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United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime

**Addressing Firearms Trafficking in the
Context of Fighting International Terrorism
– A Criminal Justice Approach**

CTC Open Briefing on the nexus between international terrorism and
transnational organized crime

8 October 2018, New York

**Firearms Trafficking is
linked to multiple security
threats**



Cybercrime



**Trafficking in
Cultural Property**



Illegal Fishing & Wildlife



Human Trafficking



Drug Trafficking



Terrorism



Violent Crime



- **Procurement of illicit firearms**

Perpetrators exploit established networks and connections as well as trafficking channels and modalities, including pre-existing or new links to organized crime groups, to gain access to weapons

- **Level of violence**

Firearms increase the destructive power and violence level of organized criminal and terrorist groups

- **Financing of activities**

Organized criminal and terrorist groups increasingly engage in transnational organized criminal activities, including firearms trafficking, to finance their terrorist activities



In recent attacks in Europe, terrorists have resorted to the reactivation of deactivated weapons, or the conversion of acoustic/blank firing guns, i.e. Paris attacks in 2015



Significant quantities of weapons seized by the authorities of Niger, during an attempt to traffic them to Mali and deliver them to terrorist groups.





Sources of Firearms Acquired by OC and Terrorists

- Domestic sources
 - Leakage from factories/surplus stocks
 - Loss of control over government stocks
 - Theft
 - Firearm conversion and re-activation
- International arms trade
 - Diversion from legal transfers
 - Interception of legal transfers



Common challenges in countering firearms trafficking

- Weak legislative and institutional frameworks
- Lack of specialized skills and knowledge on firearms
- Porosity of borders/weak border control capacity
- Insufficient criminal justice response
- Lack of international cooperation and coordination among LE agencies, customs and prosecutors
- Insufficient empiric knowledge and understanding of firearms trafficking





The International Legal Framework on Firearms and Other Conventional Arms



Crime control

Organized Crime Convention (UNTOC)

2001/2003

Parties : 189

Firearms Protocol

2001/2005

Parties : 115

Disarmament

UN Programme of Action on SALW

2001

International Tracing Instrument

2005

Trade regulation

Arms Trade Treaty

2013/2014

States parties: 95

Addressing illicit arms trafficking in the context of organized crime and terrorism

SC Resolution 2370 (2017)

- Adoption of adequate laws, regulations and administrative procedures to exercise effective control over the production, export, import, brokering, transit or retransfer of SALW;
- Physical security and stockpile management;
- Implementation of marking and tracing procedures;
- Strengthening law enforcement and border control capacity;
- Collection and analysis of detailed data on illicit SALW trafficking to terrorists.





Addressing illicit arms trafficking in the context of organized crime and terrorism

An **integrated approach** should address:

- Legislative measures and normative frameworks
- Preventive and regulatory measures
- Effective Criminal Justice Response
- International cooperation and information exchange
- Develop resilience to armed violence and radicalization
- Data collection – monitoring illicit trafficking flows and the links to other crimes

- Technical Assistance Tools

- Comprehensive training curriculum on firearms
- Specialised training courses

- Issue Papers

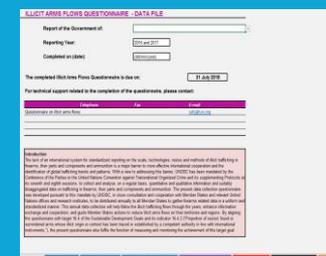
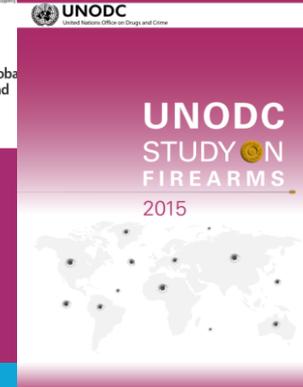
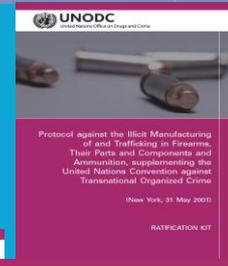
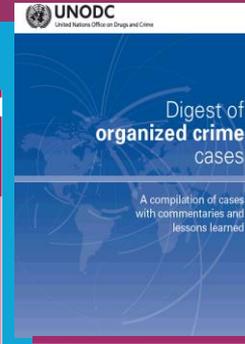
- Firearms Protocol and the ATT
- Comparative Analysis and synergies between global firearms and other conventional arms instruments

- Operational Tools

- MLA Request Writer tool
- Comprehensive record keeping system (new)

- Monitoring illicit arms flows

- Illicit Arms Flows Questionnaire (new)
- Template tool for front line officers for recording firearms seizure





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Thank you!

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