BICC and UNIDIR partner to test software tool on small arms control in South Sudan

The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC) have agreed to jointly test a software tool aimed at enhancing the practical application of the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) in South Sudan. The software, which is currently being developed by UNIDIR, allows stakeholders, including governments, international organisations, and civil society groups to measure, prioritize and evaluate their implementation efforts of small arms control commitments through assisting in small arms programme design, data collection, management and assessment.

The ISACS, developed by a voluntary global network of experts drawn from the UN, governments, international and regional organisations, civil society, and the private sector, provide detailed guidance to assist States in implementing the norms and commitments from existing global small arms control agreements, in order to exercise effective control over the full cycle of small arms and light weapons under their jurisdiction.

Testing of the software will take place during the first week of July in Juba, the capital of South Sudan. BICC has a long-standing presence in South Sudan, and has been providing technical advice on small arms control to the Government of South Sudan on behalf of the German Foreign Office since 2010. The ISACS software project is part of UNIDIR’s Process and Practice research program, which focuses on translating ideas for disarmament and security into practical action. During the tests, the utility of the software tool will be assessed, and the potential users can provide feedback on how to improve upon the tool.