

UNLIREC Newsletter

UNLIREC, as the regional organ of the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, seeks to advance the cause of practical disarmament in Latin America and the Caribbean as part of its commitment to support Member States in their implementation of international disarmament and non-proliferation instruments, in particular, the UN 2001 Programme of Action on Small Arms.

ANDEAN STATES

UNLIREC and Peru intensify collaboration in arms control through stockpile management training

With the objective of ensuring permanent technical capacities among operational personnel of the National Regulatory Entity for Security Services, Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives for Civil Use (SUCAMEC) of Peru and members of the Peruvian National Police, UNLIREC undertook a workshop on best practices and international standards in stockpile management from 21-23 April 2014 in Lima.



All 44 officials participating in the course improved their knowledge on the implementation of the United Nations International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATGs). The ISACS aim to provide clear, practical and comprehensive guidance to practitioners and policymakers on fundamental aspects of small arms and light weapons control, while the IATGs support a 'whole life management' approach, ranging from categorization and accounting systems to surveillance and testing procedures to assess the stability and reliability of ammunition.

The workshop addressed issues related to the definition and classification of firearms, ammunition and explosives; firearms proliferation and armed violence; dangerous material; as well as risk assessment/management; and security plans. Upon culminating the course, participants applied the theoretical

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knowledge acquired to hands-on course exercises and simulations.

Adequate stockpile management is a key component in arms control efforts given its contribution to reducing the possibility of theft or loss of firearms, ammunition or explosives, and of diversion into illicit channels. Moreover, it reduces the risk of

unintentional explosions and other non-desired incidents caused by human error and/or natural disasters.

This initiative forms part of a series of UNLIREC/SUCAMEC training sessions aimed at improving arms control in Peru initiated during the second semester of 2013.



UN multi-agency response to citizen security challenges in northern Peru

The United Nations System in Peru presented a joint programme on human security on 22 May 2014 in the city of Trujillo. The objective of the joint initiative is to reduce public insecurity in its various manifestations - organized crime, violence against women and the involvement of youths in criminal activities - as well as fight against corruption.

The presentation of the programme entitled "Strengthening Human Security and Community Resilience through the promotion of Peaceful Coexistence in Peru" was headed by William Postigo de la Motta, Vice-Minister of Interior, and Flavio Mirella, Representative of the United

Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

The programme assumes a multisectoral vision of the issue of urban security and will be implemented in the districts of La Esperanza, Florencia de Mora and El Porvenir. It is expected that some 7,600 persons in these communities will benefit from the activities. The initiative will implement a self-sustainable, multisectoral, and replicable model in order to reduce crime in Trujillo, involving the participation of neighbours, application of preventive measures and opportunities for jobs and education.

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In response to the increase in violent crime, juvenile delinquency, drug trafficking, human trafficking, corruption and weapons supply, this joint programme seeks to reduce the participation of youths in gangs, provide opportunities for professional and vocational development, as well as offer educational and health-related resources for more than 1,600 girls and young women.

The initiative also contemplates technical and legal assistance to the local authorities for the design and implementation of public policies that consider a comprehensive vision of security and that favour improved interaction between national institutions and local communities, as well as with civil society.

In addition to UNLIREC, four other UN agencies will be in charge of

implementation: UNODC, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), and the Pan-American Health Organization (PAHO).

The Ministries of the Interior, Justice, Education and Health, as well as the Public Ministry, the judicial branch, the national police and the regional government of La Libertad, as well as the municipalities of Trujillo, La Esperanza, Florencia de Mora, El Porvenir and representatives of civil society all participated in this one-day launching event.

This three-year programme is financed by the United Nations Trust Fund for Human Security and by the Peruvian Government. The initiative is expected to be replicable in other sectors of the region and the country.

The Value of “Delivering as One”¹

“Delivering as One” programmes succeed in consolidating UN support in joint planning exercises with common funding mechanisms and leadership, and make clear what the UN is doing as a whole and in a more orchestrated way.

By working together to set priorities and provide oversight, much closer alignment can be achieved between UN development programmes and national development plans.

It also makes it far easier for the government, including national leaders, to see the big picture of which agencies are doing what and where.

¹ *“How Delivering as One Adds Value – Stories and Testimonies from Eight Programme Pilot Countries”, UN Development Operations Coordination Office, 2010.*

UNLIREC provides Technical Workshop on Combating Illicit Trafficking of Firearms in Peru as part of its Joint Program in Human Security



Within the framework of the United Nations Joint Program “Strengthening Human Security and Community Resilience by Fostering Peaceful Co-Existence in Peru” the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC), in close cooperation with the National Superintendence for the Control of Security Services, Arms, Ammunition and Explosives for Civilian Use (SUCAMEC) carried out a Technical Workshop for Officials of Special Operations against the Illegal Trafficking of Firearms from 6-8 August 2014 in Lima.

In this context, UNLIREC and SUCAMEC joined efforts to develop a program of capacity development directed at those officials involved in operations against illicit trafficking of firearms. The first workshop took place in Lima with the aim of being validated and will be replicated in the upcoming months in Trujillo.

This workshop focused on examining the nature of trafficking and illicit possession of firearms and ammunition in Peru and on strengthening the technical skills of those officials working in arms control.

As a result of the workshop, 18 representatives of SUCAMEC and of the National Police of Peru were trained.

Topics included the definition and classification of firearms and ammunition, modalities of illegal arms and ammunition trafficking, stockpile management, national norms and the chain of custody of evidence as related to arms and ammunition, as well as crime scene management in the case of trafficking and illicit possession of firearms. Participants were able to combine theory with practical exercises.

This activity was made possible thanks to the financing of the United Nations Human Security Trust Fund and SUCAMEC.

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CARIBBEAN STATES

Guyana and Trinidad and Tobago advance weapons destruction agenda



UNLIREC's Caribbean Weapons Destruction and Stockpile Management Assistance Package has benefitted 14 Caribbean States since its inception in 2010. This ambitious package is aimed at strengthening the ability of national and regional Caribbean authorities to effectively respond and bolster their efforts to combat weapons trafficking, decrease the number of illegal firearms in circulation, reduce instances of armed violence, and ensure adherence to firearms storage safety practices.

In accordance with the needs identified in the national action plans, UNLIREC has been providing assistance in the areas of stockpile management; weapons and am-

munition destruction; legal and policy review and development; and training of law enforcement officials.

As part of the final phase of this multi-year assistance package, UNLIREC assisted Trinidad and Tobago in the destruction of over 1,200 weapons through the use of chop saws and almost one tonne of small arms ammunition, as well as trained 14 officials on the use and maintenance of the UNLIREC-patented Small Arms Ammunition Burning Tank (SAABT) in June 2014. During the same month, Guyana also worked together with UNLIREC in destroying almost 2,200 obsolete and surrendered weapons with the use of hydraulic shears provided by UNLIREC.

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In total, UNLIREC is proud to report that it has been able to successfully assist Caribbean States in the destruction of more than 50,000 weapons and 63 tonnes of ammunition and explosives. The

activities carried out were made possible thanks to the financial support of the Government of the United States of America.

UNLIREC assists Guyana in combating illicit firearms trafficking from a legal perspective



In response to a request from the Government of Guyana for specialized training to help its judicial sectors address the illicit trafficking in small arms, ammunition and explosives, and – in effect – contribute to a reduction in impunity and armed violence, UNLIREC undertook a national course for judicial officers and legal practitioners from 28-30 May 2014 in Georgetown.

28 legal practitioners and law enforcement authorities were trained on different techniques and procedures to combat illicit small arms trafficking, thus strengthening the coordination, communication and cooperation of all relevant legal operators working in this

area as well as reducing impunity in firearms related-crimes.

Representatives from the Director of Public Prosecutions Chambers, Attorney-General's Chambers and Ministry of Legal Affairs, Ministry of Home Affairs, Guyana Police Force, and Guyana Forensics Science Laboratory were trained during this three-day course. Half of course participants were women, representing an important step towards women empowerment in the justice and security sector, including training.

International instructors and national experts were in charge of delivering the various course modules dealing with

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firearms and ammunition classification; firearms proliferation and armed violence; international firearms instruments and national regulatory frameworks; inter-institutional and international cooperation; crime scene management and forensic ballistics.

With the goal of applying the knowledge acquired, participants concluded the training course with a practical exercise consisting of a mock trial case involving illicit small arms trafficking and possession. The practical exercise highlighted how the proper handling of the crime scene, respect for the chain of custody, inter-institutional and

international cooperation tools and resources, and a suitable criminal legal framework constitute essential elements in reducing impunity in the fight against illicit small arms trafficking.

This training course - made possible thanks to the financial support from the United States Government - forms part of a wider UNLIREC Caribbean assistance package in operation since 2010. The assistance package contains activities aimed at improving stockpile management and weapons and ammunition destruction practices; providing legal assistance; and training security sector officials.

Grenada makes progress in implementing UN Security Council Resolution 1540(2004) on the non-proliferation of WMDs

UNLIREC officially launched its new 1540 Assistance Programme for Caribbean States with its first field activity in Grenada. This Programme – made possible thanks to funding from US Department of State’s Bureau of International Security and Non-proliferation (ISN) – aims to assist States in the region in their implementation of the 2004 Security Council Resolution.

On 10 June 2014, UNLIREC, together with an expert from the 1540 Committee and the CARICOM 1540 Coordinator, met with officials from the Office of the Attorney General of Grenada and the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs to present the programme and the main conclusions of its national study on the country’s legislation in non-proliferation matters. During the meeting, UNLIREC expressed its intention to build upon the

work that both the 1540 Committee and CARICOM have been undertaking in Grenada, and further assist the country in addressing the main needs and challenges arising in the implementation of the Resolution.



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During the following two days, UNLIREC chaired a roundtable attended by close to 15 institutions and agencies from Grenada to share the findings and recommendations of its national study on the current legal framework in Grenada vis-à-vis the obligations contained in both UN Security Council Resolution 1540(2004) and the main international conventions and instruments on nuclear, chemical and biological weapons, their means of delivery and related material.

Commending the progress made by Grenada since the adoption of the Resolution in 2004, UNLIREC highlighted the need to enact legislation to address issues, such as transportation, transfer and transshipment of nuclear, chemical and biological materials, as well as adopt comprehensive control lists for certain items that are proliferation-sensitive.

Together with representatives of the various institutions present, a tentative work plan was drawn up with specific activities and training sessions, including the proposed visit by a South African delegation to address aspects of UNSCR 1540(2004) operative paragraph 3 (c) and (d) to assist Grenada in the elaboration of

control lists and legal drafting on export controls, and the possibility of joining forces with the International Maritime Organisation, the US Department of Energy and INTERPOL to provide assistance and training in certain fields of law enforcement, port security and border controls and commodity identification.



A follow-up mission took place from 20-24 July 2014, in coordination with the Government of South Africa, to lend legal assistance to Grenada in updating its national legislation and drafting control lists for improved implementation of UNSCR 1540(2004).

UNSCR 1540(2004) at a glance...

In 2004, the UN Security Council adopted Resolution 1540, which requires all States to implement effective measures aimed at preventing non-State actors from acquiring and using nuclear, chemical and biological weapons and their means of delivery.

These measures include the adoption and enforcement of effective laws, and export and border controls; physical protection and accounting of proliferation-related materials; and prevention of proliferation financing and illicit trafficking of WMD-related materials.

The "1540 Committee", a subsidiary body of the Security Council assisted by experts, was established to monitor and support the implementation of the Resolution.

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CROSS-REGIONAL

UNLIREC expertise sought on WMDs, transnational organized crime, stray bullets, arms transfer controls and Defence White Papers

UNLIREC's guidance continues to be sought from a diverse array of institutions, including partner UN agencies, international organizations, sub-regional secretariats, ministries of national defence, and Member States on a variety of disarmament- and security-related areas, thus attesting to the Centre's know-how and added value on these and other issues.

Weapons of Mass Destruction: non-proliferation

In April 2014, UNLIREC was invited to present its new 1540 Assistance Package for Caribbean States during the International Regional Organization Week on UNSCR 1540 in Vienna, Austria. The event - jointly organized by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe's (OSCE) Conflict Prevention Centre - brought together more than 30 representatives from various regional and specialized international organizations to discuss key challenges and effective practices in the delivery of 1540 assistance in the region.

Small Arms Control: Transnational Organized Crime

UNLIREC was also invited – for the first time – to participate in the Meeting of National Authorities on Transnational Organized Crime (TOC) organized by the Organization of American States (OAS) in Washington,

USA (24-25 April). At this Inter-American Forum, UNLIREC outlined the fact that arms

serve as the main tool of organized crime, by enabling the commission of other crimes, such as money laundering and trafficking in drugs and humans, which in turn immediately impact local communities, as well as compromise the security of states outside the region. As well, links were highlighted between TOC and the provisions found in various UN instruments, including the UN 2001 Programme of Action on Small Arms (UN 2001 PoA), and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI), and the obligations found in the new Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

“An 11 year old girl was killed by stray bullets inside her home with her family on New Year's Eve. The shots came from end of year celebratory gun fire in the city of [...]. No one was arrested in the incident. Police report that 57 people were killed by stray bullets from celebratory fire over the course of the past year (1 Jan 2012).”

- UNLIREC's Working Paper 'Women and Children First: Armed Violence Analysis of Media Reporting of Deaths and Injuries Caused by Stray Bullets in LAC (2009-2013) -

Small Arms Control: Exploratory Research on Stray Bullets

Later that month, UNLIREC was called on to present the preliminary findings of its exploratory research on stray bullet armed violence and recommended measures to

mitigate its impact, as well as best practices and lessons learned from its stockpile management assistance to States in the region during the Regional Review Conference on the Geneva Declaration on Armed Violence and Development in Guatemala City, Guatemala (28-30 April).

This three-day meeting - hosted by the Government of Guatemala, in cooperation with the Government of Switzerland, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Secretariat of the Geneva Declaration, and in partnership with the Government of Spain and the OAS - aimed at reviewing the implementation process of the Geneva Declaration and discussing the integration of armed violence reduction and prevention into national, regional and international development processes, including the post-2015 agenda.

The final findings of the stray bullets study were presented the following month at a UNODA side event held during the Biennial Meeting of States to review progress made on implementation of UN 2001 PoA on Small Arms and Light Weapons (BMS-V) in June 2014.

Ammunition Stockpile Management: International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG)

In April 2014, UNLIREC was invited to present the outcomes of its IATG-based technical assistance during an IATG Group of Experts Meeting in NY. 12 Caribbean States, as well as Argentina, Dominican Republic and Peru, benefitted from UNLIREC's IATG-based assistance. and applied in the destruction of close to 70 tonnes of ammunition. Accompanying this assistance, UNLIREC created and

disseminated more than 28 Standard Operating Procedures (SOPS), with numerous SOPs being incorporated into national operational practices, and delivered IATG-based training to 116 law enforcement officials. As a response to request from States, UNLIREC even patented its own IATG-compatible small arms ammunition and pyrotechnics burning tank.



Conventional Arms Transfers Controls: Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)

In May 2014, UNLIREC crossed the Atlantic Ocean to attend the "Inter-parliamentary Conference to Enhance ATT and UN 2001 PoA Implementation through South-South Parliamentary Exchange and Cooperation". During this intense two-day meeting, UNLIREC presented its assistance package for Latin America and Caribbean States and spoke of its pilot ATT Implementation Training Kit for regulating and control authorities.



Resulting from the Conference was a common written declaration, known as the ‘*Declaration of Lomé*’, to promote ratification and effective implementation of

the ATT in line with other international instruments. The same presentation on UNLIREC’s ATT Implementation Training Kit was also delivered to Caribbean participants and international experts attending the Regional Workshop on the ATT in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago (24-25 June). The two-day conference was co-organized by CARICOM/IMPACS and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

Defence Doctrines: White Papers

Finally, in June 2014, UNLIREC attended the official launching of the initiation of a cycle of debates to update Argentina’s 2010 Defence White Paper. This “cycle of debates” envisions involving the public in general, academics, students, legislators, civil society, national and international experts, among others, as well as creating a new interactive website to receive feedback from all those interested in contributing to the open platform.

UNLIREC delivered a presentation on the standardized methodology it developed in 2007 to assist States of the region in elaborating their Defence White Papers. UNLIREC stands ready to accompany other States of the region as well in this confidence-building process.

UNLIREC Agenda (August–November 2014)

August

- ✓ *“Building a Safer Rio Grande: Social Vulnerability and Addictions in the Northern Region of Tierra del Fuego” (Source of funding: Municipality of Rio Grande)*
Rio Grande City, Argentina
- ✓ *Technical workshop on combating illicit small arms trafficking (Source of funding: UN Human Security Trust Fund)*
- ✓ *Specialized Training Course for Legal Operators on Combating Illicit Small Arms Trafficking: Women Only (Source of funding: Australia)*
- ✓ *Regional Training of Trainers Workshop on the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) and the ISACS Assessment Tool (ISACS-AT) (Source of funding: UNIDIR)*
Lima, Peru

September

- ✓ *UNSCR 1540 national roundtable (Source of funding: USA)*
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic

October

- ✓ *UNSCR 1540 national roundtable (Source of funding: USA)*
Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago
- ✓ *International Maritime Organization/UNLIREC training on risk management, small vessel security and inter agency coordination (UNSCR 1540)*
St. George's, Grenada
- ✓ *Arms Trade Treaty Implementation Course (Source of funding: Germany and Spain)*
San Jose, Costa Rica

November

- ✓ *Arms Trade Treaty/UN 2001 PoA: gender-based risk assessment workshop (Source of funding: Australia)*
Mexico City, Mexico

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