



ATT ARMS
TRADE
TREATY



CAMYOSFOP

INCEPTION SEMINAR ON CAMEROON'S ARMS TRADE TREATY (ATT)
VOLUNTARY TRUST FUND (VTF) PROJECT ON:

**FAST TRACKING THE UNIVERSALIZATION AND THE
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARMS TRADE TREATY IN CAMEROON**



**ORGANIZED BY THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS
(MINREX), CAMEROON IN PARTNERSHIP WITH THE CAMEROON
YOUTHS AND STUDENTS' FORUM FOR PEACE (CAMYOSFOP) AS
THE CIVIL SOCIETY IMPLEMENTING PARTNER**

MINREX CONFERENCE HALL, SEPTEMBER 05, 2017.

TABBLE OF CONTENTS:

1. ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYMS..... p.3.

2. INTRODUCTION.....p.4

3. OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF CAMEROON’S VTF PROJECT.....p. 5.
3.1 Introductory remarks / Launching statement by the Director of United Nations and Decentralized Cooperation-MINREX

4. PRESENTATIONS FROM KEY SPEAKER.....pp.6-11.
4.1 Presentation of Cameroon’s project on: Fast Tracking the Universalization and Implementation of the ATT in Cameroon, by the Executive Director-CAMYOSFOP
4.2 Plenary discussions.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS..... p.11.

6. ANNEX.....pp.12 – 14.
6.1. Agenda for the seminar
6.2. List of participants

1. ABBREVIATION AND ACRONYMS

ATT: Arms Trade Treaty

CAMYOSFOP: Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace

MINREX: Ministry of External Relations

VTF: Voluntary Trust Fund

2. INTRODUCTION

As part of the implementation arrangements of the Arms Trade Treaty and in line with Article 16 on International Assistance sub 3 creating the Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF), the first Conference of State Parties (CSP1) held in Cancun, Mexico from 24 – 27 August 2015 adopted the modalities for the creation of this fund and later on during CSP2 held in Geneva from the 22 – 26 August 2016 a selection team and criteria to benefit from the fund was also adopted.

Motivated by a drive to regulate the illicit proliferation of arms in Cameroon and with neighbouring countries, the government of Cameroon with the technical support of the Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP) an expert organization in the ATT process submitted a project for this grant titled: “Fast Tracking the Universalization and the implementation of the ATT in Cameroon,” that has been considered for funding to be implemented for the period September 2017 – September 2018.



Based on the implementation plan of this project, MINREX and CAMYOSFOP are expected to organize two planning meetings that includes an inception seminar to formally present the project; and an orientation meeting with the facilitators of the various activities of the project. It is therefore on this backdrop that on the 5th of September 2017, an inception seminar was organized in MINREX bringing together the key stakeholders for an official launch of the project and to brainstorm on the implementation of the project.

3. OFFICIAL LAUNCH OF CAMEROON'S VTF PROJECT

3.1. *Launching statement by Mrs Anne Chanta NAMA the Director of UN and Decentralized Cooperation :*

The inception seminar started with a word of welcome and launching speech by Mrs Anne Chantal NAMA, Director of the United Nations and Decentralized Cooperation in the Ministry of External Relations in charge of overseeing the effective implementation of Cameroon's project on the universalization and implementation of the ATT in Cameroon.



In her opening remarks, she thanked the participants for honouring the invitation of the meeting. She equally implored participants to keenly have a deeper insight of key project objectives, activities, results and deliverables within the entire project life cycle. She also thanked CAMYOSFOP for facilitating the drafting of the project and looked forward to a successful implementation and outcomes that will stand out as a best practice to the Voluntary Trust Fund. She went further to commended the projects partners and related stakeholders for the efforts made thus far in materializing this inception

seminar. She went further to appreciate the multistakeholder nature of this ATT collaboration platform which seeks to foster sustainable working arrangements between sectoral government ministries and the civil society in Cameroon. She concluded her launching statement by declaring the inception seminar open.

4. PRESENTATION FROM KEY SPEAKER

The inception seminar was principally aimed at presenting the core aspects of the entire project life cycle of the ATT project. In essence our sole resource person for the inception seminar was required to present core aspects of the ATT flagship project.

4.1. Presentation-fast tracking ATT Universalization and implementation in Cameroon-Ngalim Eugene Nyuydine, Executive Director of CAMYOSFOP



Mr Ngalim's presentation was articulated and outlined into the following dimensions as vital primer for all the earmarked project stakeholders:

Project rationale:

- Cameroon has been at the forefront of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) as she was one amongst the 154-member states of the UN that endorsed the ATT on 2 April 2013 and on 3 December 2014 she became a signatory of the treaty. Though she is still to ratify the ATT, the delay has simply been procedural as treaty ratification in Cameroon is always expected to go through a process that can sometimes take so many years.
- Though Cameroon is still to ratify the ATT, the implementation of the treaty has already started especially with the enforcement of the

Kinshasa Convention as March 8, 2017; the adoption of a law on arms and ammunition in December 2016 and the setting up of a national system on international transfers on arms and ammunition.

- Cameroon is therefore on the right track of ratifying the ATT and it is hoped that the ratification will take place in the shortest time possible.
- The current project holder is the government of Cameroon through MINREX and CAMYOSFOP as the implementing partners.

Inroads made by Cameroon to finalize the process of ratifying the ATT:

- Cameroon has been actively present in the various processes and discussions of the ATT including the Conferences of States Parties and its preparatory phases.
- In January 2015 Cameroon adopted the Kinshasa Convention on SALW in Central Africa that is in line with the ATT and handling category eight of the arms in the ATT. Since the Kinshasa Convention has entered into force as from 8 March 2017 with the ratification of Angola, the implementation of the convention will accelerate the ratification of the ATT.
- A draft Decree on the creation of a national Commission for the control and management SALW was drafted two years ago and is now being revised to cover all the other categories of arms in the ATT and to be signed into law by the President of the Republic.
- In December 2016, Parliament adopted law No 2016/015 of 14 December 2016 on regulating arms and ammunition in Cameroon.
- The setting up of a national system on international transfers of arms and ammunition as prescribed by the treaty in its articles 7, 8 and 9 is almost completed.
- Exchange visits has been organized by the government of Cameroon for Sweden on March 28 – 30 and Brazil for April 04 – 07, 2017 for the delegation of Cameroon to learn from the experience of Sweden and Brazil on the management of national systems on arms and ammunition transfers. The selected countries are therefore expected to facilitate and accompany Cameroon in the setting up of a national system on international transfers of arms and ammunitions.
- Finally, on the instruction of the President of the Republic, who is the guarantor of the ratification, the Minister of External Relations ordered on February 27, 2017, the acceleration of the ratification of the ATT in the shortest time possible.

Benefits Cameroon stands to gain if the ATT is ratified:

- Cameroon's needs the ATT in order to receive support from the states parties of the ATT and to continue to sustain the support she has been

receiving so far from the international community on the fight against Boko Haram. Apart from Cameroon, all the other countries in the Lake Chad Basin involved in the fight against Boko Haram have ratified the ATT;

- Ratifying the ATT will permit Cameroon to effectively participate in the Conference of States Parties (CSP) to the ATT by exercising her voting rights in the decision making process of CSP;
- As a State Party, Cameroon stands the chance of benefiting from the many opportunities offered by the ATT such as the Voluntary Trust Fund;
- By ratifying the ATT, Cameroon will strengthen her present arms control architecture and permit the country to better face the insecurity threats facing the country. Ratification will thus reduce the level of the illicit proliferation of arms and ammunition from illegal hands such as the Boko Haram, gangs and armed robbers and make Cameroon cities and the country safer for everyone.
- Apart from government efforts towards the ratification of the ATT, civil society has also been highly involved in accompanying the government in the ratification process especially through awareness raising, capacity building and advocacy at both the national and international levels. CAMYOSFOP has been a lead organization in this.

Project goal and objectives:

Goal:

- The project is aimed at facilitating the implementation and domestication of the ATT in Cameroon by bringing on board all the stakeholders involved in the process and engaging them in the implementation process.

Specific Objectives:

- To build the capacity of the various stakeholders on the implementation process of the ATT;
- To advocate with the government and Parliament on the setting up of legal frameworks to facilitate the implementation process of the ATT in Cameroon.
- To systematically inform the public through the media and production of Communication tools on the ATT process.

Project activities:

- a) Planning meeting / Workshop on the coordination of implementation process of the project.

- b) Capacity building of the 25 civil society organizations on the ATT process.
- c) Capacity building of 25 senior officials of key government ministries and institutions on the implementation process of the ATT.
- d) Capacity building of 25 journalists on the role of the media in the implementation process of the ATT.
- e) Capacity building of 25 officials of Legal Affairs Department of government ministries, institutions and the parliamentary committees on the international transfer systems of arms and ammunition and other legal frameworks on the control and management of arms.
- f) Training of 25 leaders of Vigilante groups on the Boko Haram in the Extreme North of Cameroon on intricacies of national and international law on the use of arms.
- g) Restructuring the Cameroon Action Network on SALW (CANSA) to take into consideration all the other aspects of the ATT.
- h) Setting up a national network of Communicators / media organs on the ATT.
- j) Facilitation of Cameroon's initial report on the ATT to be submitted by May 2018.
- k) Participation in the CSP4 and its preparatory phases by the delegation of Cameroon including the civil society.
- l) Production of simplified brochures, stickers, flyers and provision of subvention to some media organs to run programs on the ATT

Deliverables by phases:

1. September 2017: Preparatory / planning meetings by MINREX and CAMYOSFOP with the involvement of other stakeholders;
2. September 2017 - May 2018: Capacity building of the various stakeholders;
3. September - October 2017: Conception and production of Awareness raising tools;
4. October 2017 – August 2018: Awareness raising on the ATT through tools and the media and advocacy on revising and adopting certain legislations on the implementation of the ATT;
5. September - January 2018: Restructuring of CANSA and setting up a national network of journalists on the ATT;
6. February - August 2018: Participation in the various preparatory phases of CSP4 and participation in CSP4;
7. April – May 2018: Facilitating Cameroon initial report to the ATT in case the ATT is ratified by Cameroon
7. September 2017 – August 2018: Monitoring, evaluation and preparation of mid-term and final reports of the project.

Expected outcome-results-impact:

- Cameroon is on a good footing in the implementation process of the ATT and becomes a best practice to be emulated by other state parties of the ATT and especially the in the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS)
- Government takes the ATT seriously and the initial report is submitted on time. Equally, more laws are adopted by the Parliament for better implementation and domestication of the ATT
- The civil society under the coordination of a restructured Cameroon Action Network on Small Arms (CANSA) takes the lead in mobilizing the public on the ATT.
- The training of the media and setting up of a network of journalists will provide more visibility and overcome any media negative tendencies on the ATT process.

Project risks:

- Appropriate working space and staff to conveniently work on the project.
- Coordination of the activities of the project and everyone being at the same level for better implementation.
- Mobilizing key government ministries involve in the ATT and the Vigilante groups to effectively participate in the activities of the project.
- Potential of negative media coverage and misinterpretation of the content of project activities especially for media organs that do not have an idea on the ATT.

Mitigating the project risks:

- Concerning the appropriate working space and personnel, the Ministry of External Relations will provide an office space, logistics and staff to facilitate the implementation of the project.
- Coordination of the project activities will be overcome by the organization of a planning workshop with the coordination team to put everyone at the same level. Equally as the project progresses correspondences will be sent to the stakeholders of the project still to keep them at the same level of the implementation.
- In order to overcome the issue of ensuring the active participation of key Ministries and Vigilante groups in the planned workshops, MINREX will send out invitations and correspondences and follow up to make sure the rightful persons and designated to participate.
- The training of journalists and the putting in place of a network of journalists on the ATT will permit us to have a core Expert of journalists

on the ATT and mitigate any negative media campaign against the project.

Monitoring and Evaluation:

- The monitoring of the project will go systematically with the implementation of the project with clear indicators to be used to assess the success of the project. This will include; lists of participants, presence lists, number of workshops organized, number of media coverage per activity, reports per activity and final reports etc.
- Concerning the evaluation, the planning workshop will permit us to come out with prospects for the project; this will be followed by mid-term evaluation and final evaluation meetings with stakeholders of the project. Equally, questionnaires will be designed to evaluate the success of each activity of the project and the overall project.

In his conclusive remarks, the speaker underscored the fact that this project was one amongst the best 11 selected to receive assistance for implementation is a clear indicator that the project is well conceived and with Cameroon's experience in managing similar treaties/convention; and with the tract record of CAMYOSFOP in the ATT process and managing similar projects, we are optimistic of a successful implementation of this project. The success of the project will also depend on the collaboration of the various stakeholders, scrupulous implementation of the activities time line and above all on the quality of the facilitators and participants of the various workshops of the project.

4.2. Plenary Discussions

During interactive plenary discussions, the representative of Ministry of Defence highlighted the fact that the Cameroonian government has already gone a long way into the process of ratifying the ATT and that to the best of his knowledge what is required now is the need for efficient communication and coloration amongst all the key government ministries and institutions involved in the process. He equally emphasized the fact that if Cameroon ratifies the ATT, it is basic requirement that to draft a pre-treaty report prior to drafting Cameroon's final submission report for the ATT secretariat.

5. RECOMMENDATIONS

The inception seminar ended with participants making the following recommendations:

R1. Organize regular preparatory meetings with key stakeholders prior to implementing key project activities.

R2. Disseminate the detail activities timeline plan validated by the VTF to the implementing stakeholders of the project.

7. ANNEX

7.1. Agenda for the seminar

FIRST COORDINATION MEETING ON CAMEROON'S VTF PROJECT ON: PREMIÈRE RÉUNION DE COORDINATION du PROJET VTF au CAMEROUN SUR:

FAST TRACKING THE UNIVERSALIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ATT IN CAMEROON

MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS (MINREX), 05 SEPTEMBER 2017

DRAFT AGENDA / PROJET D'ORDRE DU JOUR

14:30 – 1500: Arrival of participants and registration

Arrivée des participants et enregistrement

15:00: Start of meeting:

Début de la reunion:

- Introductory remarks by the Director of the United Nations and Decentralized Cooperation.
Remarques introductives du Directeur des Nations Unies et de la Coopération décentralisée.
- Self-introductions by participants.
Présentations individuelles des participants.
- Presentation of the project by the Executive Director of CAMYOSFOP
Présentation du projet par le Directeur exécutif de CAMYOSFOP
- Exchanges: Questions and answers.
Échanges: questions et réponses.

17:00: Closing remarks and end of meeting.

Mots de clôture et fin de réunion.

7.2. List of participants



**FIRST COORDINATION MEETING ON CAMEROON'S VTF PROJECT ON:
FAST TRACKING THE UNIVERSALIZATION AND IMPLEMENTATION OF
THE ATT IN CAMEROON**

VENUE: MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL RELATIONS (MINREX)

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