



Wilton Park

Provisional programme

Commonwealth Dialogue: countering diversion of SALW and their ammunition

Wednesday 6 – Friday 8 February 2019 | WP1632

The effective control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition is a goal that unites countries across the Commonwealth, due to the severity of the potential consequences of their misuse. The Commonwealth Heads of Government, at their meeting in April 2018, acknowledged the devastating consequences of the illicit trade in SALW and agreed to strengthen cooperation and exchange of information to counter this threat.

Most illicit SALW and their ammunition began as legal weapons but were subsequently diverted to the illicit market during either production, transfer or storage. Countering diversion is therefore a priority for all Commonwealth countries. At the Third United Nations Conference to review progress made in the implementation of the Programme of Action on SALW and the International Tracing Instrument, all Commonwealth countries renewed their commitment to prevent and combat diversion of SALW to illicit markets, terrorists and other unauthorised recipients.

The workshop is convened under the Conventional Arms Control in the Commonwealth Initiative, a partnership between the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Small Arms Survey. This initiative aims to provide unique tools to strengthen cooperation, coordination and information sharing between Commonwealth member countries and to support national and regional implementation of measures to tackle the illicit arms trade, in line with international obligations and standards.

Aims and intended outcomes

This workshop aims to bring together government representatives, regional organisations, civil society and industry representatives from across the Commonwealth to share experiences on measures to tackle the diversion of SALW and their ammunition. To support this aim this meeting will:

- Examine the nature and scale of diversion of SALW and ammunition in Commonwealth countries;
- Share experiences and good practices on regulatory and enforcement measures aimed at preventing diversion across the lifecycle of the weapons and ammunition;

In association with:



The Commonwealth



- Examine the impact of new developments in SALW technology and design on the prevention of diversion and mitigation of diversion risks;
- Provide feedback on the tools designed as part of the Conventional Arms Control in the Commonwealth Initiative and agree areas for future cooperation.

In association with the Commonwealth Secretariat and the Small Arms Survey.
(Speakers invited and themes proposed * denotes confirmed)

Wednesday 6 February

1500-1600

Participants arrive. Tea and coffee on arrival

1600-1615

Welcome and introduction

***Olivier Weatherston**

Programme Director, Wilton Park

1615-1745

1. Strengthening Commonwealth cooperation on arms control

The conventional Arms Control in the Commonwealth Initiative progress update

***Steven Malby**

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

***Paul Holtom**

Senior Researcher, Small Arms Survey, Geneva

Introduction to group exercise 'Session 6 Strengthening diversion risk assessments: Exercise Alpha'

Participants will receive instructions and reading materials on Exercise Alpha. Three groups will be formed and roles allocated to each participant.

1830

Reception followed by dinner

Thursday 7 February

0800-0845

Breakfast

0900-1000

2. Understanding diversion in Commonwealth countries

This session will focus on the scale and nature of SALW diversion in Commonwealth countries. How does diversion from the legal trade to the illicit trade take place in Commonwealth countries? Are there regional commonalities? Which stages in the life cycle of conventional arms are most vulnerable to diversion? What legislative or enforcement gaps or loopholes are being exploited to facilitate diversion?

Case Study 1: Africa - Theft and looting of stockpiles, including seized and collected weapons

Case Study 2: Latin America and the Caribbean - Legally bought arms diverted to criminal end users

Case Study 3: Asia and the Pacific - Diversion during the transfer chain: unauthorised re-export / falsified paperwork

Case Study 4: Europe and North America - Reactivation and conversion of non-lethal weapons into lethal weapons that are diverted to the illicit market.

1000-1115

3. Improving detection of diversion activity and identification of diverted SALW and ammunition: the law enforcement challenge

This session looks at the challenges of detecting diversion activity and identifying diverted SALW and ammunition from the perspective of law enforcement. What tools, techniques and systems could improve diversion detection and weapons identification? How can we close any legislative or policy gaps to improve the effectiveness of enforcement action? In which areas can a regional approach or improved international cooperation help to prevent and reduce diversion?

- Identifying and tracing seized, recovered or surrendered SALW and ammunition - Interpol database
- Detection during transportation, shipping and warehousing: right to interdict
- In-country diversion – the role of firearms focal points in information sharing and intelligence gathering

*Hugh Griffiths

Senior researcher, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

*Ian Head

Head of Intelligence, National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS)

1115-1145

Photograph followed by tea/coffee

1145-1300

4. Measures to prevent and address diversion before and during an international transfer

This session looks at practical measures that states apply to prevent diversion before and during an international transfer. What constitutes a robust assessment to determine that there is no risk, or a low risk, of diversion before authorising the export or brokering of a shipment of conventional arms and ammunition? What can be done to prevent or address diversion during the transit and transportation of conventional arms?

- Export controls: Canada
- Regulating brokering: Namibia
- Regulating transit and transportation: Singapore

*Dominic Matale

Assistant Director, Zambian Ministry of Defence

1300-1400

Lunch

1400-1500

5. Import and storage regulations

This session looks at practical measures that states apply to prevent diversion before and after an international transfer takes place. What steps can be taken to ensure that imported conventional arms and ammunition are not diverted? Which measures are most effective for ensuring that government-held weapons are not diverted from storage sites? How can we prevent the diversion of arms and ammunition that are legally held by civilians and PSC?

- Regulating imports: Ghana
- Storage regulations for government-held weapons: Pacific Islands
- Storage regulations for weapons in the hands of PSC and/or civilians: Jamaica

*Leonard Tetey

Program Officer, Ghana National Commission on Small Arms and Light Weapons

1500-1600

6. Strengthening diversion risk assessments: Exercise Alpha

Participants will work in three groups to assess the risk of diversion during an international arms transfer, and propose mitigation measures from the perspective of:

1. Exporting state
2. Importing state
3. Transit or trans-shipment state

1600-1630

Tea/coffee

1630-1730

7. Exercise Alpha report back and reflections on transfer controls measures in Commonwealth countries

1830

Reception followed by dinner

Friday 8 February

0800-0900

Breakfast and checkout

0900-1030

8. Improving diversion detection and identification of diverted SALW and ammunition: the role of the manufacturer

This session examines how arms manufacturers implement national legislation, which complies with international commitments and obligations, to improve weapons identification and prevent diversion. It will also explore national approaches to the challenges and opportunities posed by new developments in SALW production, such as the regulation of modular weapons, 3D printing of SALW parts and components, conversion, reactivation, and local craft production.

- Regulating production: translating international commitments into national legislation: India or South Africa
- Measures undertaken by manufacturers to improve detection and identification
- Options for addressing craft production, including conversion and reactivation: Nigeria

***Nkemakonam Dickson Orji**

President, West Africa Action Network on Small Arms

1030-1100

Tea/coffee

1100-1200

9. Cooperation and assistance for Commonwealth countries

This session will explore how to effectively share best practice and lessons learned across the Commonwealth, including through the CACCI portal. Participants will identify areas where they can contribute knowledge, policy and technical expertise or funding to support capacity building in other Commonwealth countries. Participants will also discuss potential sources of bilateral and multilateral assistance and identify areas where a multi-country or regional project request could be of benefit.

***Dumisani DlaDla**

Head, the Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat

1200-1220

10. Conclusions

1220-1230

11. Evaluation survey

Completion of online survey

1230

Lunch

1400

Participants depart

This is a preview programme and as such may be subject to change.

This is an invitation only conference.

Enquiries about participation to: Wendy Head, Project Manager

T: +44 (0)1903 817695 | F: +44 (0)1903 816373 | E: wendy.head@wiltonpark.org.uk

Enquiries about the programme to: Olivier Weatherston, Programme Director

T: +44 (0)1903 817767 | F: +44 (0)1903 816373 | E: olivier.weatherston@wiltonpark.org.uk