



PRESS RELEASE

UNODA Regional Centre for Asia and the Pacific Completes Assistance Project with Maldives on Building Capacity in Maritime Conventional Arms Control

NEW YORK, 30 September (Office for Disarmament Affairs) — The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) has successfully completed the last phase of a two-month project on strengthening the national capacity of the Maldives to implement the United Nations Programme of Action on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

Implemented between August and September 2015, the purpose of the project was to enhance the maritime security of the Maldives by providing its Government with technical and legal assistance to facilitate the implementation of the Programme of Action and support its ability to move towards accession to the ATT. Both instruments provide for mutually complementing and reinforcing global mechanisms aimed at countering the illegal trade and illicit trafficking of conventional arms, particularly SALW.

Developed at the request of and in cooperation with the Government of Maldives, the project consisted of three phases. From 3 to 6 August, international experts and a Regional Centre representative held the initial consultation visit to Malé, Maldives, to meet with experts and representatives from ministries and agencies involved in conventional arms control. As a result, the international experts assessed and identified the Government's legal and technical needs for assistance.

In the second phase of the project, the experts carried out a review and prepared recommendations for developing comprehensive laws and regulations and technical procedures for physical security, stockpile management and maritime border control. The aim was to ensure the compliance of national regulations and procedures related to international arms transfers with international standards.

A final summary visit, held in the Maldives 29-30 September, successfully concluded the third and last phase of the project. During this final visit, the international experts presented their review outcomes and recommendations and discussed them with Government experts and officials, and thus enhanced the capacity of the Maldives to control SALW and other conventional arms, particularly in a maritime context.

This project was implemented with financial support from the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation.

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