

**Wrap-up Summary**  
**of the**  
**Capacity-building workshop on marking and tracing SALW**  
**Prague, Czech Republic, 14-18 September, 2009**

- Most States present at the workshop have ratified the ECOWAS Convention on SALW, which contains, and in many cases expands, the provisions of the ITI.
  
- Most States of the sub-region have already established National Commissions on SALW.
  
- It is important that all West African States nominate their national points of contact (NPCs) for the ITI and that such NPCs be officials who are competent on issues related to marking and tracing.
  
- Efforts to improve SALW legislation are underway in a number of the States of the sub-region. Other States of the sub-region should also take steps in that direction.
  
- There is a need to improve coordination between the National Commissions and the various State authorities dealing with SALW, including ministries of the interior and import control authorities.
  
- Weapons in Government armed and security forces of the States of the sub-region are generally marked and recorded.
  
- International assistance will be needed to help improve and modernize the record-keeping systems of the West African States.

- Marking at the time of import is recommended by the ITI and is a requirement of the ECOWAS Convention on SALW. International assistance will be needed to help develop capacity in this regard.
- The artisanal production of small arms remains an important challenge in many West African States. International assistance is needed to help develop the technical and institutional capacities to mark and control these weapons.
- The development of a capacity to trace illicit ammunition is of great importance for the States of ECOWAS. In this regard, it is important that the system for the marking of ammunition be improved in order to facilitate the tracking of the sources of illicit ammunition.
- The existence of adequate national systems of stockpile management is critical to the effectiveness of the measures and aims envisaged in the ITI.
- The ECOWAS Small Arms Unit and its Small Arms Programme (ECOSAP) have been playing a key role in supporting the efforts of the States of the sub-region to build their capacity to implement the ECOWAS Convention on SALW and the SALW global instruments. This role should be further encouraged and supported.
- The UNODA, including its regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa, UNREC, can also play an important role in providing assistance to the States of West Africa for capacity-building for the implementation of those instruments.
- Cooperation with INTERPOL should be enhanced in order to enable States of the sub-region to further develop their capacity to implement the ITI, particularly with respect to their ability to engage in cooperation in tracing illicit SALW.

- The States of the sub-region should make an effort to submit to UNODA their reports on the Programme of Action, including a chapter on the ITI, in a timely manner, in order for them to be relevant to the forthcoming Biennial Meeting of States (BMS4).