ISACS go from strength to strength

Our last report (2012–13) outlined how the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) had been used in the year since their launch in August 2012 and the impact they were having. Since then, the standards have continued to be used in more places by more actors. ISACS are now widely recognized as a practical tool that can help strengthen national controls over the full life-cycle of small arms and light weapons.
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**Photos** (top to bottom):

2. The IPSTC, Nairobi, is the newest ISACS training partner.
3. Verification Officers from the Multi-National Small Arms and Ammunition Group test the SACS Assessment Tool.

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**ISACS Donors:**

- Australia
- Ireland
- Norway
- Switzerland
The International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) provide voluntary, practical guidance on putting in place effective controls over the full lifecycle of small arms and light weapons (SALW) so as to reduce the risk of their falling into the hands of criminals, terrorists and those who would misuse them.

ISACS are developed by United Nations entities that participate in the UN’s inter-agency mechanism for coordinating action on small arms (CASA), in cooperation with partners worldwide. The standards ensure that no matter which part of the UN a Member State approaches for advice and support related to controlling SALW, the support provided by the UN will be of a consistent high quality.

The framework within which the standards fit is provided by global agreements and international law that aim to prevent the illicit trade, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of SALW. The foundation upon which the standards are built is provided by best practice guidelines, model regulations and legislation, codes of conduct and standard operating procedures that have been developed by regional and sub-regional organizations.

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1 In particular: the UN Programme of Action against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons; the International Tracing Instrument; the Firearms Protocol supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime; and the Arms Trade Treaty.
The illicit trade, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons continue to fuel armed violence in conflict-affected, post-conflict and other fragile settings around the world. About half of all homicides worldwide are committed with a small arm, which translates into almost 230,000 deaths per year. In many low- and middle-income countries suffering from chronically high homicide rates, firearms are used in up to three-quarters of homicides. Many of these weapons find their way into the hands of perpetrators through illicit channels, helped by inadequate (or inadequately enforced) laws and weak control mechanisms at national and local levels.

But small arms deaths constitute only a fraction of the burden — a thin wedge atop a pyramid of physical, psychological and material devastation. For every person killed with a small arm, many more are injured, traumatised or displaced. Armed violence destroys lives and livelihoods. It breeds insecurity, fear and terror. It dissolves social cohesion and hinders development progress. Whether in situations of conflict or crime, armed violence fuelled by illicit weapons imposes enormous burdens on countries, communities and families.

UN Member States recognise this problem and have taken action to address it. They have negotiated four global agreements designed to stop illicit weapons: the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects; the Firearms Protocol supplementing the UN Convention Against Transnational Organized Crime; the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons; and the Arms Trade Treaty. Taken together, these agreements enshrine a corpus of international norms and commitments, which — if fully implemented — would make a significant impact on reducing the incidence and destructiveness of armed violence worldwide.

The UN system is doing its utmost to support implementation of these global commitments at national and local levels. With leadership from UNDP and UNODA, 32 entities within the UN’s internal mechanism to Co-ordinate Action on Small Arms, Ammunition and the Arms Trade (CASA) are working with leading experts worldwide to develop International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) that provide practical guidance on
translating global norms and commitments into concrete action at national and local levels. The voluntary standards propose effective and achievable controls over the full lifecycle of small arms and light weapons — from manufacture and marking, through transfer and storage, to collection and destruction — in order to reduce the risk of their falling into the hands of criminals, terrorists and those who would misuse them.

Since their launch in 2012, the number of actors using ISACS and the number of countries in which the standards are being used has continued to grow. This report sets out how, between September 2013 and August 2014, the United Nations, international and regional organizations, and training institutes have used ISACS to assist the governments of 48 countries in Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, and South-East Europe to improve their own national controls over small arms and light weapons, or to assist other governments to do so.

Because ISACS were used as the basis of this assistance, beneficiary governments received consistent, high quality advice and guidance that reflects internationally recognized effective practices for controlling small arms and light weapons in order to prevent their diversion and misuse. This support contributes directly to efforts by these governments to reduce armed violence and build community security in order to create the conditions necessary for sustainable human development.

Examples of this work are set out in this report and include joint UN efforts to build the capacity of the Federal Government of Somalia to manage arms imported under the partially lifted arms embargo; UNDP demonstrating in Bosnia and Herzegovina how adherence to ISACS can contribute to a successful small arms collection and destruction campaign; UNODA/UNLIREC showing how ISACS can be used to derive standard operating procedures and training materials on stockpile management and destruction that are tailored to the Latin American and Caribbean region; and UNIDIR training UN partners and regional organizations to use the ISACS Assessment Tool to support governments in the design, monitoring, and evaluation of effective small arms control programmes.

The results presented in this report demonstrate that ISACS are achieving one of the key goals set for them at their launch: to become widely recognized as a practical tool for strengthening national controls over the full lifecycle of small arms and light weapons. This was further demonstrated in June 2014, when 67 States called for the wider application of the standards during the 5th Biennial Meeting of States to consider implementation of the UN Programme of Action on small arms.

Moving forward, the United Nations, working as one, will continue to co-operate with our partners to develop international small arms control standards based on norms and commitments agreed by Member States. Through our ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit, we will encourage and assist UN partners, international and regional organisations, and training institutes to integrate these standards into the support they provide to countries. And we will forge new partnerships with global, regional and national civil society organisations, which play such an important role in encouraging and assisting governments to live up to the commitments they have made to control these instruments of violence.

Member States recognize the importance of promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development and have proposed to include this as one of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Goals (Goal 16). To achieve this goal, we must significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere and also significantly reduce illicit arms flows. The International Small Arms Control Standards can help States put in place effective national controls over the full life-cycle of small arms and light weapons and, by so doing, close off the illicit channels that allow them to be misused with such devastating effect. Together with our UN CASA partners, we call on policymakers and practitioners in governments, international and regional organisations, civil society and the private sector to make full use of ISACS when designing small arms control programmes, monitoring their progress and evaluating their impact.
## States supported with ISACS*

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## Organisations using ISACS*

| United Nations | CTED - Counter-Terrorism Executive Directorate |
|               | CTITF - Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force |
|               | DPKO - Department of Peacekeeping Operations |
|               | UNCTT - UN Counter-Terrorism Centre |
|               | UNDP - UN Development Programme |
|               | UNDPA - UN Department for Political Affairs |
|               | UNIDIR - UN Institute for Disarmament Research |
|               | UNLIREC - UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament & Development in Latin America & the Caribbean |
|               | UNMAS - UN Mine Action Service |
|               | UNOCA - UN Regional Office for Central Africa |
|               | UNODA - UN Office for Disarmament Affairs |
|               | UNRCPD - UN Regional Centre for Peace & Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific |
|               | UNREC - UN Regional Centre for Peace & Disarmament in Africa |
|               | UNSOM - UN Assistance Mission in Somalia |
|               | UNTFFOC - UN Task Force on Transnational Organised Crime and Drug Trafficking |

| International & Regional Organisations | CARICOM-IMPACS - Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime & Security |
|                                      | EU - European Union |
|                                      | INTERPOL - International Criminal Police Organization |
|                                      | MSAG - Multinational Small Arms & Ammunition Group |
|                                      | OAS - Organization of American States |
|                                      | OSCE - Organisation for Security & Co-operation in Europe |
|                                      | SEESAC - South Eastern & Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms & Light Weapons |

| Training Institutes | IPSTC - International Peace Support Training Centre (Kenya) |
|                    | KAIPTC - Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (Ghana) |
|                    | NATO School (Germany) |

*September 2013 - August 2014.
**References to Kosovo are in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).
Africa

ISACS supports UNSOM, UNMAS, UNIDIR to train Somali Security Services in arms management

EXCERPT FROM A REPORT BY UNSOM:

"Mogadishu, 22 January 2014 – Senior Somali security officers and their armoury storekeepers have received training in weapons monitoring and stockpile management over a two-day workshop in the capital, Mogadishu.

The workshop, organized by the Federal Government of Somalia [FGS] and the United Nations Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), and the UN Development Programme, follows the passage of UN Security Council Resolution 2093 (2013), which partially lifted a 20-year-old arms embargo on Somalia in order to strengthen the FGS’ capacity to combat insurgents and protect the Somali people."

UN Partners use ISACS to help Somalia control imported arms

The Coordinator of the ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit accompanied the UN Assistance Mission in Somalia (UNSOM), the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), the UN Department of Political Affairs (UNDPA) and the UN Somalia-Eritrea Monitoring Group (SEMG) on a joint assessment mission to Mogadishu in March 2014 to assess the Federal Government’s needs in relation to UN Security Council Resolution 2142 (2014), which extends the partial lifting of the arms embargo on Somalia but imposes more stringent reporting obligations on the Federal Government.

The joint mission drew heavily on the results of the workshop on “Weapons and Ammunition Management in Somalia” organised by UNIDIR, UNSOM and UNMAS in January 2014 in Mogadishu (see above).

The results of the assessment mission formed the basis of a letter from the UN Secretary-General to the Security Council on “options and recommendations” for UN and other technical support to the Federal Government of Somalia to help it meet its obligations under the new embargo regime (S/2014/243). The part of the report dealing with weapons management is guided by ISACS, in particular its Series 5 on operational support.

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2 Somali security forces undergo training in arms management. https://www.facebook.com/media/set/?set=a.606641679890977.1073741864.501491853239294&type=1
UNMAS trains Somali Armed Forces to mark imported SALW in accordance with ISACS

The United Nations Mine Action Service (UNMAS) in Somalia is training members of the Somali National Army (SNA) to mark small arms — imported by the government under the partially lifted arms embargo — in accordance with the guidance set out in ISACS 05.30 — Marking and recordkeeping.

UNMAS used ISACS to help the Federal Government of Somalia to develop a draft national small arms marking standard and is now building the capacity of the SNA to mark all imported small arms. The SNA will be responsible for all import marking, including of arms destined for the Somali Police Force, the National Intelligence and Security Agency and the Somali Cusodial Corps.

Somalia has been under a Security Council arms embargo since 1992. In March 2013, the Security Council partially lifted the embargo for 1 year to allow the new Federal Government of Somalia to import arms and ammunition for its security forces (UNSCR 2093). In March 2014, the Security Council extended the partial lifting of the arms embargo until October 2014 (UNSCR 2142).

UNIDIR report on Somalia draws heavily on ISACS

The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) co-organised a workshop on weapons and ammunition management in Somalia in January 2014 in cooperation with the Federal Government of Somalia, UNSOM, UNMAS and UNDP (see above).

In June 2014, UNIDIR published the report Weapons and Ammunition Management in the Federal Republic of Somalia that sets out in detail the work being carried out by the Federal Government with support from the United Nations and implementing partners. UNIDIR launched the report at a side event during the 5th Biennial Meeting of States to consider implementation of the UN Programme of Action against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

The UNIDIR report draws heavily on ISACS and uses the standards to assess progress made and to identify priority areas for future work on weapons and ammunition management in Somalia.
MSAG training for East African States uses ISACS as basis

In July 2014, the Multinational Small Arms and Ammunition Group (MSAG) trained 27 military, police and corrections officers from 8 East African States on physical security and stockpile management (PSSM) of small arms and light weapons, using ISACS as a basis for the course.

Officers from Burundi, Comoros, Kenya, Rwanda, Seychelles, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda participated in the training. Eight East African officers who had earlier participated in a training-of-trainers course led the training alongside MSAG Verification Officers from Austria, France and Germany.

The ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit delivered a training module on the International Small Arms Control Standards and its Assessment Tool, in particular as they relate to stockpile management. The in-depth PSSM training modules, developed by MSAG, use ISACS as a basis.

The training is part of a broader initiative by MSAG to build the capacity of East African States to put in place effective controls over the full lifecycle of small arms and light weapons.

ISACS informs Central African strategy to counter terrorism and arms trafficking

Senior customs, immigration and border officials from 10 Central African States gathered in Burundi’s capital Bujumbura on April 22-24 to take a step towards developing an integrated strategy to counter terrorism and arms trafficking in Central Africa.

The workshop on “Border Controls and Small Arms & Light Weapons” was convened jointly by the UN Counter-Terrorism Committee Executive Directorate (CTED), the UN Counter-Terrorism Implementation Task Force (CTITF), the UN Counter-Terrorism Centre (UNCCT) and the UN Regional Office for Central Africa (UNOCA).

Participants were briefed on the utility of ISACS in helping to put in place effective controls over small arms and light weapons, and in particular on its Module 05.60, which provides practical guidance on “Border Controls & Law Enforcement Cooperation” in the context of preventing illicit cross-border movements of arms.

The workshop produced an outcome document containing a range of measures and tools, including ISACS, that Central African States can use to counter terrorism and arms trafficking. The outcome of the workshop will be elaborated into an integrated strategy for the Central African region.

3 Angola, Burundi, Cameroon, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Rwanda, Sao Tomé & Principe and Chad
UNREC uses ISACS to help Côte d’Ivoire develop national standards on stockpile management

EXCERPT FROM A REPORT BY UNREC: 4

"the National Commission developed the manual of procedures and training tools on physical security and stockpile management in accordance with the International Small Arms Control Standards and International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, with support from UNREC and funding from the Government of Japan through UNDP. The manual served as a working document for the adoption of national stockpile management standards for small arms and light weapons and ammunition, and the training tools would be published for use by defence and security forces.”

ISACS Support Unit contributes to Kofi Annan Centre’s “SALW Foundation Course”

In November 2013, the ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit delivered a training on the International Small Arms Control Standards to participants in the “SALW Foundation Course” offered by the Kofi Annan International Peacekeeping Training Centre (KAIPTC) in Accra, Ghana.

Working with its partners, the KAIPTC undertakes and delivers research and training programmes that contribute to global peacekeeping operations. Since 2003, its researchers and training facilitators have delivered over 230 courses in diverse aspects of peacekeeping operations for over 9,500 individuals and organizations globally.

The KAIPTC offers 4 courses directly related to SALW control — an SALW Foundation Course and courses on SALW Border Security Management, Marking & Recordkeeping, and Stockpile Management. The KAIPTC uses ISACS as a reference point when designing its courses.

This was the second time that the KAIPTC invited the ISACS Support Unit to contribute to one of its training courses. In June 2013, the Support Unit — together with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) — delivered a training based on ISACS module 05.60 (Border controls and law enforcement cooperation) as part of the KAIPTC course on “SALW Border Security Management.”

In addition, the UN Department of Peacekeeping Operations (DPKO) introduced elements of ISACS into the ‘small arms and light weapons’ module of the Kofi Annan Centre’s Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration (DDR) foundation course.

DPKO & UNODA partner to develop tools based on ISACS in Côte d'Ivoire & Liberia

EXCERPT FROM A REPORT BY THE SECRETARY-GENERAL:  

Asia

UNRCPD supports Myanmar to enhance controls on SALW

“The workshop was attended by government officials from various security sector agencies who discussed the policy and technical issues of implementing the UN PoA. Discussions focused on analysis of firearms in Myanmar, relevant international and regional instruments, and the sharing of best practices in areas such as safe management of stockpiles of weapons and ammunition and recordkeeping. The workshop also provided an opportunity for local officials and participating national and international experts to engage in discussion and share experiences and best practices.”

Among other issues, the workshop, organized by UNODA’s Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD), served to brief Myanmar officials from the Ministries of Defence, Foreign Affairs and security sector agencies on ISACS. As a result, the government expressed its intention to study the standards with a view to enhancing existing national technical procedures and practices related to small arms and light weapons control.


6 Workshop report, Building Capacity in Small Arms Control through the UN Programme of Action
OSCE, UN, INTERPOL help Central Asian States trace illicit small arms using ISACS, iArms, iTrace

The OSCE, the United Nations and INTERPOL teamed up in Istanbul in May 2014 for a sub-regional workshop to help build the capacity of Central Asian States to trace illicit small arms and light weapons.

The workshop followed up on the "Inaugural Conference on Tracing Illicit SALW in the OSCE Area" co-organised by the OSCE, the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) and INTERPOL in Vienna in May 2013.

Officials from Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Tajikistan participated in the workshop.

Participants were drawn from law enforcement agencies (including military police), prosecutor’s offices, ministries of interior and of foreign affairs, counter-intelligence, firearms licensing departments and INTERPOL National Central Bureaux.

The ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit briefed participants on the utility of ISACS in guiding the implementation of effective systems of marking, record-keeping and tracing of small arms and light weapons. The UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) guided participants through a practical exercise on assessing national practices on marking and record-keeping, using the ISACS Assessment tool that it has developed.

INTERPOL trained participants on identifying firearms using the INTERPOL Firearms Reference Table (IFRT) and on running trace requests through its iARMS system. Conflict Armament Research introduced participants to its soon-to-be-launched iTrace system; and the UK National Ballistics Intelligence Service (NABIS) shared practical experience of the benefits of using the INTERPOL Ballistic Information Network (IBIN) in tracing crime guns.
Europe

UNDP draws on ISACS to convert weapons into windmills in Bosnia & Herzegovina

EXCERPT FROM A REPORT BY UNDP BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA: 7

“At the end of 2013, over 1,500 small arms and light weapons were destroyed – helping to wash away some of the stain on the country's history. Choose Life Without Weapons, a campaign funded by the UK Government and guided by the International Small Arms Standards, collected weapons from different areas around the nation."[...] "Metal that was forged to create systems of violence have been transformed into components for promoting sustainable energy. The weapons are melted down and used for the production of windmills. They came out of conflict, but are now helping to combat climate change."

UNDP supports Kosovo police to destroy 1,315 weapons in accordance with ISACS

EXCERPT FROM A REPORT BY UNDP: 8

"UNDP's representative, Mr. Chris Decker, said that the event was a significant result of the five year support that UNDP has been providing to the Ministry of Internal Affairs and the Kosovo Police in the field of small arms and light weapons control. "UNDP remains committed to further assist Kosovo stakeholders in the fight against armed violence", said Mr. Decker.

Mr. Naim Rexha, Deputy Director of the Kosovo Police, said that Kosovo’s police is dedicated to increase public safety by confiscating weapons which are illegally found in the possession of citizens. “The weapons which are being destroyed are those which have been confiscated by the Kosovo Police during the investigation of various types of crime”, he said.

The public destruction event was implemented in accordance with the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS)."


8 Kosovo Police destroys over 1,315 weapons with UNDP's support. http://www.undp.org/content/kosovo/en/home/presscenter/articles/2013/10/10/kosovo-melts-down-confiscated-weapons/
Bosnia & Herzegovina collection & destruction campaign implemented in line with ISACS

EXCERPT FROM A REPORT BY UNDP BOSNIA & HERZEGOVINA:

“UNDP provides support to the defense and police of Bosnia and Herzegovina to assist in development of methods and implementing activities to lessen the burden that illicit weapons pose to the security of the country. The activities are implemented in line with the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS). Dr Patrick McCarthy, Head of the ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit at the United Nations explains that the ISACS provide practical guidance on putting in place effective controls over the full lifecycle of small arms and light weapons, including the collection and destruction of illicit and unwanted arms. The standards were jointly developed by more than 20 UN agencies working in cooperation with leading experts worldwide. ISACS ensure that no matter which part of the United Nations a state approaches for advice or support related to small arms control, they will receive support that is consistent and of a high quality.

“UNDP Bosnia and Herzegovina has been a leading champion of ISACS and has used the standards to help Ministries of Interior to design and implement a campaign — entitled "Choose Life Without Weapons" — to collect and destroy illicit and unwanted small arms and light weapons throughout the country. The success of this campaign is a positive proof that ISACS can contribute in a significant way to strengthening national small arms controls.” said Dr McCarthy.”

* * *

In preparing the ground for the collection and destruction programme the Federal Parliament of Bosnia & Herzegovina adopted SALW amnesty legislation on 16 December 2013. UNDP Bosnia & Herzegovina drew on ISACS 05.40 (Collection of Illicit and Unwanted SALW) to advise the Federal Government on the amnesty law.
EU Commission considers binding rules on tracing firearms, building on ISACS

EXEMPLARY FROM A REPORT BY THE EU COMMISSION: 10

"At present it is unclear whether Member States authorities are equipped to investigate systematically the origin of all weapons they recover or confiscate; the EU should help them to do so, through evaluating the existing tracing manual and the obstacles to its implementation. The Commission will consider the necessity of binding rules in this area, building on the International Tracing Instrument and the international best practices developed by the United Nations International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS)."

Inaugural NATO School Orientation Course on SALW
draws on ISACS and its Assessment Tool

In May 2014, the NATO School in Oberammergau, Germany, ran its first policy level orientation course on Small Arms and Light Weapons & Mine Action for States participating in the Euro Atlantic Partnership Council.

Participants included military and diplomatic personnel from Austria, Azerbaijan, Egypt, France, Georgia, Germany, Ireland and Switzerland.

The ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit teamed up with the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) to deliver two training modules to the course — one on the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) and one on the ISACS Assessment Tool, developed by UNIDIR, that facilitates use of the standards, including in the conduct of self-assessments.

The NATO School intends to hold the Orientation Course annually and to continue to feature ISACS and its Assessment Tool in future trainings.

Latin America & the Caribbean

**UNLIREC trains Surinamese officials on destroying surplus and obsolete small arms in accordance with ISACS**

EXCERPT FROM A REPORT BY UNLIREC: 11

“From 21 to 26 October 2013, UNLIREC, in close collaboration with the Ministry of Defense of Suriname, supported the destruction of close to 700 surplus and obsolete weapons and 200 kilos of small arms ammunition. All small arms were destroyed using a set of hydraulic shears provided by UNLIREC to the Ministry of Defense of Suriname, while the ammunition was burned using the UNLIREC-patented Small Arms Ammunition Burning Tank (SAABT). All weapons and ammunition destroyed were documented in accordance with UNLIREC's standard operating procedures based on UN International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) and UN International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATGs).”

**UNLIREC draws on ISACS to advise Guatemala on weapons amnesty legislation**

EXCERPT FROM A REPORT BY UNLIREC: 12

"19 November 2013, the Government of Guatemala and UNLIREC organized a one-day legal seminar on small arms control in Guatemala City. [...] The seminar was organized to present and disseminate UNLIREC's legal analysis and recommendations on two bills of law proposed by the Government [one of which is] to address... the creation of a legal and policy framework for an eventual voluntary firearms amnesty campaign in the country. [...] the bill for a weapons amnesty drew heavily on ISACS 05.40 'Collection of illicit and unwanted small arms'."

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UNLIREC and Trinidad & Tobago train Caribbean armourers on stockpile management, using SOPs based on ISACS

EXCERPT FROM A REPORT BY UNLIREC: 13

“During the second week of the course, as part and parcel of stockpile management best practices, participants were also trained in planning and operations to carry out periodic weapons destruction. 122 confiscated and obsolete weapons from the Trinidad and Tobago Police Service were destroyed and documented in accordance with UNLIREC’s standard operating procedures, which are based on UN International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS). All weapons were destroyed using equipment previously donated to the government of Trinidad and Tobago by UNLIREC.”

UNLIREC and Peru intensify collaboration on arms control through stockpile management training using ISACS

EXCERPT FROM A REPORT BY UNLIREC: 14

“With the objective of ensuring permanent technical capacities among operational personnel of the National Regulatory Entity for Security Services, Firearms, Ammunition and Explosives for Civil Use (SUCAMEC) of Peru and members of the Peruvian National Police, UNLIREC undertook a workshop on best practices and international standards in stockpile management from 21-23 April 2014 in Lima.

"All 44 officials participating in the course improved their knowledge on the implementation of the United Nations International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATGs). The ISACS aim to provide clear, practical and comprehensive guidance to practitioners and policymakers on fundamental aspects of small arms and light weapons control...”

13 UNLIREC and Trinidad and Tobago train Caribbean armourers on stockpile management of small arms and light weapons. http://unlirec.org/noticias_det_eng.aspx?id=85

Global

UN Task Force on Transnational Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking guided by ISACS

The UN System Task Force on Transnational Organized Crime and Drug Trafficking as Threats to Security and Stability is an inter-agency mechanism that supports the work of the Secretary-General and the UN System in responding to these threats. The Task Force has developed a set of "Key Messages" for use by the Secretary-General and other senior UN officials speaking out on the issue. One of them is that trafficking in firearms must be addressed in an urgent and integrated manner as it is closely connected with transitional organized crime and drug trafficking. In this context, the document goes on to say:

“In all its work on small arms control and on proper ammunition management, the UN is guided by the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG), which were developed within the UN framework.”

Multinational Small Arms and Ammunition Group using ISACS in its assessment work

The Multinational Small Arms and Ammunition Group (MSAG) is an apolitical, informal, multinational platform of States that exchange best practices and coordinate international assistance in the field of small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition Physical Security and Stockpile Management (PSSM).

At the 18th MSAG Symposium, hosted by the Spanish Verification Centre in Madrid in November 2013, the ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit presented ISACS as a tool that MSAG States can use to help conduct assessments of SALW storage sites and build capacity in the area of PSSM. MSAG is committed to using ISACS in its assessment work and decided to organize a workshop in 2014 to train its verification officers on using the ISACS Assessment Tool being developed by UNIDIR and also to test the tool under different stockpile assessment scenarios.

At a side-event during the 5th Biennial Meeting of States on the UN Programme of Action against the illicit trade in SALW in June 2014, MSAG underlined that, “International standards are important to us and we provide our support strictly in accordance with these standards.”
Four New ISACS modules launched

During the 5th Biennial Meeting of States to consider implementation of the UN Programme of Action against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, UN CASA released 4 additional ISACS modules, bringing to 12 the number of modules now available for download from the ISACS website. The new modules emerged from an intensive process of review by the ISACS Expert Reference Group and UN CASA partners.

ISACS Framework of Modules

SERIES 01 - Introduction to ISACS
- 01.10 Guide to the application of ISACS
- 01.20 Glossary of terms, definitions and abbreviations

SERIES 02 - Small arms and light weapons control in context
- 02.10 Small arms and light weapons control in the context of preventing armed violence
- 02.20 Small arms and light weapons control in the context of Security Sector Reform
- 02.30 Small arms and light weapons control in the context of Disarmament, Demobilization and Reintegration

SERIES 03 - Legislative and regulatory
- 03.10 National controls over the manufacture of small arms and light weapons
- 03.20 National controls over the international transfer of small arms and light weapons
- 03.21 National controls over the end-user and end-use of internationally transferred small arms and light weapons
- 03.30 National regulation of civilian access to small arms and light weapons
- 03.40 National coordinating mechanisms on small arms and light weapons control
- 03.50 International legal cooperation, criminal offences and investigations

SERIES 04 - Design and Management
- 04.10 Designing and implementing National Action Plans
- 04.20 Designing and implementing community safety programming
- 04.30 Raising awareness of the need for small arms and light weapons control
- 04.40 Monitoring, evaluation and reporting

SERIES 05 - Operational Support
- 05.10 Conducting small arms and light weapons surveys
- 05.20 Stockpile management: Weapons
- 05.30 Marking and recordkeeping
- 05.31 Tracing illicit small arms and light weapons
- 05.40 Collection of illicit and unwanted small arms and light weapons
- 05.50 Destruction: Weapons
- 05.60 Border controls and law enforcement cooperation

SERIES 06 - Cross-cutting Issues
- 06.10 Women, gender and small arms and light weapons
- 06.20 Children, adolescents, youth and small arms and light weapons
UNIDIR completes testing of ISACS software tool in 9 countries

By the end of 2013, the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) had completed testing the prototype ISACS Assessment Tool in 9 countries — Bosnia & Herzegovina, Germany, Ghana, Kenya, Kosovo, Nepal, Somalia, South Sudan and Trinidad & Tobago.

ISACS modules used during the field-testing included those providing practical guidance on the collection of illicit and unwanted weapons, destruction of weapons, border controls and law enforcement cooperation, marking and record keeping, and stockpile management.

The software tool is designed to facilitate the use of ISACS and, in particular, provides States with a powerful means of conducting self-assessments of their small arms and light weapons controls, based on the standards.

UNIDIR presented the results of the testing phase during a side-event at the First Committee of the UN General Assembly in New York in October 2013.

Multinational Small Arms and Ammunition Group tests ISACS Assessment Tool

The Multinational Small Arms and Ammunition Group (MSAG) is an apolitical, informal, multinational platform of Armed Forces Verification Centres from OSCE countries that exchange best practices and coordinate international assistance in the area of conventional arms and ammunition management.

On 7-9 May 2014, under the umbrella of MSAG, the Verification Centre of the German Armed Forces hosted armed forces verification officers from Austria, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland for a workshop to test the ISACS Assessment tool under operational conditions. The workshop was jointly organized by the Bundeswehr Verification Center and the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR).

The Assessment Tool, developed by UNIDIR, allows its users to measure existing small arms and light weapons controls against international standards and quickly and easily identify priority areas for improvement.

After being trained on how to use the ISACS Assessment Tool, MSAG verification officers used it to conduct an assessment of two arms and ammunition storage sites that had been prepared to

Verification Officers from Austria, Germany, Spain, Sweden and Switzerland conducted the test

Photo: MSAG
reflect different levels of compliance with international standards.

Workshop participants complimented the user-friendliness of the ISACS Assessment Tool, but were most impressed by its ability to analyse complex data, identify priority areas for improvement, and generate reports. Participants also identified ways in which the tool could be further improved. An exit survey conducted by UNIDIR found that all participants were “likely to use” or “certain to use” the ISACS Assessment Tool in their ongoing work on stockpile management.

The main outcome of the testing workshop will be a recommendation to the MSAG Symposium to be held in Vienna on May 12-16 that MSAG States should adopt the ISACS Assessment Tool for use in assessment visits to arms storage facilities in countries where MSAG is helping to build capacity in arms and ammunition management.

**ISACS Assessment Tool goes live**

On 16 June 2014 — the opening day of the 5th Biennial Meeting of States to consider implementation of the UN Programme of Action against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons — the ISACS Assessment Tool was made available for download free of charge from the ISACS website.

The Assessment Tool — developed by the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) — facilitates the application of ISACS in the design, monitoring and evaluation of small arms control policies, programmes and practices. It allows users (governments, UN entities, regional organisations, training institutes, etc.) to assess how existing policies, programmes and practices align with international standards and to identify priority areas in need of strengthening.
First UNIDIR regional workshop on ISACS Assessment Tool held in Southeast Europe

The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the ISACS Interagency Support Unit — in cooperation with the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) — held the first training-of-trainers workshop on the ISACS Assessment Tool on 22-24 July 2014 at the UNDP office in Belgrade, Serbia.

Eleven technical officers from the OSCE Missions to Bosnia & Herzegovina and Moldova, UNDP Country Offices in Bosnia & Herzegovina and Kosovo15 and UNDP/SEESAC were trained on how to use the ISACS Assessment Tool and how to train others in its use. Thirty-six percent of participants were female.

The workshop focused on using the ISACS Assessment Tool to guide operational work in the Southeast Europe region in areas such as conducting SALW surveys, physical security and stockpile management, marking and record keeping, collection of illicit and unwanted weapons, destruction, and border controls and law enforcement cooperation.

At the end of the course, all participants were proficient users of the ISACS Assessment Tool and were equipped with the resources they need to train others, including their government counterparts, on the use of the tool.

In an exit survey, participants said they were “very likely” or “certain” to use the ISACS Assessment Tool in Southeast Europe, particularly in the areas of marking & recordkeeping, stockpile management and collection of illicit and unwanted weapons.

This was the first in a series of 5 regional training-of-trainers workshops that UNIDIR is organizing during the second half of 2014 in cooperation with the ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit.

UNIDIR conducts 2nd ISACS Assessment Tool training in Latin America

The UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)— in cooperation with the UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) — held the second regional training-of-trainers workshop on the ISACS Assessment Tool on 19-20 August 2014 at the UN Office in Lima, Peru.

Thirteen staff members from UNLIREC, the Organization of American States (OAS) and the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS) Colombia were trained on how to use the ISACS Assessment Tool and how to train others in its use. Sixty-two percent of workshop participants were female.

The workshop focused on using the ISACS Assessment Tool to guide operational work on small

15 References to Kosovo are in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).
arms control in the Latin American region in areas such as physical security & stockpile management, marking & record keeping, and border controls & law enforcement cooperation.

At the end of the course, participants exchanged views on the utility and applicability of the tool, including how it could support institutional and operational work on small arms control issues in the region. Participants appreciated in particular how the tool can assist with rapid priority setting and planning on small arms control measures, as well as with conducting comprehensive assessments of existing policies, programmes and operational practices.

An exit survey conducted at the end of the workshop indicated the potential use of the tool in strengthening the enforcement of existing CIFTA legislative frameworks, in particular through building capacity on small arms marking and recordkeeping. It was noted that the tool could be used to provide support to DDR processes, including on disarmament strategy, policy, and implementation.

This was the second in a series of six regional training-of-trainers workshops that UNIDIR is organising during the second half of 2014 in partnership with the ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit. The first workshop was held in July in Belgrade, Serbia, for the Southeast Europe region, in cooperation with UNDP/SEESAC (see above).
Third UNIDIR regional ISACS Assessment Tool training conducted in the Caribbean

The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit — in cooperation with the Caribbean Community Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (CARICOM IMPACS) — held the third regional training-of-trainers workshop on the ISACS Assessment Tool on 25-27 August 2014 at the new headquarters of CARICOM IMPACS in Port of Spain, Trinidad and Tobago.

The ISACS Assessment Tool facilitates the application of the International Small Arms Control Standards in the design, monitoring and evaluation of small arms control policies, programmes and practices.

The Executive Director of CARICOM IMPACS, Mr. Francis Forbes, formally opened the workshop, which was reported on widely in the Caribbean Media.

Sixteen policy, technical and law enforcement officers from the Caribbean region were trained on how to use the ISACS Assessment Tool and train others in its use. Twenty-five percent of participants were female. Participants came from Barbados, Jamaica, St. Lucia, St. Vincent & the Grenadines and Trinidad & Tobago.

Participants were drawn from CARICOM IMPACS (including its Crime & Security Strategy Central Coordinating Unit and its Regional Intelligence Fusion Centre); the Government of Trinidad & Tobago — Ministry of National Security (Defence Force, Police Service & Strategic Services Agency) and Ministry of Justice (Forensic Science Centre) — and the Caribbean Coalition for Development & Reduction of Armed Violence, a regional civil society grouping.

The workshop focused on using the ISACS Assessment Tool to guide operational work on small arms control in the Caribbean region in areas such as conducting small arms surveys, stockpile management, marking and record keeping, and border controls and law enforcement cooperation.

At the end of the course, all participants were proficient users of the ISACS Assessment Tool and were equipped with the resources they need to train others, including government counterparts, on the use of the tool.

This was the third in a series of six regional training-of-trainers workshops that UNIDIR is organising during the second half of 2014 in cooperation with the ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit. The first two regional workshops were held in Europe (22-24 July in Belgrade, Serbia, in partnership with UNDP/SEESAC) and Latin America (19-20 August in Lima, Peru, in partnership with UNLIREC).

Two additional regional workshops are planned before the end of 2014 in Africa and the Pacific.
UNIDIR introduces ISACS & Assessment Tool to States in Southeast Europe

UNDP Montenegro and the OSCE Mission to Montenegro jointly organized a Workshop on a “Strategic Approach to Control and Reduction of SALW” in Budva, Montenegro on 11–13 December 2013 in order to promote cooperation and exchange of best practices among countries of the Western Balkans.

During the workshop, representatives of the governments of Albania, Bosnia & Herzegovina, Croatia, Montenegro, Serbia, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia and Kosovo* presented their national small arms control strategies and discussed recent achievements and challenges.

Topics discussed included global commitments related to SALW control and recent developments in this area, the accomplishments of and challenges faced by effective SALW control and reduction, and the development of new tools to assist governments and agencies in their day-to-day work through the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS).

The United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) briefed participants on the utility of ISACS and its Assessment Tool in guiding the implementation of wide-range of small arms and light weapons control programmes. Particular focus was placed on examining the applicability of ISACS to strengthening regional controls and coordination in the operational areas of small arms and light weapons controls (ISACS Series 05), including on marking, recordkeeping, border controls and law enforcement cooperation, and stockpile management.

The findings of the workshop contributed to strengthening the Regional Implementation Plan on Combating the Proliferation and Impact of Small Arms and Light Weapons.

BMS5 hears of wide-ranging use of ISACS, endorses use of standards

The 5th Biennial Meeting of States (BMS5) to consider implementation of the UN Programme of Action against the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons came to close in June 2014 with consensus agreement on an outcome document charting the way forward over the coming years.

The meeting, which had a special focus on stockpile management, underlined the extent to which ISACS have been embraced by States and regional organisations in the two years since their launch at the 2nd Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action.

In official working papers and conference statements, the governments of Austria, Germany and Switzerland, as well as the regional organizations CARICOM, the East African Community and the European Union, advocated for the wider application of ISACS in global efforts to prevent the illicit small arms trade.

In conference side-events organised by the UN Mine Action Service (UNMAS), the Multi-National Small Arms and Ammunition Group (MSAG), The Group of Interested States in Practical Disarmament Measures (GIS), the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), the International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA), the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the Organisation for Security an Co-operation in Europe
(OSCE), States and organisations frequently made reference to how they were using ISACS to support the strengthening of controls over the full life-cycle of small arms and light weapons — from manufacture and export/import, through physical security and stockpile management, to collection and destruction of illicit and unwanted arms.

The outcome document of BMS5, agreed by consensus by UN Member States, contains the following endorsement of standards and guidelines:

“States also noted that stockpile management, including physical security measures, could benefit from the voluntary application, in accordance with their national legislation, of standards and guidelines that they consider relevant, as well as from the sharing of lessons learned and good practices relating to the stockpile management and physical security of small arms and light weapons” [paragraph 12].

Moving forward, States agreed:

“To share, as they consider relevant, at future meetings of the Programme of Action good practices as well as lessons learned on standards and guidelines related to stockpile management, including physical security measures, that they apply in accordance with their national legislation” [paragraph 22].

Sixty-seven States express support for ISACS during BMS5

In addition to the six BMS5 working papers advocating for broader application of ISACS, the following States and regional organisations made statements during BMS5 expressing support for the standards. Taken together, this means that 67 States explicitly support using ISACS to advance global efforts to prevent the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons.

AUSTRIA — On behalf of the Human Security Network

"Stockpile management, including physical security measures of small arms, light weapons and corresponding ammunition, is of crucial importance to prevent their illicit transfer and destabilizing accumulation. In this regard, the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) and the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS), both developed in the context of the UN, are essential tools. Furthermore, the establishment of benchmarks and indicators could be useful for the evaluation of the progress of the implementation of stockpile management, including physical security measures…"

SWITZERLAND

"First of all, Switzerland supports adopting a holistic approach to the management of all aspects of the life-cycle of small arms and light weapons, from initial production or acquisition, to final disposal or destruction [...]. This approach ensures that measures falling within the framework of the International Tracing Instrument are duly considered in national implementation processes. Secondly, we suggest considering the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) as well as the

16 28 EU Member States, 11 States associated with the EU, 15 CARICOM Member States, 5 East African Community States, 6 Human Security Network States (not already included in the foregoing), Australia and Switzerland.
International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) as guiding principles when defining national life-cycle management procedures.”

"Switzerland encourages states to adopt appropriate standards, benchmarks and indicators for assessing cooperation and assistance efforts, and progress in implementation of the Programme of Action. In this respect, we welcome the development of the voluntary International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG), and encourage member states to explore ways to ensure their implementation in UN-led cooperation and assistance projects.”

EAST AFRICAN COMMUNITY

"the 5th BMS should encourage states to undertake measures to: [...] Apply International Ammunition Technical Guidelines and International Small Arms Control Standards, which provide practical guidance on stockpile management, marking, record-keeping and tracing”

EUROPEAN UNION

"In the EU and its Member States view, we should further develop agreed standards and best practices in the field of physical security and stockpile management, based on such instruments as the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG). These instruments provide clear, practical and comprehensive guidance to practitioners and policymakers.”

Six BMS5 Working Papers encourage wider application of ISACS

1. AUSTRALIA

"The UNPoA currently suffers from the absence of any framework or principles to measure implementation and assess its effectiveness, and assessing the effectiveness of cooperation and assistance is a small step towards addressing this obstacle in the way of States being accountable for their actions. By standardising the assistance that the UN provides to States particularly in conflict and conflict prone settings, the ISACS offer a significant opportunity to increase the effectiveness, measurability and quality of assistance to States.

BMS5 should take note of the fact that the ISACS were launched on 29 August 2012 at the UNPoA Review Conference, note that they provide practical guidance on implementing commitments made by States in the UNPoA, ITI, Firearms protocol and ATT, and encourage UN CASA partners to use the standards when providing requested support to States.”

2. AUSTRIA

"Together with partners from the Multinational Small Arms and Ammunition Group MSAG the main focus is on supporting capacity building and promoting knowledge transfer with regard to the management of national stockpiles based on the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS), as well as the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG), as well as advising and supporting the reduction of surpluses of SALW and corresponding ammunition [...]"

"Austria proposes to consider the following recommendations [...] for possible inclusion in the final document of BMS 5: [...]"

"— States encouraged the full observation and implementation of the International Small Arms Control Standards, as well as the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines, in the activities involved. [...]"

3. GERMANY

"Germany supports the development of standards and best practices in the control of small arms and conventional ammunition on the global level. It has contributed to the development of the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) and encourages their use on a voluntary basis. In the same respect, Germany encourages the use of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines"
(IATG). The BMS 5 should consider the use of internationally agreed standards for its implementation, including for the establishment of indicators and benchmarks regarding the level of implementation by authorities, armed forces, or other national or international organizations.”

4. SWITZERLAND

"Switzerland welcomes the launch of the voluntary International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) as well as the development of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG).

"Switzerland welcomes the development of the voluntary ISACS and the IATG and requests member states to explore ways to ensure their implementation in UN-led cooperation and assistance projects."

5. CARICOM

"CARICOM calls for the inclusion of minimum common international criteria and/or guidelines for the storage and destruction of SALW and in this connection, welcomes the launch of the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) which inform the standard operating procedures of UNLIREC.

6. EUROPEAN UNION

"As part of this agenda item [physical security and stockpile management], the EU would welcome a detailed consideration of the following issues: the development of agreed standards and best practices, based on such instruments as the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG)"

ISACS are “most important recent step forward on international efforts on small arms” — Instituto Sou da Paz

In April 2014, the Instituto Sou da Paz issued a thought provoking and insightful report entitled, “What Next? Thoughts for global civil society working on arms control and armed violence reduction.”

The report includes a discussion on ISACS and their potential to be used by global civil society as a tool to advocate for more effective national controls over small arms and light weapons. The report argues that:

“[…] the practical implementation of ISACS on a local, national and global level could be pushed by civil society also as many of the standards are common sense, easy, inexpensive, practical gun control measures not dependent on national legislation or international negotiations.”

Civil society has been an indispensable partner in the development of ISACS and remains an indispensable partner in their rollout, use and further development. The ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit encourages civil society around the world to use ISACS to help design, implement, monitor and evaluate small arms and light weapons control initiatives and to report back on how they are using the standards.
ISACS as the work plan for civil society in support of the PoA

EXCERPT FROM A REPORT IN THE SMALL ARMS MONITOR: ¹⁷

“One of the main reasons was the lack of specific guidance for [IANSA’s] NGOs to reduce armed violence in their home countries. The PoA was woefully inadequate in this regard. Another major factor was capacity of NGOs to undertake the activities required to reduce armed violence using the norms established in the PoA.

All of this is changing with the development of ISACS […] In my view PoA, as a document or text, has already faded out. But it has been replaced by the operationalization of the key norms of the PoA; namely, ISACS. (The Arms Trade Treaty will have to go through the same process). In essence, these standards and their failure to be implemented represent all of the causal factors that have led to the illicit proliferation and misuse of SALW. They are, in effect, the work plan for NGOs to reduce armed violence in their home countries by focusing on the role that SALW plays in such violence.

[…] We don’t need to supplement or “super-charge” the PoA, or seek more legally-binding instruments. The PoA has served its purpose in developing norms that have now been converted to standards through the ISACS process, the implementation of which is actionable, especially by civil society.”

Web traffic and social media coverage continue to grow

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<th><a href="http://www.smallarmsstandards.org">www.smallarmsstandards.org</a></th>
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<td>September 2013 - August 2014 (compared with previous 12-month period)</td>
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- Site accessed from 157 countries  
  - ↑ 5%
- 7,584 sessions  
  - ↑ 17%
- 4,988 new users  
  - ↑ 23%
- Average time spent on site per visit  
  - ↑ 23%
- 55 Downloads of the ISACS Assessment Tool  
  - baseline (tool launched in June 2014)

The ISACS website is the public portal into the ISACS project, where standards modules and the ISACS Assessment Tool can be downloaded free of charge and where users can keep up-to-date on how the ISACS are being used by a wide variety of actors around the world.

The ISACS project uses the Twitter handle @SALWstandards to communicate and promote the standards with ISACS’ more than 300 followers, a number that has been growing steadily during the reporting period.

¹⁷ Laurance, Edward J. “ISACS as the work plan for civil society in support of the PoA.” The Small Arms Monitor (Volume 6, Number 6, June 2014). Reaching Critical Will, Women’s International League for Peace and Freedom.
UNDP Report on Rule of Law highlights impact of ISACS

EXCERPT FROM THE REPORT:18

“Because the availability of weapons is closely linked with levels of violence and crime, UNDP continues its support to the development and implementation of the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS). Launched in late 2012, the ISACS provides the UN system with a common set of policy, programming and practice guidelines that help ensure that the UN as a whole consistently delivers the highest quality advice and support to Member States regarding maintaining effective controls over the proliferation and control of small arms and light weapons (SALW).

In 2013, UNDP and other UN partners put the standards to a range of creative uses, including supporting weapons assessments and surveys in post-conflict or fragile settings such as Kosovo, developing standard operating procedures, technical guides and training curricula for use at the national level; evaluating (and improving) the design of national small arms control programmes; and providing consistent, high-quality advice to Member States on fundamental aspects of SALW control.

Beyond the UN system, the standards are used by other organizations to both revise and develop their own good practice guidelines. Since their introduction in 2012, ISACS have also served as a useful starting-point for training that encompasses effective control over the full life-cycle of small arms and light weapons, such as in Somalia. These standards continue to demonstrate their utility as a global reference point for SALW policy and practice, and contribute to supporting and improving global, regional and national efforts to reduce the global burden of armed violence.

In 2013, together with the Ministry of Interior of Nepal, UNDP organized a training workshop on the standards for law enforcement officials and used the results to support the Ministry in developing a National Strategy and Action Plan on Small Arms Control for Nepal. Additionally, UNDP, with the help of the UN Institute for Disarmament Research, supported the Ministries of Interior of Bosnia and Herzegovina to evaluate the design of a weapons collection programme using the ISACS Application Support Tool. As a result, the Ministries revised over 60 percent of the project design in order to align it with the ISACS modules on collection, stockpile management and destruction.”

ISACS and 'Smart Weapon Technology'

In December 2013, the Bonn International Centre for Conversion published BICC brief 49 on “Smart Technology in SALW Control–Civilian Protection, the UN-PoA, and Transfer Control (SmartCon).”

The brief contains most of the papers presented at SmartCon 2013 in Berlin in June 2013, which was sponsored by the German Federal Foreign Office.

*The Economist* reported on the conference and the issues it addressed in an article entitled, *Smart weapons: Kill switches and safety catches.*

A paper by the Coordinator of the ISACS Inter-Agency Support Unit, Patrick Mc Carthy, is included in the brief — "Incorporating Smart Weapon Technology into International Frameworks and Standards.”

The paper offers some preliminary reflections on the challenges and benefits of incorporating smart weapon technology into international frameworks and standards related to small arms and light weapons control. It focuses in particular on the UN Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument and considers the role that the International Small Arms Control Standards can play in promoting the use of smart weapon technology.

UNODA ‘Gun-Free Zone’ paper uses ISACS definitions

EXCERPT FROM THE PAPER:

“In an attempt to prevent and reduce armed violence, a number of national and regional Governments and local communities have established gun-free zones (GFZs). Obviously, such a measure cannot be taken in a vacuum; the root causes for the frequent carrying of guns in an unregulated setting must be addressed as well. But if embedded in a set of measures to reduce violence in a limited area, the establishment of GFZs may indeed contribute to improved perceptions of safety. [...]”

“This paper uses terms as defined in the International Small Arms Control Standards, module 01.20—Glossary of terms, definitions and abbreviations”

