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**General and complete disarmament****Conventional arms control at the regional and  
subregional levels****Report of the Secretary-General****Contents**

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\* [A/77/50](#).



## I. Introduction

1. In its resolution 76/42 on conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels, the General Assembly decided to give urgent consideration to this issue and requested the Secretary-General to seek the views of Member States on the subject and to submit a report thereon to the Assembly at its seventy-seventh session.
2. On 11 February 2022, a note verbale was sent to Member States seeking their views on the subject. Any views received after 31 May 2022 will be posted on the website of the Office for Disarmament Affairs in the language of submission. No addenda will be issued.

## II. Replies received from Member States

### Albania

[Original: English]  
[31 May 2022]

Albania is committed to regional and subregional cooperation in international transfers of conventional arms.

Since 2009 we have been actively involved in the Regional Information Exchange Process. This platform brings together representatives of the authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, North Macedonia, Montenegro and Serbia.

Through this process, we have organized regional meetings that contribute directly to regional confidence-building and increase transparency among South-East European countries. Eleven regional reports on arms exports are produced and published through this process and can be found on the website of the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons.<sup>1</sup>

Also through this process we have developed the Regional Law compendium and update it frequently.<sup>2</sup>

Within the framework of the Regional Information Exchange Process, and with the assistance of the Clearinghouse, the creation of a brokering database was facilitated that evolved into an information exchange platform – a truly unique tool, designed to help participating countries to exchange important information and be better informed as they conduct their daily arms control duties. Each participating country has provided a full and updated list of registered arms brokers and their contact information, which can now be accessed through the brokering database, available at the Clearinghouse website only, by the authorized government counterparts from each of the participating countries. In close collaboration with the participants in the Process, the Clearinghouse continues to develop and expand the scope of the information contained in the database, including country profiles, legislation, export control systems and sanctions lists.

Besides the Process, authorities involved in arms transfer control from the countries of south-east Europe meet in different regional workshops and seminars to exchange ideas and information best practices and to share experiences.

Under European Union programmes such as the European Union Partner-to-Partner Export Control Programme for arms control and the Working Party on Conventional Arms Exports, the region of South-Eastern Europe benefits from

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<sup>1</sup> See [www.seesac.org/Regional-Reports-on-Arms-Exports\\_1/](http://www.seesac.org/Regional-Reports-on-Arms-Exports_1/).

<sup>2</sup> See [www.seesac.org/Regional-Arms-Law-Compendium-/](http://www.seesac.org/Regional-Arms-Law-Compendium-/).

assistance regarding conventional arms transfer at the national, subregional and regional levels.

Albania has approved the national Small Arms, Light Weapons and Explosives Control Strategy 2019–2024, the action plan 2019–2021 and the new action plan 2022–2024. It has also established the National Commission for Small Arms and Light Weapons (interministerial bodies coordinating all policies related to small arms and light weapons) chaired by the Deputy Minister for the Interior.

Regular regional meetings have been held since 2014 which provide an opportunity for National Commission representatives to share experiences and technical knowledge, discuss common problems and identify ways to cooperate.

## **Burkina Faso**

[Original: French]  
[31 May 2022]

At the regional level, the proliferation and illicit circulation of conventional weapons, including small arms and light weapons, are rampant. Such Central African countries as South Sudan, the Central African Republic and Chad, which some knowledgeable authors have, rightly or wrongly, characterized as the “death triangle”, are areas in which small arms and light weapons are proliferating and circulating illegally. The cycle of crises that has been ravaging this region of Africa for decades has led to the circulation of such weapons, as they are easy to use, carry and conceal. Furthermore, the illegal exploitation of natural resources in these countries has also led to the proliferation and illicit circulation of these weapons. This phenomenon is equally prevalent in the Great Lakes region, especially in the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has also been engulfed in a cycle of armed violence for more than two decades, particularly along its border with Uganda. The internal conflict has become internationalized, with repercussions for certain neighbouring countries.

The Horn of Africa is not immune to insecurity and turmoil either. The Al-Shabaab terrorist group is making Somalia ungovernable and threatening the peace, stability and security of such neighbouring countries as Kenya and Ethiopia. Ethiopia has also been divided by an armed crisis in the Tigray region for several years now. This state of affairs is likely to lead to the proliferation and illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons.

Turning to the Maghreb, the Libyan crisis, the Tunisian revolution, tensions between Morocco and Algeria over the Sahrawi Arab Democratic Republic and terrorist movements in Egypt are likely to give rise to the proliferation and illicit circulation of conventional weapons, specifically small arms and light weapons.

At the West African subregional level, the Boko Haram terrorist group in northern Nigeria poses a serious threat to the security of States bordering Lake Chad and beyond. The Arab crises in general and the Libyan crisis in particular have had a negative impact on the security situation in sub-Saharan countries. Weapons from Libyan stockpiles have spread throughout the West African subregion and are in the hands of the non-State actors ravaging the region, undermining the peace, security, stability and safety of States. Since 2012, the perverse effects of the Libyan crisis have given rise to a complex security situation in Mali. That situation, in turn, imperils the security of neighbouring States, including Burkina Faso. Apart from the Libyan crisis, Mali and the Niger have witnessed successive armed rebellions, known as Tuareg rebellions, since their independence. Those uprisings have fostered the proliferation and illicit circulation of small arms and light weapons.

The 2010 post-election crisis in Côte d'Ivoire had a negative impact on the proliferation and illicit circulation of conventional weapons. The end of an armed conflict does not necessarily bring the illicit circulation of weapons to an end. Despite the post-crisis disarmament, demobilization and reintegration programme, several small arms and light weapons were reportedly transported to countries to the north of Côte d'Ivoire, including Burkina Faso.

The various conflicts in the Mano River countries (Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea) have also had a negative impact on conventional arms control, with weapons circulating between countries to fuel the conflicts. The situation in Senegambia (Guinea-Bissau, Gambia and Senegal) is not much better, owing to the conflict in Casamance and the activities of drug traffickers in the region.

Since 2016, Burkina Faso has been in the grip of armed terrorist groups that have been launching attacks on defence and security forces and civilians, causing numerous casualties and enormous material and property damage, among other repercussions.

In conclusion, owing to the various armed crises at the regional and subregional levels and the porous nature of the borders, Burkina Faso affirms that conventional arms are lacking control at the regional and subregional levels.

## Cuba

[Original: Spanish]  
[27 May 2022]

The scourges associated with illicit arms trafficking cause considerable suffering and social ills. There is thus a growing need for effective arms control by States. However, such control should not be limited to conventional weapons but should include weapons of mass destruction, which have a significantly more devastating impact and persistent humanitarian and environmental consequences over time.

Whether at the regional, subregional or international level, conventional arms control should be based on international legal norms and principles, the Charter of the United Nations and the fulfilment in good faith of the international commitments assumed by States under the international norms and instruments to which they are parties.

Regional and subregional control measures should in no way undermine the legitimate right of all States, under Article 51 of the Charter, to manufacture, acquire and retain conventional weapons in order to meet their national security needs and protect their sovereignty and territorial integrity.

In the principles to be formulated by the Conference on Disarmament and in discussions on conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels, the following points should be taken into account:

1. Conventional arms control should be based on respect for and the recognition of national regulations and control measures. States should remain primarily responsible for the implementation of measures for the control of their weapons;
2. Control measures should be adapted to the interests, needs and distinctive characteristics of each country and region;
3. It is for States to determine whether they need assistance in establishing and implementing their arms control measures;

4. Cooperation and assistance should be strengthened not only at the regional and subregional levels, but also at the international level. These initiatives must take into account the specificities and needs of the receiving State. Assistance should not be limited to the exchange of information and best practices. Technology transfer and national capacity-building, as well as financial support, as required, should be encouraged.

In accordance with the international treaties to which it is a party and with United Nations resolutions on conventional arms control, Cuba has incorporated into its legal framework a series of relevant laws, including Decree-Law No. 262 on weapons and ammunition and its implementing regulation.

Examples of control measures established under Decree-Law No. 262 and its implementing regulation include the regulation of the import and export of weapons and ammunition, the restriction of the use of weapons and ammunition on board ships and aircraft, and the implementation of surveillance systems at the country's international and internal borders. These laws also set forth the obligations of legal firearms holders.

The conventional arms that exist in Cuba are defensive in nature and intended to maintain national security and defence. They are properly controlled by the appropriate State bodies. In Cuba, the vast majority of conventional weapons are the property of the Ministry of the Revolutionary Armed Forces and the Ministry of the Interior. Both ministries follow strict procedures to ensure the security of their arsenals and have the internal rules and mechanisms necessary for the rigorous and periodic monitoring of these weapons, whether they are held by military personnel or civilians. In addition, in Cuba, no weapons of any kind may be sold or transferred to natural persons.

Cuba has set out the many control mechanisms used by national authorities to ensure the security of their weapons in its national annual reports on the implementation of the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects and Protocol V thereto, the Convention on Cluster Munitions, the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition and the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects. Cuba has also described these control measures during discussions on arsenal management held in accordance with Protocol V to the Convention on Prohibitions or Restrictions on the Use of Certain Conventional Weapons Which May Be Deemed to Be Excessively Injurious or to Have Indiscriminate Effects (see the working paper presented by Cuba at the 2014 Meeting of Experts). The prevention and control mechanisms set out by Cuba in the above-mentioned reports and working document could be considered good practices that could contribute to the work on the formulation of principles requested of the Conference on Disarmament.

Cuba, as a Member State of the Conference on Disarmament, will work actively and constructively in the formulation of principles that can serve as a framework for regional agreements on conventional arms control. All of the above should be within the parameters of the programme of work of the Conference, taking into account the various issues within the purview of the Conference and the need to strike a balance among them.

## Czechia

[Original: English]  
[14 April 2022]

In 2021, the Czech Republic implemented all its commitments stemming from international agreements on arms control, disarmament and confidence- and security-building measures. However, the verification activities were severely affected by the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, and most of them were cancelled.

The Czech Republic, with respect to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe:

- Did not receive, conduct or participate in any verification activities.
- Did not organize any multinational training inspections on the territory of the Czech Republic.

The Czech Republic, in accordance with the Vienna Document 2011 on Confidence- and Security-Building Measures:

- Took part in one multinational training event abroad (with the participation of six inspectors from three countries)
- Took part in one evaluation visit
- Received one evaluation visit
- Took part in three visits to air bases
- Took part in four visits to other military facilities
- Took part in three demonstrations of new types of weapons

The Czech Republic, with respect to the Treaty on Open Skies:

- Did not receive, conduct or participate in any observation flights.

The Czech Republic, in accordance with the Dayton Peace Agreement:

- Participated as a guest Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) observer at one inspection (article IV).

The Czech Republic, with respect to the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production, Stockpiling and Use of Chemical Weapons and on their Destruction (Chemical Weapons Convention):

- Did not receive any international inspections.

## El Salvador

[Original: Spanish]  
[23 March 2022]

Statement of opinion on paragraph 3 of General Assembly resolution [76/42](#) on conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels, submitted by the Logistics Division of the National Civil Police:

As National Civil Police, we have the constitutional mission, pursuant to article 159 (3), to undertake urban police and rural police tasks to guarantee public order, security and peace and to collaborate in criminal investigations, in compliance with the law and with full respect for human rights.

On 2 April 2013, El Salvador acceded to the Arms Trade Treaty, which entered into force on 24 December 2014. Given the disproportionate negative impact of the

illicit trade in conventional weapons by international, regional and transnational criminal organizations, sectors of civil society and other actors interested in obtaining weapons, we as a country require information, advice and expertise to address more effectively the poorly regulated international arms trade, recognizing the importance of adopting a comprehensive approach and mutually supportive measures at the national, regional and international levels to better regulate and control the arms trade through treaties and cooperation agreements.

In 2020, the National Civil Police recorded the seizure of 2,435 firearms under the Territorial Control Plan operations implemented by the Government of the President of El Salvador, Nayib Bukele.

According to police records, shotguns, pistols and rifles were among the confiscated firearms. The consolidated record covers the period from 1 January to 27 November 2020.

The goal of the Security Cabinet of the Government of President Bukele is to remove unregistered weapons from the streets and to arrest individuals who are found to have weapons in their possession without an appropriate licence, in accordance with article 7 of the Act for the Control and Regulation of Arms, Ammunition, Explosives and Related Articles.

The arsenal seized in 2020 included 708 long arms, such as rifles, shotguns, machine guns and carbines. A total of 350 shotguns, 300 rifles, 45 machine guns and 13 carbines were also seized.

The total number of industrial grenades located by police officers in the hands of gang members was 48, up from 34 in the same period of 2019.

According to police figures, a total of 1,679 handguns, including pistols, revolvers and handmade weapons, were found.

In 2021, a total of 2,615 weapons and explosives were seized from criminal groups in El Salvador. The Minister of Justice and Public Security stated that those weapons were of different calibres and the explosives were seized “during raids carried out in 2021” as part of the governmental Territorial Control Plan. They included 1,244 pistols; 568 revolvers; 466 shotguns; 206 rifles; 15 carbines; 27 handmade weapons; 50 machine guns; and 39 grenades.

In mid-November 2021, authorities destroyed more than 1,400 seized weapons following judicial proceedings, as well as confiscated and unclaimed weapons.

On that date, of the total number of weapons destroyed, 913 were small arms, 467 were long arms and 51 were handmade weapons.

During the destruction of the first batch, the procedure was verified by personnel from the Attorney General’s Office, the Weapons and Explosives Division of the National Civil Police and HALO Trust Latin America.

It is important to note that the State institutions in charge of overseeing the use, control and circulation of firearms are working together in implementing the Territorial Control Plan, which has led to greater efficiency and effectiveness during searches and controls and has enabled the removal of illegal firearms from the streets.

As National Civil Police, we have an obligation to ensure compliance not only with the constitutional mission entrusted to us, but also with the Arms Trade Treaty and the Act for the Control and Regulation of Arms, Ammunition, Explosives and Related Articles and its regulations. By continuing to develop plans and strategies, we are able to remove from circulation weapons that in many cases would cause irreversible damage to Salvadoran citizens.

## Honduras

[Original: Spanish]  
[29 March 2022]

With regard to the request of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs to Member States concerning the implementation of General Assembly resolution [76/42](#) on conventional arms control at the regional and subregional levels, Honduras wishes to report the following.

The Legal and Military Audit Department, in coordination with the Directorate of Logistics (c-4) of the Armed Forces of the Republic of Honduras, has adopted measures to control the manufacture, repair and illicit trafficking of weapons. Those measures include the drafting and enactment of the Act on the Control of Firearms, Ammunition, Explosives and Related Materials, through Legislative Decree No. 101-2018, published on 8 February 2019. The purpose of the Act is to control and regulate the import, custody, marketing, brokering, use, storage, illicit manufacture, illicit trafficking, modification, repair and reloading of firearms, ammunition, explosives and related materials as well as the ownership, possession, carrying and use of such weapons.

## Spain

[Original: Spanish]  
[31 May 2022]

The ultimate goal of an arms control regime and of confidence- and security-building measures must be conflict prevention by reducing the danger of misperceptions or miscalculations regarding the military activities of other countries; taking steps to impede covert military preparations; reducing the risk of surprise attacks; and reducing the risk of the accidental outbreak of hostilities.

From that perspective, arms control and confidence- and security-building measures within a regional and subregional context are of great value as a form of prevention specifically adapted to that context, given that they involve a smaller number of parties and can be much more stringent, adapted to the local context and, therefore, more effective. All of the foregoing makes such measures easier to adopt and strengthen.

Spain actively participates in all such regional initiatives. It is a member of the Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) and a party to legally binding instruments, such as the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, which had already been on shaky ground before the Russian military aggression against Ukraine, due to the decision by the Russian Federation to suspend its application of the Treaty.

Spain participates in the OSCE Structured Dialogue on current and future challenges and risks, an initiative launched at the OSCE Ministerial Council in Hamburg in 2016 whose aim is to reinvigorate arms control and confidence- and security-building measures in Europe. Spain chaired the informal working group of the Structured Dialogue in 2020 and 2021. To support the Spanish Chair of the Structured Dialogue, a military working group was established to organize and conduct workshops with military experts.

In addition, Spain is helping to implement the Agreements on Regional Stabilization established by Annex 1.B of the General Framework Agreement for Peace in Bosnia and Herzegovina and the Annexes thereto (collectively the Peace Agreement).



As a fundamental and key element for the performance of verification activities related to arms control and the confidence- and security-building measures of Spain abroad, the Spanish Verification Unit was established in 1991, reporting to the Chief of the Defence Staff, to carry out the detailed planning and execution of those activities.

With regard to the Treaty on Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, inspections could not be carried out in 2021, owing to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic.

With regard to the Dayton Agreements, in August 2021, Spain participated in an inspection of Bosnia and Herzegovina in the Republic of Serbia, with a Spanish inspector as an invited observer.

With regard to the control of chemical weapons, continuous support is provided to the National Authority for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons. Members of the Spanish Verification Unit take part in inspections carried out by the Organisation for the Prohibition of Chemical Weapons in Spain.

Outside Europe, as a contribution to conventional arms control (small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition) in Latin America, in August 2021, Spain hosted a validation exercise of the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines by a team with representatives of the Ammunition Management Advisory Team, the United Nations and the Peruvian Army. At the express request of the Peruvian Army, as part of the follow-up process, in November 2021 a team composed of members of the Advisory Team and the Spanish Verification Unit travelled to Peru to carry out evaluation visits to various powder magazines and ammunition depots.

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