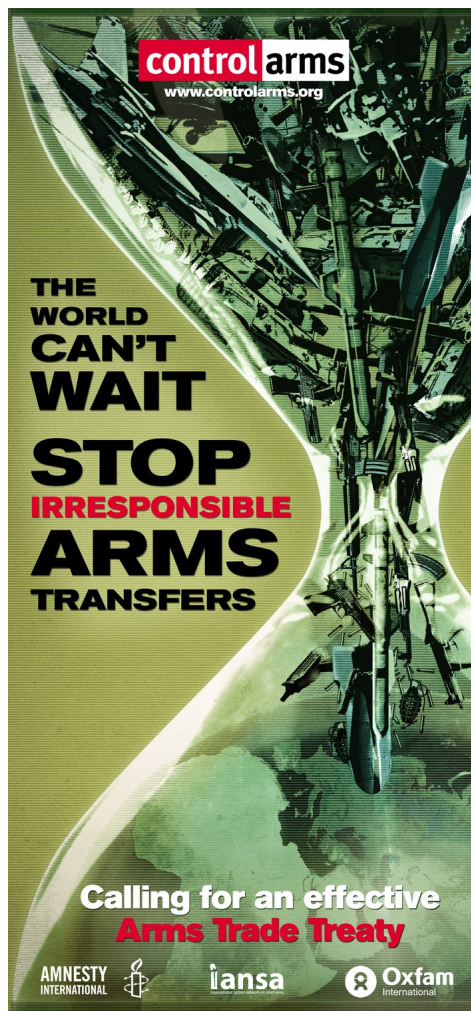


Women, gender and an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Women-only Training

Consolidated Report



June 2010

Women, gender and an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)

This project focussed on a series of 1 day intensive women-only training sessions on gender and an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) led by women who participated in the first women only training in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia (December 2009) and the consecutive civil society workshop: Supporting the Arms Trade Treaty in East, South & Horn of Africa in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia, 5-7 December 2009 organised by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (UNREC), in cooperation with IANSA and Oxfam International..

These trainings involved civil society, local and national parliamentarians, and the media to strengthen work for an ATT that reinforces UN Security Resolutions 1325, 1820, 1888, and 1889, and States' obligations under international human rights and international humanitarian law. The trainings focussed on raising global standards for the international import, export and transfer of conventional arms and ammunition and linked this with women's human rights. Sessions made clear links between international law and the norms of an ATT ensuring greater transparency and accountability of arms transfers, reducing corruption and diversion.

Organisations

- **The Ceasefire Campaign, South Africa**

The Ceasefire Campaign held its training on 14 May 2010 with 12 participants including representatives from local government, and human rights institutes as well as those from the arms control community. Two government officials were invited: Pearl Nhlapo, International Legal Relations at the Department of Justice; and Ingrid Kirsten, Department of International Relations and Cooperation.

- **CECOWDA, Malawi**

The Centre for Conflict Management and Women Development Affairs (CECOWDA) conducted its training with 15 participants. These included Hon. Christina. W. Chiwoko (Lilongwe Mapuyu North, Democratic Progressive Party) and 14 other participants from civil society, the Malawi Police service, the clergy, media and community leaders. This cross sectoral approach ensure that information about an ATT will be carried to very different constituencies, and the MP undertook to follow national process and progress when negotiations begin.

- **Centre for Conflict Resolution (CECORE), and the Eastern African sub Regional Support Initiative for Advancement of Women (EASSI), Uganda**

CECORE and EASSI organised a joint training in Kampala on 13 May 2010 with 28 participants from the military, civil society, UN agencies, government departments and academic institutions among others. Ms. Jane Mpagi, Director of Gender in the Ministry of Gender, Labour and Social Development an advocate on small arms control and whose leadership led to the National Action Plan (NAP) on UNSCR 1325, 1820 and the Goma Declaration, opened and participated in the training. Amongst other things, Ms Mpagi highlighted Uganda's current status at the Human Rights Council is an opportunity to challenge the government to implement existing ratified instruments and push for an ATT.

- **Liberians United to Expose Hidden Weapons (LUEHW), Liberia**

On 12 May 2010 LUEHW conducted its training in Monrovia for lawmakers and civil society organisations. The training brought together 2 female legislators and 12 women from civil society including the Women's Legislative Caucus and members of the Liberia National Commission on Small Arms (LiNCSA). Nohn Kidau and Victoria Lynch of the House of Representatives, the lower chamber of the bicameral Liberian Legislature, were active participants in the training and will provide insight and support to other participants as the ATT process continues. Liberia is a strong supporter of an ATT.

- **Women in Alternative Action (WAA Cameroon), Cameroon**

WAA Cameroon held its training on 12 May 2010 in Yaoundé. 16 female participants from civil society organisations, student researcher, and ministerial departments as well as WAA Cameroon female staff and interns took active part in the training. Two key participants were part of the training: Madam Florence Effa, Chief of Service UN Department of the Ministry of External Relations, and General Nana Marie Abunaw, Technical Adviser at the Ministry of Justice and Keeper of the Seals. The presence and active participation of these key participants was extremely important for the training. Madam Effa is part of the department of Disarmament Affairs in the National Ministry and welcomed the opportunity to learn about the ATT. She promised to report back to her superiors and has already followed up at national and UN levels on an ATT most recently at the BMS 4 in June 2010.

▪ **FECCLAHA, Kenya**

The Fellowship of Christian Councils and Churches in the Great lakes and Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA) held its training on 13 May 2010 in Nairobi in collaboration with the Working Group on SALW, IKV/PAX Christi, ISS, RECSA and Saferworld. Participants also explored case studies of how an ATT would potentially function with examples from Southern Sudan and Eastern Africa.

Materials and Methodology

The training materials consist of a Trainer and Participant Guide with separate session handouts. The methodology combined formal presentations and interactive sessions to maximise the limited time available and cover a large number of crucial issues. Sessions included:

Session 1: Introduction

Session 1.1: Welcome

Session 1.2: Rules of engagement

Session 1.3: Introduction to the training materials

Session 2: International instruments

Session 2.1: What is an international instrument?

Session 2.2: Which international instruments are you aware of?

Session 3: Towards an ATT: an ATT and women's rights

Session 3.1: What is an ATT?

Session 3.2: The line on universality and content

Session 3.3: Women, peace and security: The role of an ATT

Session 3.4: Women's participation in the ATT process

Session 3.5: Next steps for civil society

Session 4: Campaigns

Session 4.1: Successful strategies

Session 4.2: Priorities for the next 12 months

Training Summaries: Knowledge becomes action

In each training participants discussed the substantive elements that should be included in the ATT including: states obligations under the UN Charter, international human rights law, and international humanitarian law, the prevention of gender based violence, particularly sexual violence that can constitute a crime against humanity and a war crime, and the need to ensure that the arms trade does not undermine socio-economic development or involve corruption.

The sessions made clear links between an ATT and women's rights in relation to UN Security Council Resolutions on women peace and security. This helped to ensure that women could see the relevance of an ATT in their work as well as potential impact on their lives.

There were differences in opinion amongst participants which enabled discussions about the value and necessity of different approaches, including whether an ATT should be universal and include commitments by all Member States or if it should be strongly worded based on the Golden Rules and principles that promote women's rights. The training enabled participants to think through the various options and gain some insight into the potential views and role of States when negotiating text for the Treaty in 2012.

Each organisation reported back with details about the various international instruments they were aware of and which could be supported and strengthened by a strong and legally binding ATT. In addition to those already identified at the pilot women only training in Ethiopia [not included here for the sake of brevity – although there is a very long list of various instruments from each report], these included UN SCR 1265 and 1296 which protects civilian women and children; Delhi Declaration (safety as a human right); African Charter on Human and People's Rights; African Charter on elections, good governance, and democracy; SADC principles on democracy, elections and good governance; SADC Firearms Protocol/Nairobi Protocol; UN Convention against Transnational Organised Crime; and the Paris Declaration on Gender Equality.

Next steps (some are dependent on funding)

This is a consolidated summary of follow up as part of civil society engagement in support of an ATT to ensure that women are more closely involved in the process and their experience and expertise is drawn upon. Some of these steps depend on funding and perhaps could be prioritised and supported through the Control Arms campaign in the future:

1. Create awareness of an ATT through media, role play i.e. songs, dance;
2. Advocate for gender sensitive language in a final ATT;
3. Capacity building of local communities on the effects of irresponsible arms transfers on the political, social and economic aspects of development;
4. Advocate for good governance e.g. democracy and zero tolerance for corruption;
5. Formation of a specific Task Force to monitor SALW and ATT processes if a National Commission or National Focal Point does not exist;
6. Identify focal persons to lobby with in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Justice or Ministry of Gender Labour and Social Development etc;
7. Identify additional stakeholders in government, parliament and CSOs and organise a short training for them;
8. Participate in meetings and conferences on the ATT;
9. Establish national and regional women-only ATT networks;
10. Monitor government's arms transfers and stockpile management;
11. Women serving within the various security institutions should raise awareness about an ATT at their respective workplaces;
12. Form part of government delegations to meetings and conferences on the ATT at the UN;
13. Provide capacity building support to women and women groups working on issues related to the ATT at national and regional levels;
14. Develop a database of resources around women and ATT;
15. Organisations to create space in their forums for ATT awareness;
16. Use case studies to generate messages on the impact of arms on women;
17. Organise collective actions for women to publicize their ideas; through information education and communication materials (IEC);
18. Domesticating messages from other international actors that are relevant to their context (e.g.: Disarm domestic violence);
19. Raise awareness of women in various contexts (e.g.: conflict; know how to communicate their issues);
20. Representative groups must share information on how they are integrating ATT in their programmes;
21. Create a forum-ATT awareness for the Government officials;
22. Involve more actors especially from the communities affected to give first hand information, even if it means taking the meeting to their rural areas where they can be accessed.

Evaluation

The trainings ended with evaluation exercises on the relevance of the training, methodology, level, and its inclusiveness (the ability of each person to tap into the expertise of other participants). Participants scored from 1-4 (where 4 is very satisfied and 1 is very unsatisfied) on each session. The majority expressed satisfaction as they found the exercise enriching. Some expressed their desire to participate in many more exercises of this nature in the future. However, some women felt that the training was too short, that it highlighted the need to raise greater awareness among women and the general public, and that there is a need to further promote and strengthen the ATT campaign within their countries and communities. Most noted that they were learning new things and requested more time and opportunities to understand even more about international instruments and the ATT.

Contribution from Oxfam

Organisation	Amount USD\$
Ceasefire Campaign	1000
Centre for Conflict Management and Women Development Affairs (CECOWDA)	1000
Centre for Conflict Resolution (CECORE)	1000
Fellowship of Christian Councils in the Great Lakes & Horn of Africa (FECCLAHA)	1000
Liberians United to Expose Hidden Weapons	1000
Eastern Africa Sub-regional Support Initiative for Women Advancement (EASSI)	1000
Women in Alternative Action (WAA Cameroon)	1000
Total	7000