ECCAS) and the Centre for Peace, Security and Armed Violence Prevention held a workshop for Central African states in N'Djamena, Chad. Participants from that conference had been invited to participate. She also mentioned Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA) which is doing excellent work on the ATT and has a number of tools available. Another very positive development is that the British Group of the IPU is holding their annual conference on the ATT in November this year.

Session I: The Arms Trade Treaty - *Why an Arms Trade Treaty? Its history, current status and future*

Mr Marco KALBUSCH, Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, UNREC, facilitated the session and welcomed all participants to Togo. He explained that the first session would involve a closer look at the recently adopted United Nations ATT i.e. the background of the Treaty, what it is and how MPs can work with it. The ATT provides lawmakers with a tool to take action on responsible arms transfers and ensure democratic oversight. Parliamentarians can contribute to preventing armed violence and safeguarding the safety and security of civilians. He hoped that this forum would provide technical knowledge, a platform for discussion and an opportunity to share experiences on signing, ratification and implementation of the ATT and how MPs can encourage and put pressure on their governments to take their responsibilities.

Key note speaker Mr. Roy ISBISTER, Team leader on arms transfers at Saferworld, Board Member of the Parliamentary Forum on SALW and also co-chair of the Control Arms Coalition, began his presentation by giving a brief introduction to [Saferworld](#) which is an independent international organisation working in 20 countries, including several in Africa, to prevent violent conflict. As Co-Chair he is also representing [Control Arms](#) which is a global coalition of civil society organisations working to support the ATT.

The history of the ATT dates back to the mid 1990's when several NGOs as well as Nobel Peace Laureate Oscar Arias, gathered to start campaigning for a global treaty to regulate the arms trade. Post-Cold War, there was a growing understanding of the dangers of an 'anything goes' approach to the arms trade, with some states beginning to develop rules-based approaches to the arms export decision-making process. However it soon became obvious that such an approach would be of

limited impact without any agreement among states on what those rules should look like, as arms buyers would simply move on to the next vendor, creating a race-to-the-bottom situation with devastating consequences, especially in many parts of Africa.

By 2003 a global campaign for a legally-binding ATT had been established by the global NGO Control Arms Coalition with ongoing support from Nobel Peace Laureates. Support was being offered by a small number of countries, but a significant turning point was reached when in 2005 the United Kingdom changed its position to be in favour of a treaty and threw significant diplomatic weight behind the idea. More and more states then announced their support, and in December 2006, 153 governments finally voted at the UN General Assembly to consider the “feasibility, scope and draft parameters” of an ATT.

Following the convening and conclusions of a group of governmental experts and an open-ended working group, in 2009 the UN General Assembly mandated states to negotiate an ATT, with a final decision to be taken on the basis of consensus. After a series of preparatory meetings, a first negotiating conference was held in July 2012. The conference produced a draft treaty text, but failed to adopt that draft by consensus after the United States, followed by Russia and a few other states, requested more time. A follow-up “final” negotiating conference took place in March 2013. This again failed to reach a consensus agreement on a treaty, but this time a large number of Member States decided to take the Treaty to the General Assembly where different rules of procedure apply and the next week, on 2 April 2013, the Treaty was voted through with an overwhelming majority.

African states suffered from certain disadvantages, such as capacity constraints, during the negotiations. Francophone states also had to deal with the problem of a lack of translation from English at repeated points in what were at times extremely fast-moving negotiations, which meant that many African states fell behind and felt excluded. However, by ultimately working together to speak with one voice, highlighting the human cost of an out-of-control arms trade, in the final analysis the fingerprints of African states on the Treaty are clear, particularly with regard to the inclusion of small arms and light weapons and, to a lesser extent, their ammunition.

At the time of the Lomé conference (22-23 May 2014) 118 states have signed and 32 have ratified which means that entry into force (50 ratifications needed) is close and will happen much faster than might have been anticipated.

Roy highlighted that only two states have ratified in Africa and while he acknowledged that ratification is not always very straightforward, he hoped more will have ratified or acceded before the first conference of State Parties, as only States Parties will have any decision-making role in how the Treaty is implemented. Given the role of African states in the negotiations, and that Africa has suffered so much as a consequence of others making the decisions about the arms trade in the continent, it is critical that the voice of African states continues to carry full weight once the Treaty enters into force. This is of course a matter of capacity but also of prioritising work on the Treaty.

The presentation ended with an explanation of some of the Treaty’s weaknesses. The scope, i.e. what weapons and ammunition it covers, is narrower than it should be. For example, when so-called barrel-bombs are dropped out of aircraft in Syria, neither the explosives nor the types of aircraft typically used to deliver them fall within the ATT’s scope, while the provisions relating to

ammunition are considerably more limited than those applying to the arms used to deliver that ammunition. The Treaty also has far more to say regarding the export of arms than it does about import, transit and brokering.

Finally he noted that although historically the vast majority of African states have had very little involvement in exporting arms, there is growing interest across Africa in becoming part of international supply chains or in operating as regional hubs for weapons maintenance, upgrades and resupply. Africa's role in the arms trade is thus likely to increase in future. African parliamentarians therefore have an important role to play, not only in ensuring that the Treaty is ratified, but also in taking their oversight role seriously once the ATT is in place.

The second speaker of the session was **Mr. Thierry ZANG, SALW expert at the Economic Community of Central African States, ECCAS**. He focused his presentation on African states. There are several regional instruments which aim to tackle the spread of arms, especially SALW, including the [Bamako Declaration](#), the [Nairobi Declaration](#), the [SADC Protocol](#), the [Nairobi Protocol](#), the [ECOWAS Convention](#) and the recent [Kinshasa Convention](#) which with two more ratifications will soon enter into force. The instruments are of different nature, some legally binding and other politically binding, but they are all complimentary (*legally binding marked in bold*).

He mentioned a series of initiatives which have and are happening to foster disarmament in the region. In terms of parliamentary work on the ATT he mentioned the conference held in April states in N'Djamena, Chad, hosted by ECCAS and the Centre for Peace, Security and Armed Violence Prevention. (**MP Vincent de Paul EMAH ETOUNDI, Cameroon** participated in that conference and had been specially invited to Lomé to share his experiences).

Mr Zang explained that to date, 33 African states, including many West African states, have signed the treaty although only two (Mali and Nigeria) have so far ratified¹.

Review of the national laws after signing is the next task and ECCAS can provide technical support. Parliamentarians of course have a role to play at all three stages. Members of Parliament should own the text and make efforts to work at the national level. He ended by stressing that sexual violence continues to be a very urgent matter and MPs have a vital role in stopping it.

The floor was opened for the parliamentarians to comment and debate.

MP Drissa SANOGO, Burkina Faso shared that Burkina Faso is very close to ratifying the Treaty and will hopefully form part of the ceremony to be held in New York on 3 of June. He felt that whilst many stress the importance of parliamentary involvement parliaments and parliamentarians are often ranked second in this regard and are not fully involved in the process. To the organizers he also suggested that invitations should be directed to the Parliament rather than to individual MPs in order to gain more recognition at national level. He finished by suggesting that more work should be done at sub-regional level rather than on pan-African level and invited MPs from ECOWAS states to form a sub-regional parliamentary forum on SALW.

¹ At the time of publication of this report, another African state – Burkina Faso – have also ratified bringing the total number to 3.

MP Komi KPATCHA, Togo, said that the conference was privileged to have WAANSA and Mr Baffour Amoa present. He agreed with the previous speaker that MPs are not fully informed about the ATT. He later spoke about the situation in West Africa including the crisis in Libya as well as Mali; a traditionally peaceful country which is now faced with enormous struggles. **MP Clifford Cameroon SIBANDA, Zimbabwe**, noted that while armed violence in Zimbabwe is currently quite low, this does not mean that the problem might not come in the future and that anything can happen. MPs must push the agenda of ratification. **MP Aissata DIALLO TAURÉ, Mali** also agreed that MPs are not fully involved. For instance she had never known of any parliamentary training in her home country. However if MPs are organized in networks to receive training it can indeed yield results. They should work with the already established National Commissions on SALW. **MP Evaristus Ndim NJONG** seconded that and said that during his 30 years on the Defence and Security Committee, he had not received any training to empower members.

Mr Pedro Paulo HAMILTON, Chargé d’Affaires at the Embassy of Brazil, was pleased to see African, Caribbean and Latin American MPs gathered to solve this huge problem, the killing of human beings by other human beings. However, except from his own country, Brazil, he did not see any other arms-producing countries represented. He stressed that in order for the issue to move forward, MPs in the South must engage with their colleagues in arms-producing countries, namely; Russia, China, United Kingdom, Belgium etc. The current situation is that the strongest nations are selling to the weakest. He also noted that the arms trade is closely linked with the drug trade – a highly demanded commodity in the same countries which produce arms. **MP Vincent de Paul EMAH ETOUNDI, Cameroon** concurred with this and said that the same can be said for civil society. He wished to see more representatives at these types of meetings. Some other participants disagreed with this and said that caution must be taken when dealing with civil society as they do not all have good intentions by *de facto*.

MP Dr. Bernadette LAHAI, Sierra Leone, mentioned that she is an active member of [Parliamentarians for Global Action \(PGA\)](#) which is another parliamentary network engaged in peace and security, including the ATT. PGA has produced a [parliamentary handbook on the ATT](#). Both PGA and the Pan-African Parliament have done work on ATT to raise awareness and develop capacity.

Mr Peter WEIDERUD, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Forum on SALW gave a response to the Brazilian representative. He explained that his home country Sweden is an important weapons producer, ranking at number 10 in the world and per capita Sweden is *the* largest. He explained that the Parliamentary Forum does provide exchanges between demand and supply countries. It started after a conference in Nicaragua where the first day was dedicated to Central American MPs voicing their concerns about the flow of weapons from the USA into the Latin American market. Once that had been aired, discussions could focus on what can be done to stop this negative trend, taking an active role to prevent violence with national/regional policies as well as to address demand and root causes. However, it was still important to open a dialogue with the US. To date three seminars have been held at the US Congress and the dialogue is advancing and developing. A similar dialogue is also ongoing with European countries, with the last seminar held in the German Parliament in November last year.

Mr Roy ISBISTER, Saferworld/Control Arms, highlighted that capacity is of course always a problem. Parliamentarians can be encouraged to raise the issue with their governments but it is not always

that straight forward. For instance, parliamentarians were involved from the start in the ATT process but once it had entered the UN for negotiation it became very much a governmental business. However, it is likely this will change now that the Treaty has become a reality and work on ratification and implementation begins.

Lastly he informed the participants of the [Arms Trade Treaty \(ATT\)-Baseline Assessment Project](#), which has extended its deadline to 30 May 2014. He encouraged governments to fill out surveys as soon as possible to ensure the future success of the ATT.

Mr Thierry ZANG, ECCAS noted the differences between the legal trade and the illicit trade. When talking about the latter we have to look at supply and demand. As MPs you can have an impact on demand by influencing public opinion. Regarding the legal trade he said this is often perceived to be surrounded with a notion of secrecy and the government may not give any information. He said that he often heard this argument in meetings and it is not entirely true. There is a lot of information out there, from research institutes etc. but also from government reports directly which are available to parliamentarians to allow them to do their job.

MP José FIGUEROA, Nicaragua took the floor to share some experiences from Latin America. Central America was, in the same manner as African countries, flooded with weapons in the 1970-80s and continues to be so today. Central American parliamentarians as well as their colleagues in South America and the Caribbean have been involved in the Forum since 2000. A few years back, the Parliamentary Forum, together with NGOs developed a [Model Law of Firearms and Related Materials](#) for Latin America which was formally adopted by the Latin American Parliament in 2008 and has been successfully used since. Other regional initiatives include the SICA convention. With regards to Nicaragua and the ATT they have been involved in the process since the beginning. Nicaragua has not yet signed or ratified and this is due to some objections related to what the representative from Brazil had mentioned earlier i.e. that the Treaty is biased towards instruments for the larger arms exporting countries. There is also the opinion that transfers to illicit groups have not been addressed properly.

MP Jolyan Craig Ina SILVERA, Jamaica also agreed that parliamentarians are often not allowed to be part of discussions and that there is a breakdown of information. Speaking from a Caribbean perspective, he noted that the region has severe problems with illicit drugs and the connection to the trade in guns, many of which seem to come from Haiti. This is a very lucrative business.

MP Vesa Vincent GOMES NAULAK, Guinea Bissau noted that female genital mutilation, human trafficking as well as violence against children is common in his country. Given the recent political unrest the institutions which would normally deal with this are not functioning.

MP Philippe NZENGUE MAYILA, Gabon, also addressed the supply and demand for weapons and argued that the international community is needed to help stop international conflicts. Personally he believed that the root causes of violence are people not sharing goods as well as lack of dialogue.

MP Jean Jacque GORGUI, Cote d'Ivoire agreed and mentioned that a major concern for the government is now Security Sector Reform (SSR)²

² The Parliamentary Forum has produced a parliamentary hand book on SALW and Security Sector Reform available at: <http://parliamentaryforum.org/publications>

Session II: Parliamentary Dialogue

- Parliamentary dialogue as a tool for responsible arms transfers.

Mr. Peter WEIDERUD, Secretary General of the Parliamentary Forum on SALW facilitated the session which aimed to start an interactive dialogue between parliamentarians from Africa, Latin America and Caribbean. He started by explaining the Forum's own history with regards to the ATT beginning in 2007 when the Board adopted [Policy Statements on the ATT](#). In 2012 the [Negotiations of the ATT was also adopted](#). African members initially brought the issue to the Forum's attention when they noted that few African states were sponsoring the process. The ATT is really the core interest but some African states must of course look at their priorities and justify why it is worth the effort. Another aspect is that the ATT is pretty clear in relation to crimes against humanity, genocide etc. Here the ATT will be powerful. It is a legal document but also a political document which highlights the responsibilities of both producing countries and affected countries.

He also clarified **MP Komi KPATCHA, Togo's** question regarding the autonomy of the Forum and how the Forum can be independent when it receives its funding from governments who are also large weapon producers and may therefore have a vested interest. Mr Weiderud explained that the Forum is a membership based organisation for and of parliamentarians and the members guide the directions of the Forum and also where it gets its funding. The democratic structure involves a general assembly which elects the board.

MP Eve BAZAIBA, DRC raised the issue of corruption. During the arms embargo in DRC rebels still acquired guns and it was even said some came from the UN which raises the question of who we can trust. **MP Aissata DIALLO TAURÉ, Mali** agreed and said they are experiencing the same thing. The armed groups attacking in Mali have last generation weapons and **MP Edward KARFIAH, Liberia**, noted that in Liberia non state actors used arms that were far more advanced than the arsenals of the government.

Ms. Sarah PARKER, Senior Researcher at Small Arms Survey addressed some of the issues raised about the weaknesses of the Treaty, such as; it is watered down; that it favours producing nations; that it does not cover certain weapons etc. She said that the Treaty is of course far from perfect. While the expectations of what the ATT can do are very high it must be remembered that it is not a panacea. It is a compromise reached between almost 200 states including importers, exporters, transit states, economic interests, humanitarian concerns which all had to be taken into consideration. It should be seen as a floor rather than a ceiling. **Roy ISBISTER, Saferworld/Control Arms**, agreed and said that when states do ratify it should be a cause for celebration of a major achievement. **Mr Joseph DUBE, ATT Advisor at World Council of Churches**, joined in and said that it is definitively a step in the right direction. Also, parliamentarians must find the courage to put pressure on their governments to investigate what is happening. Once the ATT is in place, MPs must take their oversight of implementation role seriously and ensure that assessments, monitoring and reporting etc. are done properly. He hoped that participants of the conference would return home and start promoting the Treaty.

Mr Peter WEIDERUD wrapped up the session by first responding to questions regarding how the ATT can contribute to more responsible arms transfers, given that many arms producers are private companies. The majority of producers are indeed private companies but where national legislation is working its sales are under state control. The ATT can help to harmonise legislation on trade. Countries have solved the issue of ensuring responsible arms transfers in different ways. In Sweden for instance, following a scandal where weapons had ended up in the wrong place, a democracy criteria was introduced. The United Kingdom has improved parliamentary control by creating the parliamentary [Committee on Arms Export Control](#) which is made up of the parliamentary committees for defence, foreign affairs, development and trade. It has to date stopped over 100 licences. He also mentioned a few examples like the civil society initiative in Brazil which had failed to introduce a new firearms legislation due to the heavy campaigning from arms producers. On the contrary in Switzerland, civil society campaigning recently contributed to stopping a larger purchase of air fighters.

Session III: National and regional ratification and implementation - *How to achieve results on the ground*

Mr. Joseph Dube, ATT Advisor at the World Council of Churches facilitated the session and explained that the aim was to look closer at what can be done at the national level, especially in terms of implementation of the Treaty. He gave the floor to **MP Drissa SANOGO, MP Burkina Faso and Board Member of the Parliamentary Forum on SALW** who is currently chairing the **Burkinabe Parliamentary Network on SALW**.

Hon. Sanogo began by saying that in order to fight against the proliferation of SALW we need to create synergy between the different bodies that are involved. The National Commissions on SALW, established by ECOWAS are key as are civil society organisations like the West African Action Network on Small Arms (WAANSA). In order to make parliamentarians also part of the process, in 2010 following a regional seminar organised by the Parliamentary Forum and UNREC, he made the decision to form a parliamentary group at national level to advance the agenda in Burkina Faso.

The network is now fully functioning and has a coordinator, rapporteur, treasurer and secretary. It meets regularly to work with general commissions and other stakeholders, such as the armed forces. For example, they recently held a training on the country's legislative framework. Work is processing well although there are still some challenges vis-à-vis the government, where the response can sometimes be slow. He ended by encouraging participants to return to their home parliaments and establish similar national parliamentary groups.

Mr. Joseph DUBE thanked Mr Sanogo and encouraged civil society organisations present to work with MPs. He reminded them however that MPs are very busy and information and communication must be short and concise. Giving them a 10 page document is like asking them to throw it away.

The second speaker was **MP Aissata DIALLO TAURÉ** from Mali – one of the two African states to have ratified the ATT. The Commission in Mali had been established in 1995 and regularly host seminars as well as focus on awareness raising and lobbying and work is conducted together with civil society, especially with WAANSA which has an office in Mali. She explained that during the

previous parliament MPs had benefitted from this network. As chair of the Foreign Affairs Committee she would ensure that this work is reactivated when she returned home as Malian MPs are very committed. She noted that while it is true that the turnover in parliament is a challenge this does not mean that sitting MPs should not receive training as they are in need of basic tools on how to act. They need to know what to expect so they can discuss matters at the appropriate level.

MP Eve BAZAIBA, DR Congo spoke on behalf of her delegation consisting of **Senator Ernest HAMULI KITSIA, MP Maleghi LUMEYA DHU and MP Charly WENGA BULAMBO** and gave a second response during the session. She reinstated that the illicit trade and trafficking in SALW poses a threat to state stability and security of the people. It prolongs armed conflicts and encourages illegal trade of natural resources. Countries in the region have porous borders which facilitate the trade and leads to cross-border insecurity and organized crime. She also reminded that knives and other sharp objects³ are tools that can also be used for violence and crime.

The regulation of the arms trade is a major concern for the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC) and they therefore strongly welcome that the United Nations has finally adopted the ATT and is working on the Programme of Action for its implementation. In addition to signing this instrument, DRC has contributed to the development of the Central African Convention for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and all Parts and Components or the "Kinshasa Convention", mentioned earlier, which is a legal framework for the region based on the UN Charter.

The purpose of the Kinshasa Convention, adopted on 30 April 2010, is to;

- Prevent, combat and eradicate, in Central Africa, the illicit trade and trafficking in small arms and light weapons, their ammunition and all parts and components that can be used for their manufacture, repair and assembly;
- Strengthen the control, in Central Africa, of the manufacture, trade, movement, transfer, possession and use of small arms and light weapons, their ammunition and all parts and components that can be used for their manufacture, repair and assembly;
- Promote cooperation and dialogue between governments and civil society organizations;
- Fight against gun violence that fuels the illegal exploitation of natural resources and causing massive violations of human rights where women and children are the main victims.

The Parliament of the DR Congo has already adopted a bill authorizing the ratification of the Convention during its regular session in March 2014.

It should be noted that several other actions have been completed by the DR Congo Parliament, including the passing of a law authorizing the ratification of the Convention on Cluster Munitions in September 2013 as well as a vote on the Law on the prevention, control and reduction of SALW and ammunition in the DR Congo, also in September 2013. She ended by calling on the participants to seize the opportunity offered at this meeting to advocate on these issues.

Her full presentation is available [here](#).

Final speaker for the day was **Mr. Baffour Amoa, President of the West Africa Action Network on Small Arms (WAANSA)**. He explained that WAANSA was founded in 2002, and to date has a good

³ The Parliamentary Forum has a [Policy Statement on Bladed Weapons and Blunt Objects](#)

track record of success, working closely with UNREC and ECOWAS. The adoption of the ATT in 2013 was a significant step on the road to reduce armed violence. 13 ECOWAS states have now signed which is a very positive development. WAANSA has set the goal to achieve 12 ratifications of the ATT by 2015.

Mr Amoa explained that he had been present throughout the process and members of his organisation were also part of the ECOWAS member states' national delegations and had thus been present at the negotiations.

He also mentioned that African states do struggle in terms of prioritization of several pressing issues. 'Competing' with resources for the ATT is work to build schools, ensuring access to clean water and an array of other social issues which must be at the forefront of the political agenda. This often leads to the work on ATT and other instruments falling behind. He hoped that MPs can find creative ideas on how to balance these issues at the national level to allow for speedy ratification by their respective countries.

His full presentation is available [here](#).

Senator Ernest HAMULI KITSIA, DR Congo congratulated Hon. Sanogo on his initiative and said that he would like to set up something similar in his home parliament and he would like to hear more about this, for example how the group is administrated etc. **MP Vincent de Paul EMAH ETOUNDI, Cameroon** agreed and said that these groups can ensure continuity, given the turnover within parliaments. Being a member of such a group is a personal commitment. **MP SANOGO** thanked his colleagues and explained that membership is indeed a personal commitment and MPs wishing to become members should complete the application form.

Mr Peter WEIDRUD responded to a question posed by **MP Dr. Bernadette LAHAI, Sierra Leone** on what can be done to achieve the 50 ratifications needed quickly and ensuring that more African states are amongst the first to join. He said that it is important to remember that ratification is a serious undertaking which can take time. However, what is important is to ensure that no time is lost unnecessarily. MPs can ensure that the process is not lagging behind.

Mr. Joseph DUBE closed the session stressing another important message from **Dr. LAHAI**, in that an MP can simply send an email to his/her contacts in government and ask what point the process has reached. The 3rd of June is very close but the UN General Assembly in October will certainly be another point in time where a ceremony could be held and he urged participants to go home and encourage their governments to be ready by then.

A technical overview of the Arms Trade Treaty

Ms. Sarah PARKER, Senior Researcher at Small Arms Survey offered to give an overview of the ATT as during the session it had been noted that some participants could benefit from this.

The aim of the ATT is to establish the highest possible standards to regulate the trade in conventional weapons⁴. She started explaining the Treaty provisions. The main text includes *scope*, *transfer criteria* and *implementation*.

Scope (Arts. 2-4) refers to what is regulated within the Treaty. Items that are fully covered by the ATT are the so called 7 plus 1 which refers to the seven categories of conventional weapons (battle tanks, armoured combat vehicles, large-calibre artillery systems, combat aircraft, attack helicopters, warships, and missiles/missile launchers. The 'plus' signifies the inclusion of SALW.

Ammunition/munitions and parts and components are only partly covered by the Treaty. Only certain ATT provisions apply to ammunition and parts and components. Activities covered are transfers i.e. export, import, transit, trans-shipment and brokering. Arms for state's own use are excluded from the Treaty.

Transfer criteria (Arts 6-7) is the heart of the Treaty and means that if a transfer is not already directly prohibited by the Treaty, states must still make an assessment before authorising a sale. An export assessment includes considering International Humanitarian Law, International Human Rights Law, terrorism, mitigation, 'overriding risk' and Gender Based Violence.

Implementation (Arts 8-18) refers to what states need to do. It includes general implementation, import, transit/trans-shipment, brokering, diversion, record-keeping, reporting and international cooperation and assistance. For example 'general implementation' means that the state must establish a national control system and lists as well as designate a competent national authority and a point of contact.

The issue of 'diversion' came into the Treaty at the last minute. To prevent diversion states shall take measures such as assessing risk, cooperate and exchange information and address cases which have been detected.

Finally she focused on the issue of reporting which is very important part as it builds confidence between states. There is a difference in what states *must* report on and what they are *encouraged* to report on. Diversion is an example of the latter. However states must report on implementation and submit an initial report, as well as ad hoc reports, as new implementation measures are taken. States must annually submit reports on transfers i.e. authorized or actual exports and imports.

Ms Parker's full presentation can be downloaded [here](#).

⁴ The Arms Trade Treaty only covers conventional weapons which is basically anything that is not Weapons of Mass Destruction such as nuclear, chemical and biological weapons.

Session IV: The UN Programme of Action and the UN Registry for Conventional Weapons *Examining the UN Programme of Action on Illicit SALW and how it relates to other regional instruments for arms control and the Arms Trade Treaty*

Mr Baffour AMOA, President of the West Africa Action Network on SALW (WAANSA) facilitated the session. HE gave an introduction explaining that the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects provides the framework for activities to counter the illicit trade in such arms.

Insurgents, armed gang members, pirates and terrorists can all multiply their force through the use of unlawfully acquired firepower. It focuses on marking, record keeping and tracing, stockpile management, collection and destruction of illicit weapons, cross border SALW proliferation as well as arms brokering. At the national level it puts in place SALW control structures, training and capacity building.

The greatest achievement of the ECOWAS Convention on SALW is that it obliges ECOWAS member states to obtain a certificate of Exemption endorsed by all the States before authority to import arms can be issued by the ECOWAS Commission. It is his hope that similar instruments can be agreed upon when the ATT enters into force.

He mentioned the UN Register of Conventional Arms. If States behave in a predictable and transparent way, including being open about arms transfers, this can build confidence among them and help prevent conflict. For this purpose, governments can report to the UN Register of Conventional Arms. The Register is an important tool, giving practical significance to the concept of 'transparency in armaments'.

Transparency in armaments can help determine if excessive or destabilizing accumulation of arms is taking place. Being open about armaments may encourage restraint in the transfer or production of arms, and can contribute to preventive diplomacy. He then invited the key note speaker to begin her presentation.

Key note speaker Ms. Sarah PARKER, Senior Researcher at Small Arms Survey gave a presentation focused on examining the United Nation Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (hereafter the UNPoA) and its relationship with other instruments.

She first explained that Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) refers to 'Small Arms' designed for individual use, such as firearms and guns whereas 'Light Weapons' are designed for use by two or three persons serving as a crew and include heavy machine guns, manpads etc. There are an estimated 875 million firearms in the world and the lion's share (74%) are owned by civilians, including gangs and other armed groups. 23% are found within the armed forces and 3% within police forces. The annual trade is estimated at USD 8.5 billion.

International control: There are four main international instruments:

Date adopted	Instrument	Legal status		Scope		
		Binding	Not binding	SALW	Ammo	Parts/Comp.
31/05/2001	Firearms Protocol	x		x	x	x
20/07/2001	Programme of Action on SALW		x		?	?
08/12/2005	International Tracing Instrument		x			
02/04/2013	Arms Trade Treaty	x		x	(x)	(x)

She gave an overview of the various regional control instruments for Africa, Americas, Middle East and North Africa, Europe, Euro-Atlantic, Asia and the Pacific (all listed in her presentation, link below). The instruments relevant for Africa had been covered in the previous session by Mr ZANG, ECCAS in Session I and instruments relevant for other regions would be covered in the next presentation by Mr Martinez, UNLIREC.

The control measures regulate areas such as manufacture, marking, record-keeping and tracing, stockpile management and security, disposal/destruction, transparency, international transfers as well as international cooperation and assistance.

The 'relationship' between these different instruments refers to where there is overlap, where there are synergies and where there are inconsistencies. Ms. Parker focused her presentation on comparing the ATT to the existing landscape.

Looking at overlap in terms of scope, the ATT covers a wider range of weapons whereas the Firearms Protocol, UNPoA and ITI only cover SALW – also covered by the ATT. In terms of measures, all four instruments cover international transfers but only the Firearms Protocol, UNPoA and ITI cover areas such as manufacture, marking, tracing, stockpile management, surplus and disposal as well as Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR).

The positive aspects are that this overlap reinforces certain commitments; it helps create benchmarks and clarifies some ambiguities. The ATT has made regulations concerning exports a lot stronger and it also enhances focus on diversion.

On the negative side the ATT does contain some weaker provisions and adds to confusion, (especially concerning brokering) and it has weaker standards in terms of reporting compared to other instruments.

She finished by showing the array of resources available including model legislations and guidelines, ATT Legal Commentary, the aforementioned Baseline Assessment survey as well as assistance from the various UN agencies, regional organisations and NGOs.

Small Arms Survey recently produced a [Diplomat's Guide to the UN Small Arms Process](#) which could also prove quite useful for parliamentarians. Ms Parker's full presentation can be downloaded [here](#).

Second speaker of the session was **Mr. Manuel MARTINEZ, Political Affairs Officer at United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the**

Caribbean, UNLIREC, who focused his presentation on the Latin American and Caribbean (LAC) regions. In terms of signing and ratification of the ATT, both regions have come far, with 28 out of 33 countries signed and 8 ratifications (Antigua and Barbuda, Argentina, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Grenada, Guyana, Mexico, Panama and Trinidad and Tobago), 27 signatories and only 6 abstentions or absents during the vote.

At the same time he would like to break one stereotype. Most LAC countries (24 of 33 in 2012) do export firearms meaning that there is a real need for export control in the region.

The ATT can't be expected to solve all problems by itself. Aside from the UNPoA, the International Tracing Instrument, etc. there are other regional and multilateral instruments worth considering that complement the ATT and support states developing their national systems. .

Regional instruments most relevant for the LAC regions are the legally binding [Inter-American Convention Against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives, and Other Related Materials \(CIFTA\)](#) and [Inter-American Convention on Transparency in conventional weapons acquisitions](#) as well as the politically binding SICA⁵ [Code of Conduct](#).

The instruments constitute implementation tools for international SALW control standards, including national control systems, guidelines and rules for stockpile management and end-user documentation. Although there are some challenges related to weakened provisions, as Ms Parker mentioned earlier, when instruments do work well together it can be pictured as clockwork. Both international and regional instruments pose obligations on states which then translate into legal measures of policy depending on the status of the instrument. In order to implement these measures successfully, states need to put capacity in place to deal with the various issues – national control lists, export/import control systems stockpile management etc.

He ended by pointing the participants to where assistance can be found. UNLIREC provides legal assistance to national commissions as well as guidance on national control lists and systems. They also provide support in areas such as mitigation measures in stockpile management, marking and tracing as well providing training courses on illicit trafficking, legal operations and the ATT. There is currently an **ATT Implementation Training Course** which aims to support states on its process by building capacity in regards to the ATT. The course contains several modules; Module 1: 'Scope' where participants will learn to identify weapons subject to an international transfer under the scope of the Treaty; Module 2: 'Arms Trade in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC)' which provides an overall vision of the arms trade and its impact in Latin America and the Caribbean; Module 3: 'Legal Framework' which deals with scope, general implementation, prohibitions, risk assessment, risk mitigation measures, end-use documents, brokering, registers, record-keeping, and international cooperation; Module 4: 'Export Assessment' which provides guidelines and practical tools to undertake export assessments for arms transfers. Special emphasis will be placed on the identification of risk mitigation measures for both importing and exporting States.

Mr Martinez PowerPoint presentation is available [here](#).

⁵ The Central American Integration System (SICA) is an institutional framework designed to facilitate the eventual economic and political integration of Central America.

Ambassador Baba Gana WAKIL, Chair of the Nigerian Presidential Commission on Small Arms gave the last presentation of the session. He started by thanking the two earlier presenters for helping to connect the dots. In Nigeria the discussion has recently shifted since witnessing tragic terrorist events every week. A new culture of suicide bombings is emerging and the weapons of choice are SALW.

He said that it is generally accepted that, whatever the shortcoming of the UNPoA, the ECOWAS Convention, the ATT etc., the spirit and objectives of these instruments are commendable. They are the most significant steps so far taken to combat the proliferation of SALW and, as Ms Parker mentioned, they are best we have today to tackle SALW. There are several unresolved issues and in West Africa these are often due to lack of capacity and weak institutions. He had also noted a reluctance to share information. Parliamentarians are important both in terms of ensuring state resources are allocated for this type of work and also safeguarding transparency. Countries in the region are also different and each has their own history and some have been known to use SALW to a greater extent than others.

He returned to the issue of Boko Haram, which in short time had grown from a local initiative to an international group, committing terrorist acts and attracting global attention. Nigeria with its large population of 170 million is of course a very strategic position for them to be in. It is important to be concerned of where the weapons come from and how they cross borders. However, this is not enough. The causes and motivations behind these acts and the reasons people acquire SALW, with special attention to the youth, must be addressed. Again, parliamentarians have a role to play in finding the answers as they interact with the public. He said it may seem far-fetched but the proliferation of SALW cannot be addressed without long-term solutions.

Mr AMOA opened the floor and invited participants to discuss the relationship between parliaments and NatComs in the implementation of the UNPoA, regional instruments and the ATT.

The first comment from Togo related to how effectively parliamentarians can ratify the treaty. He was impressed by the example presented by the MP from Burkina Faso and enquired exactly how parliament and government can work together.

MP Dr. Bernadette LAHAI, Sierra Leone, felt frustration over the fact that trafficking and violence against women and children as well as victim assistance had not been addressed by the Treaty in a satisfactory way. She was however pleased to report that she just received news that Sierra Leone should be ready to ratify by September 2014.

Ambassador WAKIL responded to a concern raised by **MP NJONG, Cameroon** and **MP Komi KPATCHA, Togo**, regarding Boko Haram and spill over from Nigeria into other countries. The Ambassador said that there have been efforts to stop this but he stressed that both sides must be forthcoming in sharing intelligence and strengthening border controls and establishing joint patrols. He also recognised the difficulties in this given that many African states only have borders 'on paper'. Another difficulty is that the 'identities' and 'mission' of Boko Haram are not known. In the case of the Nigeria delta their ambition is well known. With Boko Haram we only occasionally see

their leader on social media. The rest are hidden. It is vital to identify them. He also reminded that 99 of Muslim leaders have condemned the acts of Boko Haram.

He also noted that the Nigerian army is trained for 'conventional wars'. The war they are facing now is an intelligence war. There have also been cases of members of Boko Haram dressing up as army or other security forces. **MP Vesa Vincent GOMES NAULAK, Guinea Bissau**, joined in and regarding Boko Haram expressed solidarity with his sister country Nigeria.

Answering **MPs Aissata DIALLO TOURÉ** he said it has also been acknowledged that Boko Haram has been trained by the militant group Al Shabaab. They are now spread across Africa. Another example was a bombing a few weeks ago in Abuja where the mastermind behind the act was caught in Sudan. The level of collaboration and what that can yield holds aspects beyond what we are normally accustomed to.

Ms Sarah PARKER, SAS, responded to **MP Jean-Jacque GORGUI's, Cote d'Ivoire** and **MP Charly WENGA's, DR Congo** question about cohesion. If a country is not a state party to the instrument, they do not need to adhere to it. He also asked about the status of the members of the UN Security Council. Ms Parker said that so far France and United Kingdom have ratified. The United States has signed after changing its position at the end. It is unlikely that it will ratify, but they also have a history of not ratifying these kinds of instruments but they will stay engaged as an observer. Lately China has changed its position and it is now more likely to sign. In terms of Russia they are already part of other export regimes. She highlighted that, as with other instruments, even if states are not parties it does send signals and set norms. Those who do not sign come under public pressure.

MP Helder PAQUETE LIMA, São Tomé and Príncipe highlighted the issue of being a small island nation with a long maritime border which can cause special implications in that they can be difficult to control. He reached out to other countries facing similar challenges and also asked for materials and tools on the issue.

MP SANOGO, Burkina Faso explained that in Burkina Faso a system of gathering intelligence from the population had proved successful. Local populations may know where arms are hidden and who engages in criminal or terrorist activities. The Malian **MPs Aissata DIALLO TOURÉ** and **Aguissa TOURÉ** agreed and said that in Mali civilians had organised themselves.

Mr Peter WEIDERUD, Parliamentary Forum answered questions related to the religious dimension of wars. In Sweden the most serious and strongest critiques of these acts have come from the Muslim community. This is natural as it is destroying their image. It is clear that very few wars are religious but the religious aspects can create stereotypes. A way to avoid this is to invite religious leaders to talk to each other.

Mr Manuel MARTINEZ responded to a question about UNLIREC trainings. If anyone from the African states are interested in ATT trainings, they can send a letter of request to UNREC and UNLIREC will be glad to assist UNREC and interested states. For Latin American states they can send a letter directly to UNLIREC. He also responded to **MP José FIGUEROA's, Nicaragua**, who stated his content about the 8 ratifications in Latin America and the Caribbean and asked how to speed up the process even more. Mr Martinez agreed that the situation is very positive. In some cases the political will is there, but tardiness is due to a slow internal process e.g. the text might have to pass through two

chambers in parliament. The upcoming conference in Lima, Peru was mentioned and Mr Martinez said he would remain in close contact with the Latin American members.

Ms Sarah PARKER, SAS responded to **MP SILVERA's, Jamaica**, question on how the facts and figures she and others had presented could be reliable given the notion of secrecy that normally surrounds matters of weapons and defence. She highlighted that figures are not perfect, especially when it comes to the illicit side. However there are several ways to conduct reliable research and how to extrapolate data. For example, some data is based on seizures. If they then have a sense of the number of armed actors involved they can make predictions based on that. The exact methodology for the studies she had presented during the conference is available at Small Arms Survey secretariat or on the website. In addition to Small Arms Survey She also referred to the [Stockholm International Peace Research Institute \(SIPRI\)](#) which has a multitude of databases available on military equipment.

Mr Baffour AMOA wrapped up the session by noting a very important point made by **Ambassador WAKIL** i.e. the danger of neglecting the youth and how we can address this. Vulnerable youth can develop a demand for arms as they provide a source of income.

Group work

The afternoon was broken up into two group sessions:

Group I: A focus on Small Island Developing States

Guinea-Bissau - Vesa GOMES NALUAK	Seychelles - Marc Benjamin VOLCERE
Jamaica - Jolyan Craig Ina SILVERA	Small Arms Survey – Sarah PARKER
Nicaragua - José Santos FIGUEROA AGUILAR	UNLIREC – Manuel MARTINEZ
São Tomé and Príncipe - Helder PAQUETE LIMA	

The rationale behind this is that Small Island Developing States in Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean have been identified as a priority as these nations will face different challenges. Their territorial waters can be used for illicit shipments and thus become violators of the Treaty unwillingly. The session was a first step to work with legislators from this region in developing proper legislation and developing partnerships with larger players.

Common challenges include a lack of capacity, porous maritime borders as well as a need to prioritize other issues. There is also the issue of the links to the drugs trade as brought up by the MP from Jamaica during the conference. This is very much prominent in both Latin America and the Caribbean. Intelligence sharing is key.

Group work II: Conclusion of the Conference

- From N'djamena to Lima – fostering cooperation between parliamentary initiatives – lessons learned and ways forward

This session focused on gathering the main findings from the conference to carry forward for future work both nationally and in international fora. While the interpreters were needed for Group Work I, for practical reasons the participants were divided into an Anglophone and Francophone groups.

Cameroon Evaristus Ndim NJONG	Burkina Faso - Drissa SANOGO
Liberia - Edward KARFIAH	Cameroon - Vincent de Paul EMAH ETOUNDI
Sierra Leone – Dr. Bernadette LAHAI	Cote d'Ivoire - Jean-Jacques GORGUI
Tanzania - Hassan NGWILIZI	DR of Congo - Eve BAZAIBA MASUDI
Zimbabwe - Clifford Cameroon SIBANDA	DR of Congo - Ernest HAMULI KITSA
Zimbabwe - Lilian TIMVEOS	DR of Congo - Malenghi LUMEYA DHU
Nigerian Pres. Com. - Amb. Baba Gana WAKIL	DR of Congo - Charly WENGA
Nigerian Pres. Com. Tolani Hakeem ALAUSA	Gabon - Philippe NZENGUE MAYILA
	Guinea - Aly KABA
	Mali - Aissata DIALLO TOURÉ
	Mali - Aguisa TOURÉ
	Togo - Komi KPATCHA

The groups reported that it had been useful to learn about the ATT and PoA and see how the various instruments complement each other. They had concluded that many MPs have little knowledge of the issues and that these conferences are necessary to develop capacity and raise awareness.

A. At the national level MPs can:

- Identify national associations of civil society to raise awareness about the danger of the proliferation of SALW;
- Persuading States to sign and ratify the ATT for those who have not yet done so;
- Develop a schedule for meeting with the Presidents of Parliamentary Groups for training sessions and information on the ATT;
- Establish national level mechanisms for the ATT and PoA;
- Collaborate with the media on the dissemination of harmful consequences of illicit trafficking of SALW and the effects resulting therefrom;
- Parliamentary Forum on SALW must recruit members from all groups and committees for effective action;
- The Parliamentary Forum on SALW should collaborate with national commissions and civil society against the proliferation of SALW;
- Use parliamentary action to ask questions to members of the government working on defence and foreign affairs call for ratification;
- Seek the approval of Parliament to pass any business and activity in the context of the fight against the proliferation of SALW and the ATT;

- Get parliamentary involvement in the process of negotiation and conflict resolution through the strengthening of parliamentary diplomacy;
- Seek the expertise, support and guidance for agencies of the United Nations in the process of awareness and advocacy for the implementation of ATT;

B. At the Regional level MPs can:

- Create regional networks on SALW and ATT;
- Collaborate with the parliaments of other countries to have a regional approach;
- Raise awareness among governments and African States, Latin Americas and the Caribbean to promote dialogue instead of war as a method of dispute resolution.

C. At the international level MPs can:

- Encourage the Security Council of the United Nations to vote on a resolution that enhances the control and traceability of transfers of weapons and condemn and punish all those involved in the smuggling.

Final Declaration and closing

The text of the final declaration from the meeting was discussed, amended and adopted.

Parliamentarians from 15 African states; Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo and Zimbabwe, with presence also from colleagues from Central America and the Caribbean, 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 Lomé, Togo, May 22-23 2014, recognizing the important role that African states played in shaping the Arms Trade Treaty to reflect their concerns, in particular to ensure that small arms and ammunition were included in the scope of the treaty.

Control of international transfers of small arms and light weapons (SALW), are at the centre of the global agenda for combating 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 undertake commercial activities 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 illicit exploitation of natural resources, usually add to the difficulty.

The participants see the consequences of this on a daily basis in a variety of African contexts, with criminal activities and terrorist acts in Cameroon, Central African Republic, DR Congo, Mali and Nigeria highlighted at the Conference. They strongly condemn all violence against civilians, in particular the frequent use of sexual and gender-based violence, and express their solidarity with the victims and their families.

Participants express their concern that the speed of the ratification process among African states does not reflect the importance and urgency of the problem which the ATT would help to address.

African states must take a responsibility to ensure the 50 ratifications required for the ATT to enter into force and further ensure that there will be a strong presence of African states at the first Conference of States Parties.

It should be further noted that even with a strong ATT, the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms (PoA) remains essential in relation to addressing the illicit trade in small arms. The entry into force of the ATT will complement and reinforce the PoA.

After its formal adoption, parliamentarians still have a significant role 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.

At the benefit of their authority to ratify international treaties, parliamentarians' concerns should be heard by their governments. It falls to supportive parliamentarians, through outreach and cooperation across political parties and with government, to speed the ratification process within their national contexts.

Parliamentarians will be able to contribute to ensure that the necessary national implementation mechanisms are in place, to oversee and politically interpret the implementation of the ATT to ensure the strongest possible application of the Treaty. This would be facilitated by improved capacity and knowledge among parliamentarians.

The Conference urges parliamentarians worldwide to take action and engage themselves for the Arms Trade Treaty.

H.E. Ms. Ayawavi DJIGBODI DAGBAN, 3rd Vice President of the National Assembly of Togo closed the conference by, on behalf of the President of the Assembly, congratulating the participants for their work. An article from the conference was published on the [website of the National Assembly](#).

Participant list

Members of Parliament	Name	Committee
Burkina Faso	SANOOGO, Drissa	Defence and Security
Cameroon	NJONG, Evaristus Ndim	Defence and Security
Cameroon	EMAH ETOUNDI, Vincent de Paul	Justice Peace and Human Rights
Cote d'Ivoire	GORGUI, Jean-Jacques	Security and Defence
DR of Congo	BAZAIBA MASUDI, Eve	
DR of Congo (Senate)	HAMULI KITSIA, Ernest	Defence and Security
DR of Congo	LUMEYA DHU , Malenghi	
DR of Congo	WENGA, Charly	Defence and Security
Gabon	NZENGUE MAYILA, Philippe	Foreign Relations (Chair)
Guinea-Bissau	GOMES NALUAK, Vesa	
Guinea	KABA, Aly	Defence and Security
Jamaica	SILVERA, Jolyan Craig Ina	Public Administration
Liberia	KARFIAH, Edward	Political Accounts
Mali	DIALLO TOURÉ, Aissata	Foreign Affairs and Int. Cooperation
Mali	TOURÉ, Aguisa	Defence and Security
Nicaragua	FIGUEROA AGUILAR, José Santos	Defence and Governance
São Tomé and Príncipe	PAQUETE LIMA, Helder	
Seychelles	VOLCERE, Marc Benjamin	Finance and Public Accounts
Sierra Leone	LAHAI , Bernadette	Mineral Resources
Tanzania	NGWILIZI, Hassan	Defence and Security
Togo	ASSOUMA, Derman	Human Rights
Togo	DAGBAN, Ayawavi Djigbodi	Vice President
Togo	FOFANA, Soffoh	
Togo	HODIN EKE, Kokou	Defence and Security

Togo	KOSSIGAN KODSO, Emmanuel	Foreign Affairs and Cooperation
Togo	KPAKPABIA, Arzouma	Defence and Security
Togo	KPATCHA, Komi	Defence and Security (Chair)
Togo	NAYO, Koffi Besséwu	Defence and Security
Togo	TARGONE SAMBIRI, N'Wakim	Defence and Security
Zimbabwe	SIBANDA, Clifford Cameroon	Defence (Chair)
Zimbabwe (Senate)	TIMVEOS, Lilian	Human Rights / Peace and Security

Experts	Name	Position
Control Arms / Saferworld	ISBISTER, Roy	Team leader on arms transfers
ECCAS	ZANG, Thierry	SALW Expert
Nigerian Presidential Committee on SALW	Amb. WAKIL, Baba Gana	Chair of the Committee
Small Arms Survey	PARKER, Sarah	Senior Researcher
UNLIREC	MARTINEZ, Manuel	Advisor
WAANSA	AMOA, Baffour	Chair

Other participants

International Monetary Fund	KELLER, Werner	Representative
National Assembly of Mali	SIDIBE, Abdou Abdoulaye	Advisor
National Assembly of Togo	ABIASSI, Denke	Parliamentary assistant
National Assembly of Togo	AGBOH, Koffi Délah	Staff
National Assembly of Togo	BAWE, Amilkom	Assistant to Chief of Protocol
National Assembly of Togo	BIYANTE-AFETO S., Aniyame	Staff
National Assembly of Togo	FOFANA, Soffoh	Staff
National Assembly of Togo	PANABAKPA, Essowéréou	Assistant to Chief of Protocol

National Assembly of Togo	SANGUIA D., Koffi	Staff
National Assembly of Togo	TAKPAYA, Kossi	Staff Defence and Security Com.
Nigerian Presidential Committee on SALW	ALAUUSA, Tolani Hakeem	CSP
Parliamentary Forum	DYBECK, Teresa	Programme Manager
Parliamentary Forum	WEIDERUD, Peter	Secretary General
UNREC	BOTRE, Alain D.	Programme Officer
UNREC	KALBUSCH, Marco	Director
UNREC	LARA, Leonardo	Political Affairs Officer
UNREC	WAGNER, Karl	Programme Manager
World Council of Churches	DUBE, Joseph	ATT Advisor

Diplomatic Community

Embassy of Brazil	HAMILTON, Pedro Paulo	Chargé d'Affaires
Embassy of France	LEMOINE, Guillaume	
Embassy of Gabon		
Embassy of Nigeria	DOTONE, George	
Embassy of USA	FROST, David	

Media

Radio Kanal fm	LOSSOSU, Pascal	Journalist
NA Togo, IT service	SAMTOU Koku Akpédanou	