

Southeast Asia Workshop on Building Capacity for the Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty

4-5 April 2016
Bangkok, Thailand

Approximately 25 government experts in arms transfer controls from ASEAN Member States and Timor-Leste met with international experts on 4-5 April 2016 in Bangkok, Thailand in order to build national and regional capacity for the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). This workshop was organized by the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD), in cooperation with the Government of Thailand, and made possible with financial support from the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulations (UNSCAR).



During the two-day workshop, presentations covered issues related to the ATT's implementation as



well as a side event on UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), facilitating discussion and dialogue among participants. The sessions addressed topics such as the regional status quo of the small arms trade, the steps, benefits, and challenges of joining the ATT, the ATT's reporting requirements, options for future assistance, and the development of national strategies. Invited experts, including representatives from UNODA, RAND Corporation, and Small Arms Survey, provided an overview of the ATT's provisions and discussed model legislation. Moreover, state representatives from

Cambodia, Thailand and the Philippines shared national practices and experiences related to preparations for the ATT's implementation, highlighting their support of the ATT as well as mentioning challenges encountered in preparations for the Treaty's ratification. Offering further case study examples, representatives from Greece and Australia discussed their experiences of being in the process of or already having completed the ratification of the ATT. The presentations were followed by in-depth discussion and questions, particularly relating to legal and technical issues, experiences and challenges in the implementation process, and potential opportunities for future assistance and cooperation with UNSCAR and the UNRCPD.

In addition, following the first day of discussion on the ATT, a side event on UN Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004) and national implementation action plans took place. The side event was launched with a video message by UN Peace Messenger Michael Douglas on the importance of this resolution. Afterwards, the coordinator of the 1540 Committee, Terence Taylor, delivered an extensive presentation on this resolution and the respective obligations of Member States. Mr. Taylor specifically focused on



the ongoing 2016 comprehensive review of the resolution's implementation and expressed the preparedness of the Committee to provide support to Member States in their efforts to implement Resolution 1540.

In the post-event evaluations, participants provided positive feedback, citing their satisfaction with the quality and timeliness of the workshop. As several participants acknowledged in these evaluations, the workshop provided "useful [and] pragmatic information and tools" and generated a "positive, cooperative environment." Moreover, participants identified specific areas of interest for future assistance, demonstrating a commitment to further working towards the implementation of the ATT.

