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**Promoting Discussion on an Arms Trade Treaty
European Union–UNIDIR Project**

**Regional Seminar for Countries in
Central, Northern and Western Africa**

**28–29 April 2009
Dakar, Senegal**

SUMMARY REPORT

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Introduction

Following the decision by the Council of the European Union (2009/42/CFSP) “on support for EU activities in order to promote among third countries the process leading towards an Arms Trade Treaty, in the framework of the European Security Strategy”, adopted on 19 January 2009, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) is implementing a project to promote the participation of all stakeholders in the discussions around an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The goal of the Project is to integrate national and regional contributions to the international process underway and to contribute to identifying the scope and implications of a treaty on trade in conventional arms. In order to achieve this goal, the Project aims to facilitate the exchange of views among states, regional organizations and civil society by encouraging discussions around different aspects of a possible international treaty on the arms trade. These views will serve as an important input to current discussions on an ATT and support and stimulate related national, regional and international debates.

The first regional seminar of the Project was held in Dakar, Senegal on 28–29 April 2009. It was directed to the countries of Central, Northern and West Africa.¹ Nineteen out of 27 states in the regions sent representatives to the seminar, mostly from Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence (see attachment 1). This paper presents a narrative report of the seminar proceedings and discussions, as well as the ideas and suggestions put forward. It represents the impressions and views of the organizers at UNIDIR, based on their account of the presentations and discussions of the seminar. This report is not intended to be a consensus report, and it therefore does not necessarily represent the views of all seminar participants.

Presentations and discussions²

Opening presentations

At the opening session, its chair, Dr. Christiane Agboton-Johnson, Deputy Director of UNIDIR, welcomed all participants to Dakar and to the seminar, on behalf of Ms. Theresa Hitchens, Director of UNIDIR. She explained briefly the background, rationale and aims of the EU–UNIDIR project, as well as the plan for the seminar itself, also noting that by implementing the project, UNIDIR, based on its mandate, is promoting multilateral and comprehensive participation of all stakeholders in the ATT process to increase the awareness of relevant actors about a possible international treaty on the arms trade, and to facilitate the exchange of views between states, regional organizations, civil society and industry representatives. She also warmly thanked Senegal and the European Union for their active support in organizing the seminar.

¹ Invited countries: Algeria, Benin, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Central African Republic, Chad, Côte d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Gabon, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Libya, Mali, Mauritania, Morocco, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of the Congo, São Tomé and Príncipe, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Togo and Tunisia.

² See the seminar’s agenda, attachment 2.

The seminar was officially opened by H.E. Mr. Bécaye Diop, Minister of State and Minister of Defence of Senegal. In his opening remarks he thanked UNIDIR and the European Union for all their efforts in organizing the seminar and welcomed all participants to its deliberations. Minister Diop noted that an ATT is both feasible and desirable, and discussions about its nature are most welcomed by Senegal. Instead of developing into a treaty with limited scope and value, Minister Diop referred to the need for a comprehensive approach to an ATT, with aspects such as human rights and sustainable development as important interlinked issues. He also wished the ATT process a speedy and fruitful conclusion.

Mr. Andreas Strub from the EU Council General Secretariat highlighted the European Union's commitment to achieving a legally binding ATT to better control the unregulated and uncontrolled spread of conventional arms, which continues to pose a serious threat to peace and security in many parts of the world. He underlined inclusiveness as a key to the success of the ATT process, and welcomed the format of the Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) discussions where all states are given the opportunity to talk constructively about the content of a future ATT. In this regard, Mr. Strub pointed out the importance of offering all stakeholders the opportunity to learn about the specific issues at stake in an ATT and to contribute with their national views to official consultations.

In his presentation about the development and processes around the ATT initiative in the United Nations, as well as about the importance of the initiative in Central, Northern and West Africa, Mr. Said Djinnit, the UN Special Representative and Head of the UN Office for West Africa, reminded participants about the history of the ATT initiative and its latest developments. He also underlined the potential that such a treaty would have to promote peace and security in Africa. As Mr. Djinnit noted, the continent has paid a heavy price, notably in terms of stability, human security and economic and social development, for the tremendous deficit of control and regulation in the arms trade. While weapons cannot be considered as a cause of conflict by themselves, their proliferation and—above all—their illicit and irresponsible use continue to exacerbate violence and fuel criminal and terrorist activities in a number of African subregions. This is a crucial factor calling for an international treaty to control their transfers.

As the last speaker of the opening session, Mr. Baffour Amoa, president of the West African Action Network on Small Arms, reflected on the efforts of the many civil society organizations that continue to work tirelessly on various platforms and in collaboration with other international networks as part of the Control Arms Campaign to promote an ATT. He referred to the active role played by governments and civil society in Central, North and West Africa in the ATT process, and noted that support for an ATT is growing in Africa. Mr. Amoa also communicated to the participants the main outcomes of the IANSA–UNREC³ Lomé Workshop of civil society organizations (15–16 April 2009) and the meeting of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) in Cairo (31 March–1 April 2009).

³ International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC). For more information, see: www.iansa.org/updates/index.htm#togo; http://unrec.org/en/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=337; and www.iansa.org/updates/update260309.htm#mena.

General overview of arms transfers and the proposed ATT

Mr. Pieter Wezeman from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI) talked about statistics of arms transfers to Central, North and West Africa. He noted that while the volume of arms transfers to these regions is low (an estimated 3% of world transfers), supplies of weapons coming from a wide variety of countries have played a major role in the armed conflicts in the regions in recent years. Arms production capabilities in the countries of these regions are very limited and are likely to be based on imported technology, machinery and basic components. Small scale craft production of crude firearms takes place in these regions. Mr. Wezeman pointed out that of all conventional weapons, small arms and light weapons (SALW) are the weapons most commonly used in the violent conflicts in these countries. Many of them have in recent years acquired significant quantities of SALW, but due to a lack of detailed information, specificities about the trade are impossible to gauge. According to Mr. Wezeman, a key challenge in the region is to understand which arms supplies provoke, prolong and aggravate conflicts and which supplies contribute to security and stability.

Ms. Perrine Le Meur from the Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique (FRS) discussed the general parameters, scope and implications of an ATT. According to her, an ATT should address the whole complex category of conventional weapons. While all states seem to agree upon some types of weapons to be covered by an ATT, for example those of the seven categories of the UN Conventional Arms Register plus the “eighth category” of SALW, others seem to cause more problems, such as dual-use goods or ammunition. An ATT could cover activities such as exports, imports, trans-shipment, brokering, sales for free and loans. These activities should be clearly defined to limit the risk of diversion of any arm transfers to unidentified end-users. On parameters that could be included in an ATT, it was recalled that the objective is to establish global standards applicable to all states. The criteria described by states are based on security concerns but also on ethical considerations, as compliance with existing commitments (international and regional commitments, UN embargoes), taking into account the end user (non-state actors, terrorists), the potential uses of arms transferred, and the impact of transfers in economic terms and in terms of internal or regional security. Finally, Ms. Le Meur stressed some issues, such as universality of the future treaty, its implementation at national level and regional mechanisms for monitoring and verification, as being of central importance. She also noted that the experience of states in the region must be fully utilized, as their commitment is essential for the success of the process.

Finally, Ms. Jacqueline Seck from the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) talked about illicit SALW and conventional arms transfers in Africa and their impact on security. She noted that armed violence, mostly conducted with SALW, is one of the main factors hindering development on the continent, negatively affecting both the security of individuals and economic activities. She mentioned that the availability of excess arms has multiple negative effects: it can negatively impact infrastructure and social service structures, hamper economic activities, deteriorate social cohesion and accelerate forced migration or the displacement of populations. Therefore, Ms. Seck underlined the importance of establishing rigorous controls over transfers of weapons, especially SALW, on the

African continent, and urged all states to actively participate in the ATT discussions and later negotiations.

Regional perspectives on an ATT

During the session on regional perspectives on an ATT, presentations were delivered about the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) Convention as well as about the activities of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS) to prevent illicit arms trafficking in Central Africa. Following previous presentations about the main weapons of choice in Africa, special emphasis on the presentations was on SALW. In the spirit of exchanging inter-regional experiences, a presentation was also made about the EU Code of Conduct on arms transfers.

Mr. Cyriaque Agnekethom from the ECOWAS Commission stressed the importance of controlling SALW proliferation in the West African subregion. He pointed to the potential of the ECOWAS Convention, which would provide ECOWAS with a legally binding instrument to strengthen controls over SALW in West Africa and perpetuate efforts for their control. He quoted several paragraphs of the Convention that are of direct relevance to the ATT initiative, including the definition of transfers as well as transfer exemption criteria and procedures. The ECOWAS Convention has so far been ratified by seven states. According to Mr. Agnekethom, ratification is one of the urgent next steps for ECOWAS member states.

Mr. Jacques Mvom, representing ECCAS, noted that Central Africa is one of the regions most affected by problems related to SALW. He presented the history of ECCAS' action to enhance control over these weapons and to improve security in the region. In this regard, he highlighted the importance of ECCAS' joint efforts with the United Nations and civil society organizations. According to Mr. Mvom, ECCAS continues to fight against the illicit trade and proliferation of SALW in the region, and hopes that a legally binding treaty on this issue for the Central African region planned to enter into force by the end of 2010, will help in harmonizing laws and other relevant procedures in Central Africa.

As a practical example of implementing arms transfer criteria, Mr. Baskar Rosaz, an expert participant from the French Ministry of Defence, presented the experience of the European Union, and especially its Common Position 2008/944/CFSP (defining common rules governing control of exports of military technology and equipment). The EU Code of Conduct on Arms Exports was, the first regional politically binding instrument of its kind when adopted in 1998. Since January 2009 it became a legally binding instrument, following the adoption of the EU Common Position on Arms Exports that replaces and updates the Code of Conduct. The Common Position establishes "high common standards" for all EU member states to use when making arms export decisions. It has introduced common principles, objectives and practices to arms transfer decisions in the EU member states. Mr. Rosaz noted that the Code has a unique operative mechanism designed to increase transparency within the European Union. Member states are to report to each other when an export license has been denied based on the Code criteria. If another state intends to grant a license for an "essentially identical transaction" that was denied within the past three years, it must first consult with the state that first made the denial. Member states are also required to provide to each other annual reports on their arms exports and implementation of the

Code. According to Mr. Rosaz, the first ten years of the Code's implementation have resulted in greater coherence and convergence among EU member states in arms export practices, based on the eight common criteria, and significantly increased transparency of these activities within the European Union.

Human security and a possible ATT

Col. Babacar Diouf from the Armed Forces of Senegal discussed the general concept of human security and its historical development from theoretical discussions to a generally accepted practical and political concept. Presenting some pressing human security concerns for the African continent and linking those with the possibilities of an ATT, Col. Diouf concluded that while an international legally binding treaty controlling the trade in arms would not be a panacea for the region, it would however undoubtedly have a significant impact on human security in Africa. In order for it to be successful, an ATT should take a comprehensive approach to human security and explore possible synergies with other, related processes, such as UN Security Council resolution 1325 on Women, Peace and Security, DDR and the UN Programme of Action on SALW.

Ms. Johanne Levasseur from the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) presented the ICRC's work and vision about international humanitarian law (IHL) and its relevance to an ATT. She reminded participants that IHL is a set of rules intended, in times of armed conflict, to protect individuals who are not or are no longer taking part in the hostilities, and to regulate the conduct of hostilities. International human rights law protects the individual at all times, also in peacetime, against the arbitrary action of the state. As Ms. Levasseur pointed out, transfers of military weapons or equipment provide the recipient with the means to engage in armed conflict, the conduct of which is regulated by IHL. Therefore, arms transfer decisions should include a consideration of whether the recipient is likely to abide by IHL, and transfers should not be authorized if there is a clear risk that the arms will be used to commit serious violations.

Working groups and roundtable discussions

The first day of the seminar was devoted to presentations followed by question and answer sessions and general discussion in the plenary. The second day of the seminar was built around working group sessions and roundtable discussions, to allow participants to further express their views and ideas and to discuss different issues relevant to a possible ATT.

In the morning of Day 2, after a short recap of Day 1, made by Mr. Fabio Della Piazza from the EU Council Secretariat, seminar participants were divided into three groups that were asked to think about some central issues around an ATT and come up with opinions, ideas and suggestions. Issues discussed included participants' ideas about common principles and parameters that should be followed in an ATT; the scope of an ATT in terms of items and activities to be covered; as well as possible items and activities that should be left out of an ATT. Participants also discussed how an ATT could contribute to human security in Central, Northern and Western Africa. Finally, issues related to challenges and next steps on an ATT were taken up in the working groups and further elaborated during roundtable discussions.

Priority issues and concerns discussed in the working groups and during the roundtable session on next steps are summarized in the “Recommendations and ideas” section of this report. Participation in the working groups and plenary discussions was lively. Overall, Day 2 was successful in helping to advance and deepen the knowledge of participants about issues related to an ATT and to bring out new suggestions and ideas.

Closing session

The closing session was chaired by Dr. Christiane Agboton-Johnson, Deputy Director of UNIDIR, who again stressed the important and fruitful cooperation between UNIDIR, the European Union and Senegal in organizing the seminar. Ms. Elli Kytömäki of UNIDIR then gave a short summary presentation of the seminar’s proceedings and discussions. The European Union speaker, Ms. Kateřina Sequensova, representing the Czech Presidency of the European Union, expressed her appreciation to all participants for their active participation in the informative and productive discussions.

Col. Meïssa Niang, from the Ministry of Defence of Senegal, gave the official closing remarks of the seminar. He thanked all participants for the lively discussions and a good exchange of views that enabled all present to deepen their knowledge about the arms trade and trafficking, and related global principles and regional initiatives, which undoubtedly will contribute to the ongoing ATT process.

Recommendations and ideas

The following is a compilation of ideas and recommendations made during the seminar presentations and discussions. While not necessarily fully consensual, these issues seemed to attract general support and acceptance among seminar participants and could be used to feed in to and support the currently ongoing international discussions on an ATT from the perspective of Central, Northern and West African states.

An ATT should be based on globally accepted parameters

Among all groups, a consensus was emerging that principles to be taken into account in an ATT should centrally include states’ existing obligations and commitments, such as the UN Charter,⁴ Security Council resolutions⁵ and UN embargoes. Most group discussions concluded that also principles of IHL and the importance of respect for human rights should be included as central parameters for an ATT.⁶

Other principles mentioned in group discussions included state security and sovereignty, conflict prevention and non-discrimination. Also, gender considerations were stressed by some participants as important factors in determining the parameters for an ATT.

⁴ Including Article 51 on states’ right to self-defence.

⁵ Some reservations were expressed with regard to “relevant” UN Security Council resolutions and their potential role as parameters legitimizing or prohibiting arms transfers.

⁶ Some participants questioned who would decide whether the application of the parameters are met, and whether or not, for example, a state meets its IHL commitments.

Some participants mentioned regional embargoes and sanctions as important guiding parameters for an ATT. However, being binding only in their respective regions, the possible links between regional embargoes with international commitments and inclusion in a possible ATT was left open. Currently existing European parameters were seen by many as an encouraging example to other regions; direct application of one region's parameters should however be approached with caution, keeping in mind that a global treaty should be based on global parameters.

The groups also discussed considerations based on likely users of weapons, such as a treaty's possibilities to limit arms transfer to terrorists or non-state actors. The latter point stimulated lively debates, with participants having diverse views regarding the definitions and other considerations related to the desirability to control transfers to non-state actors.

In terms of parameters based on likely impacts that weapons might have in the recipient country or region, sustainable development and regional stability were mentioned by most participants as deserving serious consideration.⁷ Transparency was also mentioned as a central parameter that should guide arms transfer decisions.

Comprehensive scope for an ATT

With regard to the scope of an ATT in terms of categories of weapons to be covered, consensus was reached that "all conventional weapons", i.e. the seven categories of the UN Conventional Arms Register plus the "eighth category" of SALW,⁸ should be the basis for an ATT. Furthermore, most participants seemed to agree on the inclusion of a comprehensive list of additional items, such as ammunition, explosives, manufacturing technology, dual-use items, parts and components in the scope of an ATT. The use of already existing lists, such as those of ECOWAS or the Wassenaar Arrangement, were mentioned as possibilities.

With regard to activities and transactions, there was wide support for the inclusion of export, import, transfer, trans-shipment and re-exportation. Also, local manufacturing, licensed production overseas and technology transfers were mentioned in most group discussions as desirable activities to be covered in an ATT. Hope was also expressed that an ATT could solve problems related to the illicit brokering of weapons as well as their unlicensed production and re-exportation. Most participants seemed to agree that an ATT should ban all transfers to non-authorized non-state actors.

Also, most participants seemed to agree that an ATT should concentrate on international transfers, not domestic ones, since the latter are a question falling under each state's national jurisdiction.

⁷ According to the report from the Lomé civil society meeting on 15–16 April, delivered at the seminar, civil society actors in Africa agreed on how international law in their view should apply to international arms transfers, including principles of the UN Charter, human rights law, international humanitarian law and socio-economic development.

⁸ One participant noted that hand guns and hunting weapons should be left to the discretion of national authorities.

Priority: preventing uncontrolled and destabilizing transfers of SALW in Africa

SALW were mentioned in all group discussions as a priority issue for Central, Northern and West Africa in terms of a possible ATT. SALW are the most commonly used weapons in violent conflicts in Africa and its sub-regions, particularly by non-state actors, and it is widely acknowledged that the uncontrolled spread of these weapons throughout societies poses a threat to national and regional stability in Africa.

While not unique in terms of trade, SALW represent the bulk of arms transfers in the region, as illustrated in the SIPRI presentation. The impact of that trade is magnified by the easy concealability of these weapons, lack of transparency in exports and imports, as well as the lack of fully developed marking and tracing systems and related legislation that as yet do not fully incorporate data on existing weapons.

When discussing SALW transfers and problems related to their proliferation, many participants also referred to the huge costs of armed violence, mostly committed with SALW and fuelled by irresponsible arms transfers. This was noted to lead to the loss of lives and livelihoods, which then again have wider impacts on societies in terms of undermining economies, over-burdening healthcare systems and disrupting educational systems.

As noted in the ECOWAS presentation, with strong political will these issues can be addressed. Transparency in arms transfers—especially of SALW—should be promoted and clear and simple principles should be introduced to govern them. These were noted as minimum necessary goals of a possible ATT.

ATT to improve human security in Africa—“freedom from fear”

In the group discussions it was noted that an ATT could significantly contribute to reducing human suffering, instability and conflicts in the African sub-region by reducing the proliferation of weapons. Many participants also hoped that an ATT could assist in increasing respect for human rights and be effective in the fight against crime and terrorism. Reducing the number of war crimes, genocides and suffering, as well as preventing crimes against humanity, were noted as important possible contributions of an ATT to improving human security. Furthermore, a crucial desirable goal for an ATT would be to give people “freedom from fear”. Many participants also referred to the link between sustainable development and the possible ATT, stressing the importance of taking developmental aspects into account when drafting such a treaty.

The need to reinforce the ECOWAS Convention in this regard was stressed by many participants, who saw the Convention as having great potential in contributing to peace and the reduction of conflicts and suffering in the region. Related to the discussion on an ATT’s contribution to improved human security in Africa, many participants referred to the need to ensure that states have the capacity to stockpile their weapons in a secure manner, and that local production of arms is effectively controlled by states. Even though seen mostly as internal matters of states, stockpile management, local/artisanal production of weapons and record-keeping were considered as essential elements affecting the possibilities of success of an ATT.

Importance of transparency measures and mutual cooperation

Transparency was highlighted in the groups as an important principle guiding arms transfer decisions in a possible ATT. During the discussions, points about state sovereignty, international cooperation and assistance were raised and noted to be important factors to be taken into account, both in designing an ATT and in ensuring its effective implementation.

In general, a lack of governmental transparency in arms procurement in Africa obstructs an informed debate.

Lack of transparency in arms procurement processes was noted to remain common among African states. This is demonstrated in the low level of participation of African states in the reporting to the UN Register of Conventional Arms. Some improvements were noted to be underway in the ECOWAS region, where the currently restricted information exchanges between member states will become publicly available once the Convention enters into force.

Overall, lack of transparency in arms transfers to, and arms procurement in, Africa was said to obstruct an informed ATT debate, and some participants noted that it would also be a serious obstacle for the verification and measurement of effectiveness of an eventual ATT. In this regard, comments were made regarding the need to ensure that weapons are not diverted and that their possible re-exportation to new end-users is informed and transparent.

Challenges: economic interests, slow global negotiations, diverse priorities

The final session of the seminar was devoted to discussing possible next steps and challenges in the ATT process nationally, regionally and globally. While some participants pointed out problematic issues with regard to both negotiating a legally binding arms trade treaty and implementing it, in most comments it was noted that the more substantial discussions and consultations are needed in process leading towards an ATT. However, this should not indefinitely postpone the actual negotiations on a treaty.

Differing interests and priorities of producer states and recipient states was noted as a crucial challenge for the formulation of an ATT that should take into account both the economic interests of large weapon manufacturers and exporters as well as countries that currently suffer from the consequences of the illicit and uncontrolled proliferation of conventional weapons.

While the model of “like minded states” as a motor for the discussion and negotiation process was noted to be a potentially effective way forward, it was also noted that a challenge will be to include all views in the debate early enough and to make sure that the maximum number of states join and ratify the treaty at an early stage. Regional organizations were mentioned as possible useful fora for addressing this challenge.

Most interventions concentrated on challenges related to negotiating an ATT. However, some participants pointed to possible difficulties related to monitoring the actual implementation of the treaty once in force. In this regard, it was pointed out that

capacity-building and assistance will be necessary once a treaty is adopted, and that these issues should be taken into account already when negotiating the treaty.

Related to challenges of the negotiation process, one participant noted that an important principle should not be forgotten, namely the freedom of each state to draw up and enter into contracts. Also stressed were the challenges related to introducing precautionary principles and principles of public order in an ATT. It was recalled that an international treaty cannot replace national legislation, and that the main responsibility to fulfil the obligations of an ATT will lie with states. Therefore, an ATT will have to clearly specify what the expected obligations of states are.

Next steps: continued awareness-raising, inclusive discussions and exchange of information

The need for continued awareness-raising and sharing of information about a potential treaty and its possibilities and implications was noted by all groups as being of utmost importance.

Civil society actors were noted as invaluable partners to governments in the regions, especially given the bottom-up nature of the problems related to proliferation of arms in Africa. Further active involvement of NGOs, for example through sensitization of National Commissions, was noted as an important next step.

Following presentations by regional organizations, participants agreed that further involvement of regional organizations should be encouraged, since they tend to have political leverage and practical impact in the regions. Some participants mentioned that regional organizations might engage in developing possible common regional positions that could then feed into the UN process. In the African context, the desirability of an African Union common position was mentioned, but it was noted that this might be too time consuming and therefore the sub-regional forming of positions might be more efficient.

Continued inclusiveness of discussions in the ATT process was highlighted as extremely important. African states should have the possibility to be present in the debates and later negotiations, and in general all states should realize the mutual benefits of being parties to a global ATT and its universal impacts. Commitment of both exporting and importing states in the process was noted as very important. Moreover, other actors, such as experts of international trade and media representatives, should be engaged in the debates and kept informed about the process.

General results

The first regional seminar of the EU–UNIDIR project in Dakar was successful and fully met its goals. Nineteen states from the region sent participants to the seminar, mostly from Ministries of Foreign Affairs and Defence. The level of participation was high: the seminar was opened by the Minister of Defence of Senegal, and attended by several senior-ranking officers from the host country as well as from the other countries in the region. Furthermore, the UN Special Representative and Head of the UN Office for West Africa, the Director of the UN Regional Centre for Peace and

Disarmament in Africa, the UN Resident Representative in Senegal, as well as representatives of the Czech Presidency of the European Union and the EU Council General Secretariat took part in the seminar. In addition to regional and expert participants, the opening and closing sessions of the seminar were attended by several diplomatic representations in Dakar, as well as numerous journalists.

The seminar attracted much media attention in Senegal and in the region. In addition to newspaper coverage, the seminar was also covered in a news report on national television on 28 April 2009, and in several radio programmes.

Presentations made at the seminar gave a comprehensive overview of the issues relevant to the Project and an ATT in the Central, Northern and West Africa, and discussions after the presentations, as well as during the working group sessions, brought up additional aspects, comments and questions.

Participants received USB memory sticks with extensive background material relevant to an ATT. This additional material, together with information brochures, publications and other hard copy materials made available during the seminar were very well received. The presentations and the food-for-thought questionnaire sent to all participants before the seminar were noted as useful and supportive in deepening knowledge and understanding of issues discussed during the seminar. Seminar helped participants to establish new contacts with colleagues in other countries working on ATT-related issues, and a great majority indicated that their participation in the seminar will improve the contribution of their state to the ATT process at national, regional and international levels.

Way forward

After the first regional seminar, UNIDIR has continued the organization of the remaining five regional seminars, to be organized for states in the Americas, the Caribbean, the Middle East, Asia, Central Asia and the Pacific, and Europe within the next 12 months. All the regional seminars will follow the same general structure, while remaining flexible to regional specificities, interests and circumstances.

In addition to the regional seminars the project implementation plan contains a launch seminar (held in Geneva on 24 February 2009), a side event on the margins of First Committee (the Sixty-fourth Session of the General Assembly), and a final seminar to present the overall results of the project. Summary reports from all the regional seminars outlining discussions, ideas and recommendations put forward for an ATT will be made available online. A final report compiling the summary reports of the regional seminars will be produced and presented for comments at the concluding seminar, and made available online at <www.unidir.ch/att>.



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Regional Seminar for Central, Northern and Western Africa 28-29 April 2009

Hotel Savana Dakar, Pointe Bernard-Petite Corniche, 6096 Dakar, Senegal

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Togo	Kwassivi O. AQUEREBURU * Officer, Conventional Arms matters, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Tunisia	

Other participants

Amnesty International Morocco	Salah ABDELLAOUI
Amnesty International Senegal	Seydi GASSAMA
Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)	Jacques MVOM *
Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)	Cyriaque AGNEKETHOM
EU Presidency	Katerina SEQUENSOVÁ Czech Presidency of the European Union
EU Council Secretariat	Andreas STRUB Secretariat of the Council of the European Union Fabio DELLA PIAZZA Secretariat of the Council of the European Union
Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique (FRS) Expert, Ministry of Defence, France	Perrine LE MEUR * Baskar ROSAZ * Desk Officer, Export Control Rules, French Ministry of Defence
International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)	Johanne LEVASSEUR
Network of Journalists for Peace and Security in West Africa	Khoudia DIOP
Senegalese Action Network on Small Arms	Honoré-Georges NDIAYE
Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI)	Pieter WEZEMAN *
United Nations Office for West Africa	Said DJINNIT UN Special Representative and Head of the UN Office for West Africa
United Nations Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC)	Jacqueline SECK * Director
UNDP Senegal	Bouri SANHOUIDI UN Resident Representative
WILPF – DRC Group	Annie MATUNDU-MBAMBI * Chairwoman
West African Action Network on Small Arms (WAANSA)	Baffour AMOA *

UNIDIR Participants

UNIDIR	Christiane AGBOTON-JOHNSON * Deputy Director
UNIDIR	Elli KYTÖMÄKI * Project Manager
UNIDIR	Catherine DÉLICE * Assistant Project Officer

Participants of the Opening & Closing Sessions

Austria	Alexander MARSCHIK Ambassador, Head of Disarmament Section, Ministry of Foreign Affairs
	Gerhard DOUJAK Ambassador, Embassy of Austria, Dakar
Canada	Benoit GAUTHIER Embassy of Canada, Dakar
France	Charles DE KERSABIEC Defence Attaché, Embassy of France, Dakar
Pakistan	Rizwan Ahmed SHEIKH Embassy of Pakistan, Dakar
Portugal	Carolina CORDEIRO Embassy of Portugal, Dakar
Russian Federation	Alexey POPOV Embassy of the Russian Federation, Dakar
	Andrey ORDASH Embassy of the Russian Federation, Dakar
United Kingdom	Julia EDWARDS Embassy of the UK, Dakar
EC delegation in Dakar	Alexandra SZCZEPANSKA
ICRC	Toomkara Diame IBRAHIMIA
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Dakar, 28 April 2009

Promoting Discussion on an Arms Trade Treaty

Regional Seminar for Central, Northern and Western Africa 28-29 April 2009

Hotel Savana Dakar, Pointe Bernard-Petite Corniche, 6096 Dakar, Senegal

AGENDA

Monday, 27 April 2009

During the day: arrival of participants

18:30–19:00 **Registration**

DAY 1

Tuesday, 28 April 2009

08:30–09:00 **Registration**

09:00–10:00 **Opening Session**

Chair: Dr. Christiane Agboton-Johnson, United Nations Institute for
Disarmament Research

Keynote addresses:

H.E. Mr. Bécaye Diop, Minister of State and Minister of Defense,
Senegal

Mr. Andreas Strub, Deputy Personal Representative of the High
Representative on Non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction,
Secretariat of the Council of the European Union

Presentations:

Developments and Processes within the United Nations
Mr. Said Djinnit, UN Special Representative and Head of the UN Office for West Africa

Civil Society's Contribution to the ATT process in the region
Mr. Baffour Amoa, President, West African Action Network on Small Arms (WAANSA)

10:45–11:00 Coffee break

11:00–13:00 **SESSION I: General overview of arms transfers and the proposed ATT**

Chair: Senegal

Overview of Arms Transfers – globally and in the region
Mr. Pieter Wezeman, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

Illicit SALW/CA transfers and their impact on security in Africa
Ms. Jacqueline Seck, Director, United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa

Parameters, scope and implications of an arms trade treaty
Ms. Perrine Le Meur, Fondation pour la Recherche Stratégique

Discussion.

13:00–14:30 Lunch at conference venue

14:30–16:15 **SESSION II: Regional perspectives on an ATT**

Chair: Ms. Katerina Sequensova, Czech Presidency of the European Union

ECOWAS Convention
Mr. Cyriaque Agnekethom, ECOWAS Secretariat

ECCAS activities to prevent illicit arms trafficking in Central Africa
Mr. Jacques Mvom, Economic Community of Central African States

Practical example of operationalizing transfer criteria
Mr. Baskar Rosaz, Desk Officer, Export Control Rules, French Ministry of Defence

Discussion.

16:15–16:30 Coffee break

16:30–18:00 **SESSION III: Human Security and a Possible ATT**

Chair: Ms. Elli Kytömäki, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research

Human Security and a possible ATT: African Regional Perspective
Col Babacar Diouf, Armed Forces of Senegal

ATT and International Humanitarian Law
Ms. Johanne Levasseur, International Committee of the Red Cross

19:00–20:30 **Reception hosted by the Government of Senegal**

DAY 2

Wednesday, 29 April 2009

09:00–11:00 **SESSION IV: Kick-off presentations followed by three working groups: further exploration of transfer criteria for an ATT – regional perspectives**

Chair: Mr. Fabio della Piazza, Office of the Personal Representative of the High Representative on Non-proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction, Secretariat of the Council of the European Union

Working group discussion.

11:00–11:15 Coffee break

11:15–13:00 **Session IV continued: Wrap-up of group work in the three working groups, and presentation of their results in the plenary**

13:00–15:00 Lunch at conference venue

15:00–16:30 **SESSION V: Roundtable – Next Steps: Gathering ideas, recommendations and suggestions**

Chair: UNDP Senegal

Panelists: Selection of four speakers from Sessions I-III and active participants. Short (5 min) inputs followed by panel discussion and open floor.

16:30–17:00 **Closing Session**

Chair: Christiane Agboton-Johnson, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
UNIDIR: Summary presentation of the seminar's discussions

Closing remarks:

Senegal

Ms. Katerina Sequensová, Czech Presidency of the European Union

17:00–17:30 **Press Conference**