



UNREC
United Nations Regional Centre for
Peace and Disarmament in Africa



ECOSOCC
Economic Social & Cultural Council

An Organ of the
African Union



**CAMEROON YOUTHS AND
STUDENTS FORUM FOR PEACE**
CAMYOSFOP

CONCEPT PAPER FOR A COURSE ON:

**DIPLOMACY OF ARMS CONTROL, PROLIFERATION AND
DISARMAMENT**

PROJECT OWNER:

**CAMEROON YOUTHS AND STUDENTS FORUM FOR PEACE
(CAMYOSFOP)**

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS:

**REGIONAL CENTRE ON SMALL ARMS IN THE GREAT LAKES, HORN
OF AFRICA AND BORDERING STATES (RECSA)**

**UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR PEACE AND DISARMAMENT IN
AFRICA (UNREC)**

**AFRICA UNION ECONOMIC, SOCIAL AND CULTURAL COUNCIL
(ECOSOCC)**

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS INSTITUTE OF CAMEROON (IRIC)

HOSTED BY:

INTERNATIONAL RELATIONS INSTITUTE OF CAMEROON (IRIC)

CONTEXT

Most countries in Africa have been torn apart by violent conflicts which, in some cases, threaten the very existence of these states, provoked mass displacement of persons and massive humanitarian crisis, abuse of human rights and utter disregard for the rule of law and escalated criminality. Apart from conventional violent conflict, non-conventional threats are evolving, such as the spread of violent extremist groups in numerous locations in Africa. These violent conflicts and associated trans-border criminal activities provide conducive environments for both legal and illegal arms dealers while the proliferation of the weapons they supply repeatedly refuel the conflicts.

Though state acquisition of weapons is a priority for the protection of the sovereignty of the state, the question of uncontrolled arms, their illicit acquisition and their transfer is a recurring security dilemma in Africa. The concentration of most of Africa's estimated 100 million uncontrolled Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in crisis zones and other security-challenged environments often exacerbates and elongates conflicts.¹ These weapons originate from various sources, including stockpiles remaining from the Cold war, and more recent legal and illegal transfers of SALW. The statistics on the consequences of arms proliferation below is therefore one of the reasons for the introduction of this course on the diplomacy of arms control, proliferation and disarmament:

- *SALW are so prevalent that it is estimated that there is one such weapons for every 10 people. Numbers vary widely even within regions: From 5.8 people per gun in Pakistan, to 180 in Bangladesh.*
- *An average of US\$ 22 billion a year is spent by countries in Africa, Asia, the Middle East and Latin America on the purchase of these arms.*
- *With less than US \$ 100, one can have access to these weapons as there are about 640 million or 1 for every ten people on earth;*
- *59.2% of these weapons are in civilian hands; 38% are owned by government forces; 2.8% by the police and 0.2% by armed groups.*
- *Eight million new guns are manufactured every year by at least 1135 companies in 98 countries;*
- *10 to 14 billion of ammunition are manufactured every year, which is enough to kill every person in the world twice over.*
- *More than 350 000 civilians are estimated to die each year on average from the misuse of conventional arms the world over*
- *In Africa, 40 Million of SALW circulate within the continent;*
- *Two types of SALW exist in West and Central Africa. Locally (artisanal) and industrial fabricated arms.²*

The threat of nuclear weapons is not behind us as there are over 14,000 of these weapons in the world held by 9 countries with more countries threatening to acquire them. The case at hand that risk seeing the use of nuclear weapons is the raging Russia/Ukraine war. Africa too is at risk with the use of these weapons. The Atomic bombings of Hiroshima and Nagasaki 77 years ago by the USA killing 150,000 to 220,000 people, injured and left lasting health effects on many thousands more, and destroyed people's homes and livelihoods, became a turning point in the history of arms control, peace and security as nuclear weapons are the most inhumane and indiscriminate weapons ever created. They violate international law, cause severe environmental damage, undermine national and global security, breed fear and mistrust among nations, as some governments can threaten to wipe out entire cities in a heartbeat and

¹ Oxfam International: The Human Cost of Uncontrolled Arms in Africa, 2017.

² Small Arms Survey, May 2002.

the high cost of their production, maintenance and modernization diverts public funds from meeting human needs such as health care, education, disaster relief and other vital services.

Bringing the licit trade arms under control is the first necessary step toward addressing a reduction in the illicit trade³. Arms control aims to limit the number of weapons and to regulate their use by virtue of bilateral or multilateral agreements. The secretary General agenda on disarmament anchored on SDG Target 16.4 is a key instrument of regulating SALW and light weapons by making sure that ready data is available on the production, sales, and use of weapons. Apart from SDG 16.4, a number of global, regional and national instruments and mechanisms such as: The United Nations Programs of Action on SALW to prevent, combat and Eliminate illicit Trade in SALW in all Aspects (PoA), The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the International Tracing Instrument on SALW (ITI), the Firearms Protocol, the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW) have been adopted by the UN to regulate the production, sale and use of weapons. In order to effectively implement these global instruments Africa has crafted the following regional instruments to help states regulate the flow of arms in the continent: the West Africa Convention on SALW, the Nairobi Protocol on SALW in East Africa, the SADC Convention on SALW, and the Kinshasa Convention on SALW in Central Africa. Apart from these regional instruments, as part of the Africa Union Agenda 2063, the Silencing the Guns Agenda with its Amnesty Month component are key mechanisms for the fight against the illicit proliferation and misuse of SALW in Africa. Furthermore, almost all countries around the world have gun control laws that are the legal instruments for regulating the flow and use of arms. Existing legal instruments and funding mechanisms are already in place which could help countries control the movement of arms however, the poorly regulated trade in arms and ammunition weakens the ability and willingness of governments to create these enabling environments.

Although these conventions and treaties offer invaluable foundations and coordination mechanisms for arms control, the crucial challenge lies in the need to domesticate and implement its provisions. More so, the limited availability of prepared and qualified staff challenges the ability of a country to build and maintain momentum during the ratification/accession process, but poses a more direct challenge to implementation.⁴ Given the security situation in Africa, there is a need for coordinated efforts at the regional and multilateral level to combat the flow of uncontrolled arms and illicit arms transfer. This therefore has to start by understanding the Diplomacy of Arms Control, Proliferation and Disarmament. The proposed course will therefore enable member states of Africa to improve on the implementation of both international and national instruments and mechanisms of arms control.

RATIONALE FOR THE COURSE:

The diplomacy of arms control has become the greatest channel of peace, security and the stability of the world as every peace negotiations revolves around the management of weapons. This therefore justify the creation of the United Nations as well as Regional Organizations such as the Africa Union where issues of peace and security constitute the most priorities of the existence of these organizations. In spite of efforts by the United Nations, the AU and other regulating mechanisms on arms control, the world continue to experience arms race by the various super powers especially the United States of America and Russia as well as other nuclear powers and aspiring nuclear powers including the United Kingdom, China, France, North Korea, India, Pakistan and Iran that continue to threaten global peace.

Considering that arms control, proliferation and management is a very complex domain but requires profound knowledge by policy makers and practitioners, limited training programmes exist in this domain especially in Africa. Most executives and

³ Control Arms: <https://controlarms.org/about/>

⁴ Giacomo Persi & Elli Kytomaki: Towards a Universal Arms Trade Treaty: Understanding barriers and challenges in South-East Asia

practitioners on arms control learn about the subject most often only through seminars, workshops and conferences. It is therefore for this reason that, CAMYOSFOP in partnership with the Regional Centre on Small Arms for the Great Lakes, Horn of Africa and Bordering States (RECSA), the United Nations Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC) and the International Relations Institute of Cameroon (IRIC), seeks to improve on arms control management in Africa through the training of diplomats and practitioners that will contribute in enhancing the effective arms control interventions on the African Continent..

During the training, participants will be empowered with knowledge on the notions of arms control, proliferation and disarmament including existing legal instruments on arms control and strategies on the fight against the illicit influx of uncontrolled arms, the Conflict entrepreneurs and multinationals that control the trade of arms race and the impact of this to peace and stability, the role of the civil society in arms control amongst others.

OVERVIEW OF THE COURSE ON: ARMS CONTROL, PROLIFERATION AND DISARMAMENT	
GOAL	The aim of this course is to provide trainees with foundational knowledge on the diplomacy of arms control, proliferation and disarmament through the most important arms control agreements and their implementation procedures with a focus on compliance and reporting / transparency and accountability on arms control.
LEARNING OBJECTIVES	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ To drill trainees on the international diplomacy on arms control, proliferation and disarmament; ❖ To enable trainees to convert their gained experiences into their daily work as defense and security planners as well as advisors or decision makers in Arms control; ❖ To build the capacity of young professionals on effective implementation of legal instruments on Arms Control; ❖ To prevent and combat the excessive and destabilizing accumulation of SALW within Africa, ❖ To enhance/foster coordination among states on the fight against the illicit proliferation of SALW, terrorism and violent extremism.
COURSE OBJECTIVES	<p>The purpose of this course is to develop knowledge and skills on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Arms control initiatives; ✓ Impact to regional security; ✓ Actors involved in arms race and control of arms; ✓ The Conflict entrepreneurs and multinationals that control arms; ✓ The arms race and the impact of this to peace and stability; ✓ How to curb the menace of arms proliferation at the regional and international level.
EXPECTED LEARNING OUTCOMES	<p>By the end of the course unit, the learner should be able to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Examine the concept of arms control and proliferation ❖ Evaluate the evolution impact of arms control to the stability of the international and regional system.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ❖ Examine the Actors involved in arms race and control of arms. ❖ Assess how conflict entrepreneurs and multinationals control the trade of arms race and the impact of this to peace and stability
PROPOSED CONTENTS OF THE COURSE	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. <i>Introduction to The Notion of arms control, proliferation and disarmament;</i> 2. <i>The diplomacy of arms control and proliferation;</i> 3. <i>The Impact of arms control to the stability of the international and regional system;</i> 4. <i>The Actors involved in arms race and control of arms;</i> 5. <i>Regional and International Legal Instruments/frameworks on Arms control;</i> 6. <i>Regional organizations and National Institutions responsible for Arms Control;</i> 7. <i>The Conflict entrepreneurs and multinationals that control the trade of arms race and the impact of this to peace and stability;</i> 8. <i>Weapons and Ammunition Management</i> 9. <i>Concept of Community Policing in curbing the illicit proliferation of SALW in armed conflict situations;</i> 10. <i>The process of Harmonization of National legislation with Regional and international SALW instruments.</i> 11. <i>Guidelines on Practical Civilian disarmament</i> 12. <i>The role of the civil society in mobilizing governments and the public on the fight against the illicit proliferation of SALW including chemical and nuclear weapons and holding governments responsible for the implementation of arms control instruments.</i> 13. <i>Case Studies and field visits to Regional organizations and national institutions on arms control, military and police facilities on the management of stocks and strategies on disarmament.</i>
COURSE METHODOLOGY	<p>This 15-day course is comprised of public inaugural session with policy speeches, motivational keynote / inaugural lecture by a high-level personality invited to share perspectives of the session in question. This will be followed by 10 days interactive plenary lectures on conventional arms control topics followed by brief moderated Q&A sessions and work in syndicate groups. The other 5 days will be meant for field trips to key institutions and facilities on arms control both in Yaounde and other regions in Cameroon. The course will end with a closing ceremony and handing over of certificates of completion to the participating candidates.</p>

COURSE PARTICIPANTS	<p>This course is intended for mid-career Executives, young military and civilian personnel, regardless of rank or career, who are interested in arms control and disarmament but are not necessarily part of any arms control verification unit or engaged in arms control on a daily basis, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ✓ Members of Ministries of Defense; ✓ Members of Ministries of Foreign Affairs; ✓ Members of Ministries of Territorial Administration; ✓ Members of Ministries of Justice ✓ Members of the Ministries of Forestry and Fauna ✓ Members of Ministries of National Security / Police ✓ Members of National Commissions on Small Arms, DDR, SSR, Human Rights etc. ✓ Members of Parliament and Parliamentary staff ✓ Custom officers ✓ Media representatives ✓ CSO representatives ✓ Newcomers working on arms control
RECRUITMENT OF PARTICIPANTS:	<p>Participants will be recruited through competitive process of applications by interested participants and recommendations by member states of the Africa Union. Given that women are disproportionately affected by gun violence, and are hardly in the circles of negotiations, women will be encouraged to apply or to be recommended by the various African governments. The final selection of each session will be done by a jury to be appointed by the organizers.</p>
FUNDING:	<p>The course is designed to be a self-funded course with participants paying for their tuition and stay in Cameroon and with limited scholarship to be offered by the organizers and partners. The organizers also look forward to fund raising through the application of grants in the domain of arms controls. Finally, there is also a possibility of subvention to the running of the programme by the government of Cameroon.</p>
REGULARITY OF THE COURSE:	<p>The course will be conducted once a year for a period of 15 days with 10 for class work and 5 days for field trips. The course will be sanctioned by an end of course certificate.</p>
CERTIFICATION INSTITUTION	<p><i>International Relations Institute of Cameroon (IRIC)</i></p>
CONTACTS	<p>Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace (CAMYOSFOP) Office Location: Carrefour Warda, Yaounde, Immeuble HAJAL, 6th Floor, Apartment 605. P.O. Box 3873 Yaoundé-Cameroon. Tel: (237) 677 32 93 61 / 242 67 09 11. Email: camyosfop_p@yahoo.com / camyosfop@camyosfop.org . Website: www.camyosfop.org Registration N°. 00674/RDA/J06/BAPP</p>