2005 Liberia:
Small Arms Control
Reporting:
To: United Nations Department of Disarmament Affairs (UNDDA).

Guidelines for reporting on implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects

Note on use: These guidelines are designed to assist States in voluntarily reporting to the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs on the implementation of the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Each reporting area is cross-referenced to the relevant section of the Programme of Action. Note that the term “small arms and light weapons” is abbreviated as “SALW”.

NATIONAL LEVEL

1. National coordination agency

Does your country have a national coordination agency or body that is responsible for policy guidance, research and monitoring of efforts to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects? (II.4)

Please give details on its mandate and functions.

The National Transitional Government of Liberia (NTGL) with the support of the UNDP CO is facilitating the formation of the National Commission on Small Arms.
Three meeting organized by the UNDP since February this year in the process of setting up a technical team from the Ministries of
Internal Affairs, National Defense, Economic Planning, Foreign Affairs, Justice, Lands and Mines and the Liberia Action Network on Small Arms (LANSA), which is a member of the West African Action Network on Small Arms (WAANSA) based in Accra, Ghana. However, there is a dormant agency, the Commission on Arms and Ammunition Registry at the Executive Mansion (Presidency) that regulates the possession of small arms.

2. National point of contact

Does your country have a national point of contact to act as liaison with other States on matters relating to the implementation of the UN Programme of Action? (II.5)

The Ministry of Foreign Affairs Focal Point (Mr. Jlay Narloh) represents the Ministry on small arms affairs, Tel +231 544372), while Colonel Nathaniel Sie Hodge (Tel 231 6521490) of the Ministry of Justice (which overseas policing, immigration, etc) serves as the Focal Point on technical matters.

Activity include:

Represents the Government at international fora on small arms affairs (ECOWAS Small Arms Control meetings for example.

Serves as Focal Point for coordinating issues including training of the Police on small arms control

Public education

Working on the revision of the Arms and Ammunition Registration

Shares information with Internal Affairs, MoFA, and links with Executive Mansion and UN system and NGOs.

3. Legislation, regulations, administrative procedures

i) What national laws, regulations and administrative procedures exist to exercise effective control over SALW in the following areas? Please list here the laws, regulations and administrative procedures that regulate the following aspects of SALW in your country (II.2)
- Production
- Possession
- export
- import
- transit
- retransfer

The NTGL with the support of the UNDP is currently reviewing the national law on small arms. The Ministry of Justice has begun the process in March this year. There will be a meeting of all governmental agencies dealing with small arms in June this year to discuss the broad outline. It will include the role of private security companies and private military companies.

ii) Please describe how national laws, regulations and procedures that impact on the prevention, combating and eradication of the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects are made public.

1. Publication of Laws/By Laws
2. Public discussion on Radio/TV
3. Community Meetings
4. Rallies by political parties

4. Law enforcement/criminalization

i) What national legislative or other measures exist to make the illegal manufacture, possession, stockpiling and trade of SALW criminal offences under domestic law? How have these measures been implemented?

N/A.
The only agency that is allowed currently to have weapons is the UNMIL
ii) Have those groups and individuals engaged in the illegal manufacture, trade, stockpiling, transfer, possession, as well as financing for acquisition, of illicit SALW been identified, where applicable? What action has been taken under appropriate national law against such groups and individuals?

It was a crime in Liberia before the war, 1990.

N/A today
Locally manufactured small arms for hunting takes place in Counties such as Nimba, Grand Cape Mount, and Grand Gedeh. These were solely for hunting animals. Foreigners brought hunting guns for sports such as hunting birds on the Buchanan Highway and Grand Cape Mount County. Liberians as well as foreigners bought guns for sports hunting in the country as a whole.

Example:
An illicit craft producer of SALW was recently sentenced under the Weapons Production Law of 2001 to one year in prison and fined USD 30,000 for operating without a government licence.

iii) What national measures have been taken, including legal or administrative means, against activity that violates a United Nations Security Council (UNSC) arms embargo in accordance with the Charter of the United Nations?

1. Government announcements stating the illegality of violating UN sanctions
2. Assistance provided to upgrade the immigration Bureau
3. The setting up of a Border Patrol Unit geared towards detecting SALW
4. Major problem, these services need technical and financial support including training in all aspects of small arms control
5. Stockpile management and security

i) What national standards and procedures exist for the management and security of SALW stocks held by armed forces, police or other authorized bodies?

Please list and describe the national standards and procedures used by your country for the management and security of SALW stocks held by national armed forces, police or other authorized bodies
N/A. All arms in the country are under the UNMIL. Former major armoury include Benson Street, and the 1st Infantry Battalion, Camp Sheffield, Monrovia

ii) How often are stocks of SALW held by armed forces, police and other authorized bodies reviewed?
N/A
All arms are under the UNMIL. The Armed Forces of Liberia is
demobilized by Executive Order No.5 of May 2005. The Liberia National
Police is not armed and currently has a few hundred guns donated by
Belgium, and managed by Civpol at the training Academy.

6. Collection and disposal

i) Please give details of any national programmes that have
been established and implemented for the responsible disposal
of surplus stocks of SALW held by armed forces, police and
other authorized bodies.

Has your country conducted any programmes for purposes of disposing of surplus SALW
stocks held by armed forces, police and other authorized bodies? If so, please indicate
the numbers and types of SALW destroyed.
Since the Comprehensive Peace Agreement of Accra, August 2003, the
National Transitional Government of Liberia and ECOWAS and the
United Nations have:

1. Collected all weapons from the LNP (Special Operations Division-
SOD) and destroyed. The UN with international observers from
Zambia, Ethiopia, Ireland, Kenya, and the United States
supervised the collection. The SOD was formerly known as the
Rapid Response Unit of the LNP and formed in 1994 to reduce
armed violence. The SOD has been transformed by Civpol into a
new Police force
2. Since the civil war of the 1990s, Liberia has held one huge
ceremonial arms destruction in July 1999 financed by the
Programme for Coordination and Assistance for Security and
Development (PCASED). Several other small destructions have
taken place under the UN/ECOMOG.

ii) Is destruction the means used to dispose of such stocks?

Yes, cutting and burning in certain cases.

iii) What methods has your country used to destroy surplus
stocks of SALW designated for destruction?

Cutting and burning as recommended by UN experts

7. Export controls
i) Please describe the system of export and import licensing or authorization, as well as measures on international transit, used by your country for the transfer of all SALW.

Please give details of the regulations and procedures used by your country for licensing or authorizing the export and import of SALW. Indicate also the criteria or factors taken into account in deciding whether to grant or refuse permission to export or import SALW.

N/A
Liberia is under sanctions and all arms are under the control of UNMIL.

ii) Please describe the national laws, regulations and administrative procedures used by your country to ensure effective control over the export and transit of SALW. How are these measures implemented?

N/A today.
New law under discussions with relevant agencies, civil society and the UNDP Small Arms Control programme.

iii) Does your country use authenticated end-user certificates for this purpose?
N/A today.

iv) Does your country notify the original exporting State when re-exporting or retransferring previously imported SALW?
N/A

8. Brokering

What national legislation or administrative procedures exist to regulate the activities of those who engage in SALW brokering within national jurisdiction and control? (e.g. registration of brokers, licensing or authorization of brokering transactions and appropriate penalties)

N/A. Country under sanctions.
The new law will take into account international standards to curb the illicit trade.
There exist some local manufacturing of single barrel guns for hunting. The new law shall insist on registration and marking of such weapons as recommended by the UNPoA and the draft ECOWAS Convention on Light Weapons (Abuja, March 2005).
9. Marking, record keeping and tracing

Does your country require licensed manufacturers of SALW to apply an appropriate and reliable marking on each weapon as an integral part of the production process?

N/A.
Will require in the new law

10. Disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR)

i) Please describe any disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) programmes your country has developed and implemented, including the effective collection, control, storage and destruction of SALW.

Since August 2003, the United Nations has disarmed and demobilized some 103,019 people, collected some 27,000 guns and currently working on the RR aspect. The Joint Implementation Unit (JIU) and the NCDDRRR is in charge of the RR.

ii) Please describe how your country has addressed the special needs of children affected by armed conflict, in particular the reunification with their family, their reintegration into civil society and their appropriate rehabilitation.

1. Through registration and trauma
2. Payment of the DD allowance
3. RR, into schools/colleges through the 'tracking system, whereby ex-combatants are paid a dollar a day to attend schools
4. Public awareness on why it is a crime to recruit children into armed groups or the armed forces (Bill Boards, radio, dramatic)

Help provided by the UN system including Unicef, Red Cross, NCDDRR, Foundation for International Dignity (FIND), CEDE, EU, Oxfam, Actionaid, human rights and women groups and Save the Children etc.

11. Awareness-raising

i) Please describe any public awareness and confidence-building programmes on the problems and consequences of the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects that your country has developed and implemented (including the public destruction of surplus weapons and the voluntary surrender of SALW).
2. Public education by the Civpol and the Liberia National Police on the dangers associated with the illicit possession and trade in SALW.
3. Collaboration with civil society groups such as the Liberia Action Network on Small Arms (LANSA). Public discussions on FMIs, print and electronic media.
4. Collaboration with the UNDP/UNICEF on small arms control-the development of the UNDP SALW Control

However, more technical and financial support is NEEDED to facilitate an increased sensitized population.

ii) Please describe any education and public awareness programmes on the problems of the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects that your country has encouraged.

1. Drama
2. Public education on FMIs/TV
3. Moral support to civil society including women and youth groups.
REGIONAL LEVEL

12. Legally binding instruments

i) Has your country been involved in negotiations for the conclusion of legally binding instruments aimed at preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects?

Yes.
1. Liberia, Guinea and Sierra Leone Joint Force to combat drugs and small arms. Leaders of the three states invited the president of la Cote d'Ivoire to take part in a summit in March this year in Guinea.
2. Through the 15th Protocol of the Mano River Union (MRU)
3. Through the discussions on the draft ECOWAS Convention on Light Weapons

ii) Where such instruments exist, please describe the steps your country has taken to ratify and fully implement them.

The Mano River Union Protocol ratified

13. Moratoria and regional action programmes

Please give details of any support your country has given moratoria or similar initiatives on the transfer and manufacture of SALW, and/or regional action programmes to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects

1. Collaboration with Sierra Leone and Guinea at the highest political level
2. Collaboration with Sierra Leone Police on detecting and confiscation of SALW/drugs

14. Regional Cooperation

i) Please describe any involvement your country has had in the establishment of subregional or regional mechanisms with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating the illicit trade in SALW across borders (in particular trans-border customs cooperation and networks for information-sharing among law enforcement, border and customs control agencies).
1. In 1998, supported and participated in the adoption of the ECOWAS Moratorium
2. Collaboration with Sierra Leone Police

ii) Please describe any initiatives your country has undertaken to encourage regional and subregional action on illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects in order to, as appropriate, introduce, adhere, implement or strengthen relevant laws, regulations and administrative procedures.

GLOBAL LEVEL

15. International instruments against terrorism and crime

What existing international legal instruments against terrorism and transnational organized crime has your country ratified or acceded to?

International Criminal Tribunal
Anti-Terrorism Resolutions of the United Nations

16. International cooperation and assistance

i) Has your country provided any assistance, including technical and financial for purposes of supporting the implementation of measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects as contained in the UN PoA

No

ii) Has your country received or would like to receive any assistance, including technical and financial for purposes of implementing measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the
illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects as contained in the UN PoA.

Yes.

1. Training of the Police with light weapons from Belgium/UN/US

2. Needs more support technically and financially for the armed forces, police and national security agencies. Also for the capacitation of civil society.

17. Cooperation with civil society and NGOs

Please give details of cooperation with civil society and non-governmental organizations in activities related to the prevention, combating and eradication of the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects, at the national, regional and global levels.

1. Political and moral support to Liberia Action Network on Small Arms (LANSA) and other NGOs.
2. Cooperation with the Federal Republic of Nigerian Government

18. Training, capacity-building, research

Has your country undertaken any initiatives to enhance cooperation and exchange of experience and training among competent officials, including customs, police, intelligence and arms control officials, at the national, regional and global levels in order to combat the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects.

Yes, by the Ministry of Justice.

But, due to the shortage of funds, the programme drawn up is still on the drawing board.

Liberia needs support to rebuild and professionalize her security services (Security sector reform)

Monrovia, Republic of Liberia, Ministry of Justice, Ashum Street.
18th May 2005.