



UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE
FOR DISARMAMENT RESEARCH



EUROPEAN UNION



REPUBLIC OF KENYA

Supporting the Arms Trade Treaty Negotiations through Regional Discussions and Expertise Sharing

**Regional Seminar for countries in Eastern and Southern Africa
29 February – 2 March 2012**

Windsor Golf Hotel & Country Club

Ridgeways Road, off Kiambu Road, P.O. Box 45587, 00100, Nairobi

Representatives of over 25 countries from Eastern and Southern Africa, together with regional and international organizations and civil society have been invited to Nairobi from 29 February until 02 March to discuss conventional arms transfers and possibilities to improve their controls through a new international instrument, the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), which will be negotiated at the United Nations in a few months. The ATT initiative will be discussed in this three-day regional seminar, organized by UNIDIR with funding from the European Union (EU), and co-hosted by the EU, UNIDIR and the Government of Kenya.

The event will be officially opened by Honorable Prof. George Saitoti, Minister of State for Provincial Administration and Internal Security of Kenya, and attended by high-level officials from Kenya, the EU and the UN, relevant ministries of the participating states, regional organizations and civil society. It will consist of two parts: the first one will concentrate on the ATT negotiations with an overview of the process and discussions on the future Treaty's implementation modalities. During the second part, participants will exchange views on national arms transfer controls, cooperation and assistance. This second half of the seminar will include presentations of national and regional systems to regulate trade in conventional weapons, and discussion on aspects related to the establishment and enforcement of effective arms transfer control systems to prevent illicit trafficking.

The seminar is part of a series of regional events organized by UNIDIR for the EU to support the ATT negotiations by ensuring that the process is as inclusive as possible and that countries will be able to make concrete suggestions and recommendations on the elements and functioning of the future Treaty. The project also supports states in developing and improving national and regional arms transfer control systems. It is based on the Decision of the Council of the European Union entitled "EU activities in support of the Arms Trade Treaty, in the framework of the European Security Strategy" (2010/336/CFSP), adopted on 14 June 2010.

The project follows from UNIDIR's project to promote discussions on an ATT, also implemented for the EU from February 2009 to May 2010. The original project showed that continued, comprehensive dialogue about the different aspects and concrete elements of the proposed Treaty as well as its implementation will be most important for the ultimate success of the ATT negotiating process. Reports from UNIDIR's previous activities on ATT can be found at www.unidir.org.

Media representatives are invited to participate in the Opening and Closing Sessions of the seminar on 29 February (between 9h00 and 10h30) and 02 March (between 17h00 and 17h30).

For more information, please contact:

Elli Kytömäki
Project Manager, Supporting the Arms Trade Treaty Negotiations
United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research
Tel.: +41 (0)22 917 20 90
Fax: +41 (0)22 917 01 76
ekytomaki@unog.ch