IMPLEMENTING THE INTERNATIONAL TRACING INSTRUMENT IN THE RECSA REGION

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MEETING OF GOVERNMENTAL EXPERTS ON
UNPOA SALW
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Nairobi Declaration on the Problem of the Proliferation of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great Lakes Region and the Horn of Africa, adopted in March 2000.

The Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, control and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the Great lakes Region, the Horn of Africa and Bordering States adopted in April 2004 (entered into force 5 May 2006).
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL INSTRUMENTS

- Eight Member States have National Action Plans on Arms Management and Control.
- Two Member States have National Policies on SALW.
- Republic of Burundi and Republic of Rwanda have already updated their SALW legislation in line with international and regional instruments.
RECSA has developed series of best practice guidelines which facilitate the implementation of the ITI provisions on-

- Marking.
- Record keeping.
- Tracing.
Article 7 Nairobi Protocol

States Parties undertake to mark each small arm and light weapon with a unique mark

ISO-66-1 country code serial number

e.g. SC 654321

Chapter 1 Best Practice Guidelines

Stocks in state possession as at December 2005 were to be marked by December 2008
RECSA has provided electronic marking machines and offered appropriate training to relevant personnel in Member States and Cooperating States.

Currently eight Member States are marking their firearms.

The East African Community Partner States have agreed to finish marking of state owned firearms by December 2011.
COUTH MC 2000 Marking Machine

- Portable and very handy
- Does not interfere with the normal functioning of the firearm - dot peen marking
- Compatible with computer hardware and software
- Marks numerically and barcode consecutively
- High speed of marking
SAMPLE MARKING

Cooperating to Disarm
SALW records are kept manually and in some Member States electronically. No Member State has a SALW central database.

Member States are urged to keep records for not less than 10 years.

In a bid to harmonize record keeping RECSA has developed customized software for recording SALW information.

The software is still in the piloting stage.
RECSA periodically organizes regional meetings and trainings on topical issues including harmonization of legislation, marking and record keeping and arms brokering.

Member States make use of the Interpol Sub Regional Bureau based in Nairobi to facilitates cross-border police co-operation.
PARTNERSHIP

- RECSA consults widely with regional bodies, UN agencies, civil society and research think tanks.
- RECSA responds to invitations to share experiences on SALW marking. SADC-October 2008; OAS-December 2010; ECOWAS-June 2011.
- RECSA negotiates with donors and partners for funds.
CHALLENGES

- Legislation on SALW is not yet harmonized in the RECSA region.
- Inadequate marking machines and logistical challenges including inappropriate transportation for the marking machines.
- Customized software has not yet been rolled out in the Member States.
- Insufficient funding for SALW programmes.
NEXT STEPS

- Development and implementation of National Action Plans on Arms Management and Control
- Review of national legislation on SALW
- Acquisition of more marking machines and logistical support, especially transportation for marking equipment
NEXT STEPS

- Rolling out of customised software, training and acquisition of relevant hardware.
- Focussed monitoring and provision of technical support to SALW marking and database creation
- Continue inter-regional co-operation
European Union
Office of Weapons Removal and Abatement, Bureau of Political-Military Office, US Department of State
Government of Japan through United Nations Development Programme
East African Community through GIZ
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