

Programme

Addressing illicit trafficking and access to firearms in the context of organised crime and terrorism – towards a new paradigm

Wednesday 23 – Saturday 26 January 2019 | WP1671

The illicit trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition represents a serious threat to peace and security, and an obstacle to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. In many countries and regions firearms feature prominently in connection to multiple security threats, including armed conflicts and armed violence, and act often as catalysers or enablers of various forms of crimes, from violent crimes, to gang criminality, to more sophisticated forms of transnational organised crime, including illicit drugs trafficking, and to terrorism. The strategic role and impact of these firearms is of particular concern in the context of organised crime and terrorism, where their illicit availability and access contributes to exponentially increase the destructive power and incidence of criminal and terrorist actors on peace and security.

The international community has increasingly acknowledged and expressed concern at the destabilising impact of this **firearms-crime-terrorism nexus**. Over the years, Member States have sought to counter the challenges presented by these inter-connected threats through the adoption of a wide array of instruments and measures: at the global level, these include the Convention against Transnational Organised Crime and its supplementing Firearms Protocol, the Arms Trade Treaty and the UN Programme of Action, as well as the 19 universal instruments against terrorism. More recently, the Security Council in its resolution 2370 (2017) addressed specifically the problems of illicit trafficking of arms and their access by terrorists.

In fact, current policies, legislative frameworks and operational practices to counter illicit firearms trafficking, on the one hand, and terrorism and organised crime on the other hand, tend often to be disconnected from each other, and to disregard the inherent nexus that exists between illicit firearms trafficking and other serious crimes. Criminal justice responses to terrorism and organised crime tend to focus more on the ‘firearm’ as a crime tool, and less on the origins of these arms and/or on the actual firearms trafficking offence and its supply chain. As a result, while numerous firearms are seized and confiscated in the context of organised crime or counter terrorism actions, the ultimate goal, to disrupt

In association with:



the illicit arms flows and its supply chain, often remains unattended, and the criminal groups, middlemen and networks involved in this business untouched.

This situation is partly due to the inherent difficulty in detecting and disrupting illicit firearms flows, and the lack of expertise, technical knowledge and skills of practitioners to deal with this complex crime, partly also to the lack of awareness and understanding of the strategic importance of addressing illicit firearms trafficking as an objective on its own merit, and as a key element also in the fight against transnational organised crime and terrorism.

This silo approach has so far prevented policymakers and practitioners alike from coherently addressing the organised crime-firearms trafficking-terrorism nexus and exploring the synergies and added value of addressing firearms trafficking as a key element to counter multiple security threats including organised crime or terrorism. Breaking these silos requires a new paradigm in the criminal justice response to these threats.

Aims and intended outcomes

Taking this into account, the main objective of the Conference will be to bring together practitioners and representatives from target countries in Africa, Asia, the Balkans, Europe as well as Latin America and the Caribbean, that are particularly affected by or exposed to these threats; representatives of regional and international organisations; UN agencies and offices; as well as leading experts from academia, think tanks and civil society with a view to:

- Review existing preventive and response strategies, including international legal frameworks, to counter firearms trafficking especially in the context of transnational organised crime and terrorism;
- Identify potential conceptual, normative and operational gaps and challenges;
- Examine key elements and approaches, as well as practical recommendations to assist Member States in devising more effective, focused and long-term policies and strategies to address illicit arms trafficking as a major obstacle to peace, security and development efforts worldwide, especially when linked to organised crime and terrorism; and
- Address capacity building requirements.

The findings of the Conference will also contribute to the development of a comprehensive strategy of UNODC, in cooperation with relevant partners, to transform the acquired vision into practical, measurable actions in target countries and regions.

In association with United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Global Firearms Programme, Division for Treaty Affairs, Vienna, and the government of Germany

(Speakers invited and themes proposed * denotes yet to be confirmed)

Wednesday 23 January

1500-1600

Participants arrive. Tea and coffee on arrival

1600-1620

Welcome and introduction

Mark Smith

Senior Programme Director, Wilton Park

Loide Aryee

Chief, Organised Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch, Division of Treaty Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vienna

Marcus Bleinroth

Director of Division, Conventional Disarmament, Arms Control and CSBM, Preventive Arms Control, Federal Foreign Office of Germany, Berlin

1620-1745

1. Illicit firearms trafficking as a multidimensional threat to peace, security and development

This session will place the question of illicit firearms trafficking in the context of terrorism and transnational organised crime and set out the case for a paradigm shift in approach that will move the issue of illicit arms trafficking from its peripheral situation, to the centre of integrated strategies to combat organised crime and terrorism and achieve the sustainable development goals. Essentially, why are you all here at Wilton Park? This will focus minds from the outset on what we want to achieve, and why, during the 2.5-day dialogue.

Moderator: Mark Smith

Senior Programme Director, Wilton Park

Introduction: Simonetta Grassi

Head, Global Firearms Programme, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vienna

Jean-Claude Brunet

Ambassador at Large on Transnational Crime Threats, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Paris

Nicolas Florquin

Senior Researcher, Small Arms Survey, Geneva

Nils Duquet

Senior Researcher, Flemish Peace Institute, Brussels

1745-1815

Tea/coffee

1815-1915

2. Stocktake of current frameworks and approaches to prevent illicit firearms trafficking and diversion of arms to organised crime and terrorist groups

This session will explore existing international legal frameworks and approaches on firearms, organised crime and terrorism with a view to assessing the extent to which current instruments and initiatives are addressing the linkages between these threats.

Moderator: Jean-Claude Brunet

Ambassador at Large on Transnational Crime Threats, Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs, Paris

Simonetta Grassi

Head, Global Firearms Programme, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vienna

Mounia Ben Hammou

Programme Officer on Terrorism Prevention, West and Central Africa, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Dakar

Himayu Shiotani

Programme Lead, Conventional Arms, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, Geneva

Anna-Maria Seesmaa

Legal Officer, United Nations Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate, New York

1930

Reception followed by dinner

Thursday 24 January

0800-0900

Breakfast

0900-0945

3. Preventing firearms trafficking and diversion at the time of transfer

Looking at the most common sources of firearms acquired/trafficked by terrorist and organised crime groups, this session will focus in particular on the implementation of regulatory frameworks and transfer control regimes, with a view to identifying good practices and areas of further enhancement in preventing the illicit access and supply of firearms by organised crime/terrorist groups.

Moderator: Mark Smith

Senior Programme Director, Wilton Park

Ivor Richard Fung

Deputy Chief, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, New York

***Jasmina Roskić**

Head of International Agreements, Ministry of Trade, Tourism and Telecommunications, Belgrade

***Steven Malby**

Head, Office of Civil and Criminal Justice Reform, Commonwealth Secretariat, London

Spyridoula Amalia Metallinou

Legal Consultant, Global Firearms Programme, Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch, Division for Treaty Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Vienna

0945-1115

4. Criminal justice responses: identifying challenges and upgrading capacities to detect and disrupt firearms offences, links to terrorism and other crimes

This session will look into current approaches, tools and practices in detecting, seizing and investigating related firearms trafficking cases, especially when linked to other serious crimes. The session will also identify possible gaps and limitations to the effectiveness of current criminal justice systems in disrupting illegal trafficking chains towards organised crime and terrorist actors/purposes. It will address key aspects of the criminal justice response, from criminalisation, to detection and tracing, investigation and prosecution, and explore good practices and promising investigative approaches to firearms trafficking.

(I) Strengthening border detection and seizures capacity for onward investigation (45')**Moderator: Mark Smith**

Senior Programme Director, Wilton Park

Martin Van der Meij

Analyst, EUROPOL, The Hague

***Ashraf Belhaj**

National Focal Point - Libya, Crime Investigation Department, Ministry of Interior, Tripoli

James McColm

Technical Officer, World Customs Association, Brussels

Manjola Kajana

Prosecutor, Serious Crime Prosecution Office of First Instance, Tirana

(II) Proactive investigative approaches (45')

Moderator: Simonetta Grassi

Head, Global Firearms Programme, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vienna

Ian Head

Head of Intelligence, National Ballistics Intelligence Service, Birmingham

Johan Gustafson

Detective Inspector, Swedish Police Authority, Stockholm

Federico Perrone Capano

Public Prosecutor, Anti-Mafia and Anti-Terrorism Directorate, Prosecutor's Office of Bari

***Gumaro Morales Cruz**

Attorney at Law, Office of the Attorney General of the Republic, Mexico City

1115-1200

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1200-1245

5. Addressing the arms-crime-terror nexus: mainstreaming linkages across regimes and fostering international cooperation and information exchange

This session will further explore the links between firearms trafficking, organised crime and terrorism, and existing challenges and opportunities for mainstreaming linkages across the respective areas and strengthen collaboration between counter-terrorism and organised crime experts and practitioners to prevent and combat firearms trafficking ie at the legislative, institutional and operational levels, and fostering cooperation, by drawing inter alia on tools and initiatives in firearms that may serve as bridges to break down silos and achieve greater coherence and efficiency in addressing these interconnected threats.

(I) Specialised entities to fight organised crime, arms trafficking and terrorism (45')

Moderator: Simonetta Grassi

Head, Global Firearms Programme, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vienna

Pedro Moura

Superintendent, Director of Department, Arms and Explosives, Public Security Police, Lisbon

Souleymane Coulibaly

Magistrate, Coordinator of the Integrated National Program to Combat Illicit Drug Trafficking and Organized Crime, Ministry of Justice, Bamako

Bruce Concepcion

Ambassador, Office of the Special Envoy on Transnational Crime, Quezon City

1300-1430

Lunch

1430-1500

Free time

1500-1630

6. Addressing the arms-crime-terror nexus: Mainstreaming linkages across regimes and fostering international cooperation and information exchange (continued)

II) Strengthening international law enforcement cooperation and information exchange (45')

Moderator: Leonardo Lara

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Office, UNODC Global Firearms Programme, Vienna

José Romero Morgaz

Head of National Focal Point Firearms, Spanish Guardia Civil, Madrid

***Marcus Vinicius da Silva Dantas**

Federal Police Commissioner, Federal Police Division for the Combat of Crime against Patrimony and Firearms Trafficking, Brasilia

Hamadou Djibo

G5 Sahel Defense College, Nouakchott

Craig Saier

ATF Country Attaché, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms and Explosives, Washington, DC

III) International judicial cooperation - liaison officers/ judicial cooperation platforms (45')

Moderator: Loide Aryee

Chief, Organised Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch, Division of Treaty Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vienna

Mounia Ben Hammou

Programme Officer on Terrorism Prevention, West and Central Africa, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC), Dakar

***Barbara Sargenti**

Antimafia Deputy Prosecutor, Antimafia Antiterrorism Directorate, Rome

Magaji Shuaibu Labaran

Federal Prosecutor, Federal Ministry of Justice, Abuja

1630-1700

Tea/coffee

1700-1800

7. Emerging threats and opportunities in countering the illicit procurement and trafficking in firearms, as well as their parts and components and ammunition

This session will highlight emerging threats (such as the illicit conversion, reactivation, modular weapons, craft production, the trafficking of firearms, their parts, components and ammunition including through the use of postal/parcel services, ICT enabled arms trafficking inter alia) and seek to identify good practices in preventing, detecting and prosecuting the illicit procurement of arms by terrorist and organised crime groups through such modalities, including through enhanced monitoring mechanisms and the use of new technologies.

Moderator: Mark Smith

Senior Programme Director, Wilton Park

Martin Van der Meij

Analyst, EUROPOL, The Hague

Nils Duquet

Senior Researcher, Flemish Peace Institute, Brussels

Nicolas Florquin

Senior Researcher, Small Arms Survey, Geneva

James Bevan

Executive Director, Conflict Armament Research, London

1830

Reception followed by dinner

Friday 25 January

0800-0900

Breakfast

0900-1030

8. It's all about the data: generation and collection of data and their operational use in criminal investigation and policy decision making

This session will highlight progress achieved and remaining challenges in the generation, and collection of data, for the purpose of firearms tracing and operational cooperation and information exchange, as well as monitoring and analysing of threats relating to firearms trafficking, organised crime and terrorism. The session will address challenges in national record keeping systems as well as in global data collection and also explore the potential of crossing different datasets and sources of information for the purpose of enhancing the intelligence picture on firearms trafficking and preventing illicit access of firearms by organised crime and terrorist groups.

Moderator: Fabio Marini

Senior Expert Firearms, European Commission, Brussels

Leonardo Lara

Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, UNODC Global Firearms Programme, Vienna

Ian Head

Head of Intelligence, National Ballistics Intelligence Service, Birmingham

Johnson Asante-Twum

Senior Programs Officer, Ghana National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Accra

Sean Lundy

UK NCA Firearms Coordinator, EUROPOL, The Hague

Ulrica Baier

Senior Analyst, Department of National Operations, Swedish Police, Stockholm

Ludwing Villanueva

National Coordinator REAFUC, National Police, La Paz

1030-1100

Tea/coffee

1100-1200

9. Strengthening resilience to illicit arms access and misuse through wider crime prevention

This session will explore the potential of integrating firearms control measures in wider crime and terrorism prevention efforts (including education, community-level and gender-based approaches) in areas such as gang criminality, prevention of armed violence, violent extremism and/or youth de-radicalisation efforts in both formal and informal settings, thus promoting a culture of lawfulness.

Moderator: Loide Aryee

Chief, Organised Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch, Division of Treaty Affairs, United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime, Vienna

Ivor Richard Fung

Deputy Chief, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs, New York

Raúl López

Deputy Minister of Justice and Public Security, Ministry of Justice and Public Security, San Salvador

Earl Harris

Assistant Director, Strategic Services, Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security, Port-of-Spain

Richard Chelin

Researcher, Institute for Security Studies, Pretoria

***Anthony Nakhaima**

Legal Officer, Uganda National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons, Ministry of Internal Affairs, Kampala

1200-1300

10. Group work: towards a new paradigm in countering firearms trafficking in the context of organised crime and terrorism

Building on the topics discussed during the previous sessions, participants will split into thematic working groups and engage in a brainstorming session to develop a strategy outlining specific steps and activities to be undertaken by policy makers and practitioners, including enhancement of capacities, to more effectively address arms trafficking in the context of organised crime and terrorism.

1300-1430

Lunch

1430-1500

Free time

1500-1530

11. Group work: towards a new paradigm in countering firearms trafficking in the context of organised crime and terrorism (continued)

1530-1630

12. Report back from group work and next steps

1630-1700

Tea/coffee

1700-1715

13. Evaluation survey

Completion of online survey

1715-1815

14. Conclusions and outcomes

1830

Reception followed by dinner

Saturday 26 January

0800-0900

Breakfast and checkout