



## PRESS RELEASE

### **UNODA Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific Assists with Building Capacity in Small Arms Control in Bangladesh**

NEW YORK 17 June - (Office for Disarmament Affairs) – A Workshop on Capacity Building for the Programme of Action (PoA) on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) jointly organized by the Government of Bangladesh and the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) is taking place in Dhaka, Bangladesh, on 17-18 June 2015.

The workshop is aimed at assisting the relevant ministries and agencies of Bangladesh responsible for the control of small arms and light weapons (SALW) to enhance their capacity to implement the PoA and, in the future, the ATT. Bangladesh has signed the ATT - the first global treaty to regulate the trade in conventional weapons, which entered into force on 24 December 2014.

A cadre of up to 40 government officials will gather with international experts and representatives from UNRCPD to share best practices on policies and technical issues related to the aforementioned arms control instruments and to discuss ways for their implementation in Bangladesh.

Adopted in 2001, the UN Programme of Action has proven a useful tool to counter the illicit trafficking in SALW. The PoA contains provisions on stockpile management, marking, record-keeping and other related areas that were further elaborated by the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) in the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS). During the workshop, international experts will provide practical recommendations on how to improve national standards of SALW regulation.

Another purpose of the workshop in Dhaka is to assist the Government of Bangladesh in addressing challenges of building national capacity to meet standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms established by the ATT.

This event is organized with financial support from the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR).

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