

PRESS RELEASE

UN REGIONAL CENTRE TO PROMOTE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE ARMS TRADE TREATY (ATT) IN SOUTHEAST ASIA

BANGKOK, THAILAND, 4 -5 APRIL 2016

New York, 4 April 2016 (UN Office for Disarmament Affairs) — Government experts in the area of arms transfer controls from the ASEAN Member States, as well as representatives from various international institutes, non-governmental organizations, and the United Nations are meeting in Bangkok, Thailand, on 4-5 April 2016, to exchange views and share experiences regarding their preparations for the future implementation of the ATT principles and provisions, including implementation challenges.

The workshop will serve to foster regional dialogue and enhance the capacity of the Governments in meeting the Treaty's provisions on the establishment and maintenance of national control systems for conventional arms transfers, as well as on reporting, in accordance with the ATT requirements.

The ATT entered into force in December 2014 and is the first-ever global treaty to regulate the trade in conventional weapons. This legally binding instrument aims to establish common standards for the import, export, transit, and trans-shipment of conventional arms as well as to control broker activities and take measures preventing the diversion of arms. To date, 130 States have signed the Treaty while 82 of these have deposited their instruments of ratification with the Secretary-General of the United Nations.

The workshop will also include a separate side event regarding the Implementation of United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540 (2004), and therefore provides a good opportunity to address issues of national export controls and other measures to prevent any non-State actors from acquiring access to materials that can be used for production of weapons of mass destruction and their means of delivery, in particular for terrorist purposes. Resolution 1540 imposes binding obligations on all States to adopt legislation to prevent the proliferation of nuclear, chemical, and biological weapons, and their means of delivery, and to establish appropriate domestic controls over related materials to prevent their illicit trafficking.

The event is organized by the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, in cooperation with the Government of Thailand. The workshop is made possible through financial support from the UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulations (UNSCAR).

For further information, please contact Mr. Yuriy Kryvonos, Interim Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, at info@unrcpd.org.