Cross-Regional Meeting on the Illicit Trafficking in Firearms, their Parts and Components and Ammunition from, to and across the European Union

Context and Objectives

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Head of the UNODC Global Firearms Programme

7 and 8 October 2019, Vienna, Austria
Firearms Trafficking is linked to multiple security threats

Where do the illicit firearms come from?

Cybercrime
Drug Trafficking
Terrorism
Human Trafficking
Violent Crime
Illegal Fishing & Wildlife
Human Trafficking
Drug Trafficking
Terrorism
Violent Crime
Nexus Between Illicit Arms and Development

16.4 By 2030, significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime

16.4.2 Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments
2015
The 2030 SDGs are adopted and, subsequently, UNODC and UNODA are designated co-custodians of target indicator 16.4.2.

2016
UNODC is mandated by the COP “to continue to collect and analyse, on a regular basis, quantitative and qualitative information and suitably disaggregated data on trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition” and to take into account target 16.4 of the SDGs (res. 8/3).

April 2017
Start of EU-UNODC Project on Firearms data collection and analysis

14 June 2018
The IAFQ 2018 is launched.

2018 – 2019
Regional meetings on firearms data collection and analysis, Technical assistance activities

October 2019
Cross-regional meeting on firearms trafficking to, from and across the EU

Immediate next step
Launch of the Global Study on Firearms Trafficking.

2015 - 2015
UNODC is mandated by COP to develop the Firearms Study (res. 5/4, 6/2). The first UNODC Study on Firearms is published in 2015.
How to address firearms trafficking and achieve SDG target 16.4?
The EU-UNODC project on firearms data collection and analysis:

Development of Tools

Illicit Arms Flows Questionnaire:
Collects standardized and comparable data on seized, found and surrendered firearms

Technical Assistance

Capacity building: Template for in the field data collection & technical assistance activities

Research and data analysis

Reports and studies on firearms trafficking: Global, regional and national studies and reports

Video on Monitoring illicit Arms Flows Initiative
First underlying principle of the initiative:

**Linking law enforcement and statistical efforts**

The initiative is not a purely statistical exercise.

As relevant data comes from the criminal justice system, technical assistance activities as well as efforts to obtain more qualitative information mainly target criminal justice practitioners.

Efforts are being made to reach out to national statistical structures and to raise their awareness on the topic of illicit firearms.
Second underlying principle of the initiative: From Data to Action

Bringing the data collected and analysed at global level back to its Member States, with a view to fostering the use of the data for strategic and operational purposes in the fight against illicit trafficking in firearms, their parts and components and ammunition.
Objectives and Opportunities of the Meeting

• Develop a common understanding on:
  - The nature, scope and modus operandi regarding illicit firearms trafficking to, from and across the EU;
  - The implications of this understanding as regards law enforcement and prosecutorial action to counter the phenomenon;
  - The way forward in enhancing the evidence-base on illicit firearms flows, in increasing international cooperation and in addressing trafficking to, from and across the EU.

• Identify and create opportunities to enhance inter-institutional as well as international cooperation and information exchange.
Thank you!

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