



# **Republic of Namibia**

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**MINISTRY OF SAFETY AND SECURITY**

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## **COUNTRY PROGRESS REPORT**

**ON**

**THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE PROGRAMME OF ACTION TO  
PREVENT, COMBAT AND ERADICATE THE ILLICIT TRADE IN SMALL  
ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS IN ALL ITS ASPECTS**

**Prepared for the Fourth Biennial Meeting of States (BMS4),  
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**By**

**The National Focal Point on Small Arm and Light Weapons**

## 1. Introduction

The Government of the Republic of Namibia remains convinced that the United Nations Program of Action (UNPoA) to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in all its aspects continue to be the most effective international framework to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade and proliferation of firearms in the world. In addition to the UNPoA, Namibia seriously continues to observe the provisions of other regional and sub-regional declarations and protocols on small arms and light weapons in particular the Bamako Declaration and SADC Protocol effective and useful instruments to curb the illicit trade in SALW and management of the licit stocks of arms and ammunition in the region and/or the sub-region.

Namibia recognized that, the proliferation and illicit trade in small arms and light weapons pose many and serious challenges to governments and people in the world in new and daunting ways. Armed violence caused by individuals and non-state actors has reversed the social and economic progress of many conflict prone countries especially in the third world. When translated into monetary terms, the cost of these conflicts exceeds the annual budget allocations or expenditures on social sectors of many countries. We are mindful that, if no steps are taken to address the proliferation of SALW, Namibia may not be in a better position to meet her National Development Plan (NDP). The proliferation of SALW is an impediment to the fulfillment of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Namibia is generally concerned about the excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons especially in the developing countries. The concern is particularly on its negative consequences attributed to intensified and prolonged armed conflicts that heightened the levels of social instability in the form of wars and violent crime as well as the social disorder globally. These phenomena are of great concerns to Government of the Republic of Namibia, because they pose serious threats to peace, safety, security, political stability on Namibia, due to undesirable repercussions in all probability.

Illicit proliferation, circulation and trafficking of small arms and light weapons sustain conflicts, exacerbate violence, contribute to the displacement of innocent populations, fuel crime and encourage terrorism. We are further mindful of the fact that, no government alone can, fight this global scourge. It requires a concerted effort from all segments of the society to ensure success in rooting out this threat and menace to the society. In view of the above background, Namibia as a signatory to the UNPoA submit in her country report the progress made in the implementation of the United Nations Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit trade in SALW.

**2. Actions taken by the Government of the Republic of Namibia aimed at sustainable implementation of the National Action Plan on SALW after the Third Biennial Meeting of States (BMS3) held on 14 – 18 July 2008, New York**

**2.1 The Institutional Framework**

Namibia's institutional framework, which is responsible for the sustainable implementation of the international, regional and sub-regional instruments and mechanisms on Small Arms and Light Weapons remains intact as reported earlier at the Third Biennial Meeting of States to consider the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in SALW in All Its Aspects.

The composition for the institutional framework comprises of the National Management Committee (NMC) consisting of the Permanent Secretaries from the Offices, Ministries and Agencies that have a pivotal role to the implementation of the National Action Plan (NAP) on Small Arms and Light Weapons. The NMC keeps the political leadership informed about the implementation of the NAP and provide guidance and directions to the National Focal Point.

The National Focal Point is the national coordinating agency on Small Arms and Light Weapons. The NFP is the technical arm and operational body of the NMC. It comprises of Senior Officials drawn from Offices, Ministries, Agencies, Institutions and Non Governmental Organizations. There is a subdivision within the Namibian Police Force establishment and acts as the Project Support Office (PSO), which spearheads both the administrative and operational functions for the National Focal Point. The Republic of Namibia is administratively demarcated into thirteen (13) regions and the actual implementation of the NAP is decentralized through the establishment of functional Regional Focal Points (RFPs) on SALW. The Regional Focal Points have similar structures and composition as that of the National Focal Point.

**2.2 Policy and Legislation**

Namibia is reaffirming through this report her commitment under the Programme of Action to develop adequate national legislation or administrative procedures regulating activities on SALW. The National Focal Point on SALW has reviewed the National Legislation on Arms and Ammunition. An amendment Bill has been drafted in line with the UNPoA, Bamako Declaration and SADC Protocol

The amendment Bill provides among other things, certain definitions in the Act, the age of a license holder, establishment of an Appeal Board, devices not regarded as firearms, competency test and certificate, gun smith, loading and reloading of ammunition, firearm free-zones, disposal of firearms in case

of death, inherited firearms, disposal of firearms in case ceasing of business to carry on, theatre and cinema, state-owned firearms and matters incidental thereto.

The amendment Bill strive to bring about a comprehensive national legislation and other measures to sanction criminally, civilly or administratively to prevent, combat and eradicate, the illicit manufacturing of firearms, ammunition and other related materials, and their excessive and destabilizing accumulation, trafficking, possession and use.

The National Focal Point has established an Interagency Working Team (IWT) on regulating firearm brokering in Namibia. The objectives of this task team are:

- To determine the nature and dynamics of arms brokering activities within the borders of the Republic of Namibia, as well as Namibia citizens and permanent residents in other countries;
- To review and assess the relevance and effectiveness of Namibia's existing measures, policies and legislation to regulate arms brokers and arms brokering activities;
- To consult with relevant stakeholders on their views on the possible scope and range of amended arms brokering regulations for the Republic of Namibia, and
- To review and assess the relevance of international best practice on the regulation of arms brokers and arms brokering activities for the Republic of Namibia;
- To determine the Republic of Namibia's regional, continental and international commitments to regulate arms brokers and arms brokering activities;
- To formulate the recommendations on how the government of the Republic of Namibia will enhancing the regulation of arms brokers and arms brokering activities.

The three facets that are yet to be finalized in the amendment Bill are the Moratorium; Amnesty and Competency test and certification. The finalization of the aforesaid facets will pave the way for the National Focal Point to pass the amendment Bill to the Cabinet Committee on Legislation (CCL) before it is finally tabled in the parliament.

### **2.3 Stockpile Management**

The Government of the Republic of Namibia has done little on this facet as delineated in the BMS3 country report. Of significance, Namibia has a computerized Central Firearm Registry (CFR) System. The system is however old, which rendered the database to be, obsolete, inaccurate and unreliable. The National Focal Point in its Annual Work Plan (AWP) for 2010/11 is preoccupied to either upgrade and/or design a new accurate, reliable and verifiable database for civilian and state

owned stocks. This will include upgrading of both hardware and software to facilitate information exchange both at National and Regional level.

During this calendar year 2010/11, the NFP will strive to review and improve the organizational and procedures for the CFR as envisaged in the Standard Operating Procedures for the Implementation of the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Related Materials. Moreover, the National Focal Point has appointed a CFR Working Group, which will ensure that Namibia has an effective stockpile management and surplus disposal corresponding to the national laws, regulations and administrative procedures, including provisions for enhanced safety and security that could help to prevent accidents and reduce the risk of diversion and proliferation and further help to reduce surplus accumulation and replacement rate.

**Collection and destruction:** During the period under review, the Namibian Police Force has confiscated and/or seized three thousand two hundred ninety one (3291) Pistols; fifty five (55) Rifles; twenty eight (28) Shot Guns; two (2) Hand Grenades; and four (4) Unknown types of Small Arms and Light Weapons. During the same period, the Namibia Police Force has destroyed two hundred and twenty nine (229) assorted Small Arms and Light Weapons.

## 2.4 Border Control

The National Action Plan on SALW made provision for Border Control. The objective of this facet is to enhance the existing border controls, analyze the impact of the existing control on the population, and to inform affected communities and Law Enforcement Agencies of existing structures and procedures.

The National Focal Point Annual Work Plan for 2010/11 made provision for the appointment of a Movement Control Working Group (MCWG). The MCWG should make recommendations inter alia, on the following:

- The feasibility of erecting border fences in certain areas;
- Specific recommendations with regard to the controls on the Northern border areas;
- Use of sniffer dogs, search bays and other portable detection equipment;
- Revise and, where necessary, upgrade existing border posts, and where necessary create new border posts;
- Enhancement of the Police Border Guard Unit;
- Control and monitor movement of people, vehicles, and other means of transport and goods; and
- Control over the use of private airstrips.

## **2.5 International and Cross-Border Cooperation and Information Exchange**

Namibia has excellent relationship with her neighbouring countries. The country does not only exchange information on firearms with her neighbouring countries, but also, at sub-regional level through the Regional Coordinating Committee (RCC). The RCC is a Technical Committee on SALW consisting of the National Focal Points Coordinators or their representatives of the member countries of the Southern African Regional Police Chiefs Cooperation Organization (SARPCCO).

The RCC convene at least three meetings a year, hosted by member countries. Its core function is to spearhead the implementation of sub-regional, regional and international protocols, declarations and agreements on small arms and light weapons which include; UNPoA; Bamako Declarations; SADC Protocol etc. Namibia organise and host joint training and workshops with other law enforcement agencies from the neighbouring countries to enhance and maintain effective co-operation, training and information sharing mechanisms in order to implement the SADC Protocols on firearms, Bamako Declaration and the United Nations Programme of Action.

## **2.6 Public Education and Awareness Raising**

The National Action Plan on SALW made provision for the Public Education and Awareness Raising. The objective is to curb the proliferation, reduce demand promote responsible management of firearms, and enhance awareness of the danger posed by the misuse of SALW and establish a culture of peace.

During the period under review, the National Focal Point has crafted a Strategic Social Mobilization and Communication document, which attempt to among others:

- Foster a culture of peace, conflict resolution techniques, and mechanisms and skills to minimize violence;
- Reduce the number of violent incidences, especially those in which weapons are used;
- To create more tolerance and problem solving, and
- Reduce the demand of both licit and illicit firearm and attitude change etc.

During the period under review, The National Focal Point has produced the Public Education and Awareness Raising Campaign Materials. The campaign was officially launched in September 2009, in the capital. The Public Education and Awareness Raising Campaign will be rolled out countrywide.

## **2.7 Training and Capacity Building**

During the period under review (November 2008), the National Focal Point has conducted a workshop for the National and Regional Focal Points Secretariats. The workshop enhanced the capacity needed for the sustainable implementation of the international, Regional and sub-regional agreements, declarations and protocols and the National Action Plan on SALW.

In March 2009, the National Focal Point has organized a computer course for twenty six (26) members from the Regional Focal Point Secretariats. The course did not only enhance the computer literacy for the Regional Focal Point Secretariats, but also improved their operational and administrative capacity to implement the National Action Plan on SALW at the regional level.

In August 2009, Namibia has trained twenty seven (27) specialized firearm investigating officers. The course which was the first of its kind was facilitated by the South African Police Service (SAPS) Firearms Specialized Instructors with the financial support from the Institute for Security Studies and the Government of the Republic of Namibia. The course equipped the investigating officers on the identification, handling, etching and investigating of trans-national arms offences and arms related crime skills. Moreover, in February 2010, two (2) Namibian Police Investigating Officers partook in an advance firearm investigation course in South Africa.

The National Focal Point Annual Work Plan for 2010/11, made provisions for the Joint Capacity Building Training Workshop for the National and Regional Focal Points in the first week of June 2010. The workshop will capacitate about fifty (50) participants on the Legal Framework; Information and Education Communication (IEC); Behavior Change Communication; the concept of Project Management etc.

Currently, the National Focal Point together with the Institute for Security Studies (ISS) is organizing an orientation workshop for the National Management Committee (NMC) on Small Arms and Light Weapons, scheduled for the first week of July 2010. The workshop will jointly be financed by the Government of the Republic of Namibia and the Institute for Security Studies. It aspires to capacitate the NMC to better be able to provide guidance to the National Focal Point on sustainable implementation of the National Action plan on SALW.

## **2.8 Research**

During the period under review, no research had been undertaken. However, a survey was contacted to obtain divergent views on arms and ammunition amendment Bill. The national Focal Point Secretariat assisted by a local institution (the Polytechnic of Namibia) had designed the

questionnaires, which were administered by the Regional Focal Points to the respondents countrywide. The Polytechnic of Namibia, the National Focal Point Secretariat and Namibian Police Force research unit played a pivotal role in the analysis and interpretation of the questionnaires. The results were presented at a consultative workshop, which was attended by firearms stakeholders from both local and international organizations and institutions. The consultative workshop had provided valuable input for the amendment Bill.

## **2.9 Critical Area Support and Resources**

During the period under review, the Government of the Republic of Namibia through, the National Focal Point received financial support from the Department for International Development (DFID) to the tune of GBP80,000, via the British High Commission in Namibia for the implementation of the National Action Plan on SALW.

In another development, The Institute for Security Studies (ISS) Arms Management Programme pledged financial support for the implementation of the National Action Plan on Small Arms and Light Weapons. The National Focal Point and the Arms Management Programme agreed to strengthen co-operative relations between the two (2) sister organisations. This will facilitate the effective undertaking of complementary activities and enhance co-operation through identifying areas of mutual co-operation and engaging in joint projects and activities on SALW.

Moreover, the government of the United States of America will assist SADC members States including Namibia with the firearm Marking Machines. Each country will receive two (2) marking machines. SARPCCO member countries agreed to mark their firearms in line with chapter three (3) of the SARPCCO Standard Operating Procedures (SOP), (for the implementation of the SADC Protocol on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition and Other Related Materials.

During the period under review, the Government of the Republic of Namibia purchased twenty one (21) computers with printers for the Central Firearms Registry, National and Regional Focal Point Secretariats in order to resource the these structures to better be able to implement the National Action Plan on SALW and by implication, implement the UNPoA, Bamako Declaration and SADC Protocol.

## **3. The Challenges**

The Government of the Republic of Republic of Namibia faces many impediments in her effort to sustainably implement her National, Regional and Sub-regional obligations on Small Arms and Light Weapons, these include but not limited to:

- The finalization of the Amendment Bill on Arms and Ammunition;
- The implementation of Public Education and Awareness Rising Campaign;
- Establishing an accurate, verifiable firearms database for civilian and state owned;
- Regulating Brokers and Brokering activities in the Republic of Namibia;
- The Implementation of competency test and competency certification;
- Marking and remarking of firearms and ammunition;
- Marshalling of technical and financial resources to implement the UNPoA, Bamako Declaration and SADC Protocol.

#### **4. Areas that need assistance of the United Nations Department for Disarmament Affairs**

The Government of the Republic of Namibia requests the assistance in the following areas: *The financial and technical support for the establishment of a verifiable database; competency test and certification; marking and remarking of firearms and ammunition.*

#### **5. The Way Forward**

The Government of the Republic of Namibia will continue to demonstrate her firm commitment to the implementation of all agreed international, regional and sub-regional instruments and mechanisms on Small Arms and Light Weapon designed to prevent, combat, and eradicate the illicit manufacturing of firearms, ammunition and other related materials, and their excessive and destabilizing accumulation, trafficking, possession and use. By implication, Namibia would not just only achieve her National Development Plan (NDP3), the Strategic Intent Vision 2030, but also her Millennium Development Goals.

Namibia will continue to encourage sub-regional mechanisms in particular trans-border cooperation and networks for information sharing among law enforcement agency, with a view to preventing, combating and eradicating trade in SALW across borders.

#### **6. The National Contact Persons on Small Arms and Light Weapons**

The country's designated National Point of Contact who is acting as the liaison contact person between States on matters relating to the implementation of the UNPoA, remain the Inspector General of the Namibian Police Force, LT-GEN S.H. Ndeitunga. He can be contacted at tel. No: +264 61- 2093111, fax No: +264 61- 220 621