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**Third United Nations Conference to Review  
Progress Made in the Implementation of the  
Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and  
Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and  
Light Weapons in All Its Aspects**

New York, 18–29 June 2018

**Working paper submitted by the European Union**

**Cooperation and assistance of the European Union in support of the  
implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and  
Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All  
Its Aspects**

**I. Introduction**

1. The European Union has been supporting cooperation and assistance to third countries for the implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects since its adoption in 2001. The assistance activities include voluntary civilian disarmament campaigns, the collection and destruction of surplus small arms and light weapons and ammunition, physical security and stockpile management of small arms and light weapons and ammunition and capacity-building for marking, record-keeping and tracing. Actions are based on an integrated approach whereby physical measures, such as fences and locks for stockpiles, are combined with support for legislation, training, capacity development, monitoring and awareness raising.

**II. Thematic projects with a global scope**

**A. Capacity development for arms export controls**

**1. Arms Trade Treaty outreach**

2. To contribute to the effective implementation and universalization of the Arms Trade Treaty, the Council of the European Union adopted Decision 2013/768/CFSP, setting up an ambitious support programme for non-European Union countries. The first phase of this outreach programme ran from 2013 to April 2017, with a total budget of €5.2 million, and assisted a number of non-European Union countries, upon their request, in strengthening their arms transfer systems in line with the requirements of the Treaty. The project was implemented by the German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control. The final action of the project was the organization in Georgia of a regional seminar for States members of the Organization for Security and



Cooperation in Europe (OSCE). This seminar allowed 57 participants from 20 countries, as well as 9 international organizations and civil society representatives, to engage on a wide variety of topics and address the major tasks and challenges ahead in the implementation process of the Treaty. Building on the success of the first outreach programme, the Council tasked Expertise France and the German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control with the implementation of a follow-up project outlined in Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/915. With a budget of €8.3 million until August 2020, this second phase of the programme, like its predecessor, comprises activities conducted across the globe and includes assistance for the drafting of legislation, training and sharing of best practices among export control professionals. With regard to the universalization of the Treaty, outreach not only to beneficiary countries but also to their neighbours, as well as through regional forums and organizations, represents a key component of the actions taken within the project.

3. During the ramp-up phase of the project, in the middle of 2017, five new long-term partnerships were established between the European Union and Benin, Cameroon, Côte d'Ivoire, Sierra Leone and Togo, respectively. Under the newly established partnerships, work focused on the development of common assessment tools allowing for the easy highlighting of gaps and potential areas of action in national control systems. A side event for phase two of the outreach programme was organized in September 2017 on the margins of the third Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, held in Geneva. The event brought together more than 80 participants sharing, in panel discussions, the practical experience and best practices gained during the first phase of the programme. Together with the German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control, two representatives of long-term partner countries (Costa Rica and Senegal) presented their national experiences of the programme, thereby increasing the visibility of the project to current and potential future partners, as well as to the whole Arms Trade Treaty community, and enabled the exchange of lessons learned. In addition, three road map activities were organized throughout 2017 in Costa Rica, Ghana and Jamaica, as were expert assessments in Cambodia and Zambia, the latter allowing for the development of tailored assistance road maps to meet the needs and priorities of beneficiary partner countries.

## 2. Outreach on Council Common Position 2008/944/CFSP

4. In January 2018, Council Decision (CFSP) 2018/101 was adopted in support of the European Union activities aimed at promoting, among countries in the European Union neighbourhood, effective controls on arms exports by non-European Union countries in accordance with the principles and criteria set out in Common Position 2008/944/CFSP and in the Arms Trade Treaty. The technical implementation of outreach activities for arms export control continued to be entrusted to the German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control, based on the achievements reached through the implementation of Decisions (CFSP) 2015/2309, 2012/711/CFSP and 2009/1012/CFSP and of Council Joint Action 2008/230/CFSP. The purpose of Decision (CFSP) 2018/101 is also to seek, where appropriate, complementarity and synergies with assistance projects of the European Union in the field of export controls on dual-use goods. Furthermore, its aim is to support the efforts of these countries at the national and regional levels in order to render trade in conventional weapons more responsible and transparent. The beneficiary countries of these actions include the South-Eastern European countries (Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Croatia, Kosovo,<sup>1</sup> Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia), North African Mediterranean countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy (Algeria, Egypt, Libya, Morocco and Tunisia), Eastern European and Caucasus countries of the European Neighbourhood Policy (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Republic of Moldova and Ukraine), member countries of the Economic Community of West African States (Benin, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Gambia, Ghana, Guinea, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia,

<sup>1</sup> References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

Mali, Niger, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and Togo), Cameroon, Chad, China and Mauritania.

## **B. iTrace: support for tracing small arms and light weapons in conflict-affected areas**

5. Since 2013, the European Union has supported iTrace, which is a global reporting mechanism for illicit small arms and light weapons and other illicit conventional weapons and ammunition implemented by Conflict Armament Research. The system is intended to track and trace illicit small arms and light weapons and ammunition by means of in-field research in conflict-affected regions, where local law enforcement agencies often lack the capacity to trace. Conflict Armament Research works closely with and provides technical assistance to Governments, United Nations sanctions monitoring groups and peace support operations. The information on patterns of trafficking and diversion exposed by iTrace adds value to national counter-diversion initiatives, increasing the effectiveness of arms control measures, such as export controls and stockpile management. The objective of the initiative is to identify and stop diversion. iTrace also seeks to help to monitor the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, provide comprehensive information in support of Treaty implementation reviews and strengthen the capacity of national Governments to anticipate the impact of licensing decisions concerning arms exports. iTrace also underpins the Programme of Action and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons by diagnosing and monitoring diversion independently and globally. Between 2014 and 2017, the iTrace I and iTrace II projects expanded global data on illicit weapon transfers into armed conflicts, providing concrete evidence of supply into 25 active war zones, including hotspots such as Iraq, Libya, South Sudan and the Syrian Arab Republic. The European Union continued its support for iTrace through Decision (CFSP) 2015/1908, adopted on 22 October 2015, and Decision (CFSP) 2017/2283, adopted on 11 December 2017.

6. In 2016 and 2017, Conflict Armament Research conducted field deployments, including to Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, India, Iraq, Lebanon, Mali, the Niger, Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan and the United Arab Emirates. Field investigation teams from the organization have engaged increasingly deeply with national Governments in the countries concerned and these activities have resulted in greater access to illicit weapon seizures and hence the volume of weapon data generated. During these deployments, Conflict Armament Research documented several thousand weapons and related ammunition for upload on to the iTrace system. Much of this information has been subject to international trace requests and is currently being processed. Conflict Armament Research presented iTrace in international policymaking forums and meetings. It also provided briefings to international institutions and organizations, including the African Union (Addis Ababa), the International Criminal Court (The Hague), the World Customs Organization (Belgium), the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa (Lomé), the European Commission Standing Committee on Precursors, the Working Group on Firearms and the Security Council Committee pursuant to resolutions [1267 \(1999\)](#), [1989 \(2011\)](#) and [2253 \(2015\)](#) concerning Islamic State in Iraq and the Levant (Da'esh), Al-Qaida and associated individuals, groups, undertakings and entities.

7. In addition, Conflict Armament Research engaged in increasing interaction with States members of the European Union on a range of issues, including the tracing of conflict weapons, advice on countering the diversion of improvised explosive devices and home-made explosives and general briefings on conflict dynamics in war-torn countries. These evolving relationships have built trust between the iTrace project and member State authorities, encouraged free information-sharing and resulted in a high rate of response to weapon trace requests issued in the framework of the project.

8. Conflict Armament Research released online policy reports in the reporting period. These include "Tracing the supply of components used in Islamic State IEDs", "Tracing improvised weapon components: field perspective", "Islamic State's weaponised

drones”, “Investigating cross-border weapon transfers in the Sahel”, “Maritime interdictions of weapon supplies to Somalia and Yemen” and “Standardisation and quality control in Islamic State’s military production: weapon manufacturing in the east Mosul sector”. In December 2017, Conflict Armament Research issued “Weapons of the Islamic State”. All reports are posted online on its website. These investigations have led to a number of concrete policy responses and interventions, including the launch of criminal investigations into arms trafficking.

### **C. Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System**

9. As regards international approaches to tracing illicit small arms and light weapons, since 2011 the European Union has been supporting the Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System (iARMS) of the International Criminal Police Organization (INTERPOL), an electronic platform for tracking and tracing lost, stolen, trafficked and smuggled firearms that facilitates information exchange and investigative cooperation between law enforcement agencies. The iARMS database assists INTERPOL member countries in identifying patterns of illicit firearms movement and in designing interventions to address the proliferation of small arms and light weapons. Over the course of the project, access to the database has been extended to all 192 INTERPOL member countries and the database has been enhanced to meet field operation requirements of the member countries. In December 2016, the European Union signed a new contract supporting INTERPOL with €2.5 million for phase four of the iARMS project. Activities under the phase four framework comprise the expansion of complementarity with other major systems of information exchange, in particular the second generation Schengen Information System. In order to allow for a single end user transaction, a direct interface is being established between iARMS and existing national tracing systems and national stolen and lost firearms databases in order to enable searching of multiple databases (for example, of national systems, iARMS, the second generation Schengen Information System and iTrace). The operational capabilities of INTERPOL member countries with regard to iARMS will be enhanced by utilizing the database in operations targeting firearms trafficking. Finally, phase four of the project is aimed at enhancing the functionality of iARMS to improve sharing of intelligence data among law enforcement agencies.

### **D. Support for the implementation of the United Nations Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime**

10. The European Union supports international approaches to improve legislation and capacity-building through the implementation of the United Nations Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, in cooperation with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC). During the first phase, from March 2011 to July 2015, the project provided legislative assistance to five countries in West Africa — Benin, Burkina Faso, Mauritania, Senegal and Togo — and five countries in South America — Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Ecuador, Paraguay and Uruguay. In the area of capacity-building, law enforcement officers from West Africa (Benin, Burkina Faso, Ghana, Senegal and Togo) and South America (Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Brazil, Chile, Ecuador and Paraguay) were trained on investigation and prosecution of firearms trafficking. The resulting report, entitled “UNODC study on firearms 2015: a study on the transnational nature of and routes and modus operandi used in trafficking in firearms”, was issued at the end of 2015 and can be accessed online.

11. Building on the successful cooperation in this field, a follow-up project was started in 2018. The European Union committed €3.2 million to the project, aimed at preventing and countering the illicit manufacturing of and trafficking in firearms and their links to

transnational organized and other serious crimes, and promoting the ratification and implementation of the Firearms Protocol. Particular emphasis will be placed on increasing the awareness of firearms issues, enhancing the capacity of criminal justice systems to detect, investigate and prosecute firearms trafficking and related offences, ensuring the effective international cooperation and sharing of information and good practices among the communities working on firearms issues and organized crime and providing an improved capacity to monitor, analyse and identify synergies for firearms legislation.

### **III. Regional projects on small arms and light weapons control**

#### **A. Southern and Eastern Europe**

##### **1. South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons in the western Balkans**

12. The South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small Arms and Light Weapons works to strengthen the capacities of national and regional stakeholders to control and reduce the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons and thus contribute to enhanced stability, security and development in South-Eastern and Eastern Europe. The programme functions under the mandate given to it by the United Nations Development Programme and the Regional Cooperation Council. Council Decision (CFSP) 2016/2356 is the seventh consecutive decision in support of the disarmament and arms control activities of the programme, committing €6.5 million to the project until December 2019. In order to ensure increased regional cooperation, knowledge exchange and information sharing, leading to enhanced capacity for evidence-based policymaking, regional meetings of commissions on small arms and light weapons were organized to discuss challenges in formulating and implementing arms control policies. Moreover, a regional survey on small arms and light weapons was launched, as well as an online armed violence monitoring platform on the Clearinghouse website, showing detailed data on firearms incidents happening daily in South-East Europe. Training on gender and small arms and light weapons led to increased awareness among policymakers of the main gender concerns related to small arms and light weapons. Finally, the eighth regional report on arms exports was issued, covering arms exports activities for 2014 in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Montenegro, Serbia and the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia.

13. The Clearinghouse programme also works towards improved capacity for physical security and stockpile management through infrastructure security upgrades, surplus reduction and training. In 2017, it provided support to the national authorities in Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo, Montenegro and Serbia in destroying 24,147 pieces of small arms and light weapons and 5,189 of their parts and components. In Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro, 243,013 pieces of ammunition were also destroyed. Additionally, assessments of potential storage locations of small arms and light weapons and ammunition for targeted security infrastructure upgrades were conducted and approved by the relevant authorities. To ensure the sustainability of the capacities of institutions in physical security and stockpile management, a regional training of trainers was organized in Albania, while the ninth regional workshop of the Regional Approach to Stockpile Reduction, held in Montenegro, ensured the exchange of good practices among armed forces in the region in ammunition stockpile management and disposal.

14. As part of the actions aimed at enhanced capacity for marking, tracing and record-keeping, two meetings of the South-East Europe Firearms Experts Network were convened. Scoping missions were organized to assess the capacities and needs of beneficiaries to establish firearms focal points. In addition, representatives of the Clearinghouse programme and the South-East Europe Firearms Experts Network contributed to the planning of two counter-trafficking operations: a joint action day between the European Union and western Balkans law enforcement agencies, led by the

European Multidisciplinary Platform against Criminal Threats and coordinated by the European Union Agency for Law Enforcement Cooperation, and an operation led by the European Union Border Assistance Mission to Moldova and Ukraine, coordinating the law enforcement efforts of the Ukrainian and Moldovan authorities. Part of the mission of the Clearinghouse project is also the development and implementation of measures aimed at reducing illicit possession and misuse of firearms through support for awareness raising and collection campaigns. In 2017, a public-perception survey on the possession and use of firearms in South-East Europe was implemented to provide a better understanding of the reasons behind weapons possession, as well as perceptions of security or insecurity related to firearms in South-East Europe. The survey was conducted online in all languages of the region and through an innovative methodology, which ensured randomness and the anonymity of the respondents.

## **2. Organization for Security and Cooperation in Europe project in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia**

15. With Council Decision (CFSP) 2017/1424, the European Union supports OSCE in a regional approach preventing the destabilizing accumulation and uncontrolled spread of small arms and light weapons. The project is aimed at increasing the physical and information technology security of small arms and light weapons and ammunition stockpiles in border police stations and a regional centre for border affairs in the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia. Furthermore, the project is aimed at increasing the capacity of the Ministry of Internal Affairs to implement stockpile management for small arms and light weapons and conventional ammunition. The European Union allocated €1,056,878.52 for the funding of this project, to be implemented by the OSCE Mission to Skopje with support from the OSCE secretariat, with an additional €100,000 of funding being provided by the Government of Germany.

16. The Mission to Skopje conducted a needs assessment, which included visits to 15 border police stations and a regional centre for border affairs. OSCE identified a number of challenges related to the security of small arms and light weapons in these stations, including the need to improve the physical security of the existing storage rooms. Enhanced record-keeping procedures were also required, as was the need to increase the capacity of the personnel responsible for the management of service and seized small arms and light weapons. Between August and December 2017, the recruitment process of the project implementation team was completed. A memorandum of understanding was ceremonially signed during the official kick-off meeting in Skopje, bringing together representatives of the diplomatic community, relevant government institutions and non-governmental organizations.

## **3. Destruction of surplus munitions in Bosnia and Herzegovina**

17. The excessive stockpiles of ammunition and the associated risk of an uncontrolled explosion continue to pose a significant hazard to human safety and security in Bosnia and Herzegovina. With the European Union project on stockpile management, technical support and ammunition surplus reduction (EU-STAR), the European Union will contribute to reducing the stockpile of inappropriate ammunition to a quantity ranging from 5,000 to 6,000 tons. By the end of 2019, the armed forces of Bosnia and Herzegovina will be in a position to manage, safely and securely, their stockpile and integrate the destruction of obsolete ammunition into their regular planning. EU-STAR is also aimed at the full transfer of know-how from the project and its contractors to local personnel, thus developing sustainable capacity in the country to destroy unexploded ordnance. It builds upon the European Union-funded project on the destruction of explosive ordnance and remnants of war and the first and second phase of the small arms control and reduction project. These projects had already contributed to the disposal of more than 9,100 tons of ammunition, equivalent to 26 per cent of the total military stockpile as of 2005. The EU-STAR project, in parallel with other donor-driven initiatives, will contribute to the elimination of the remaining hazardous stockpile. The European Union force in Bosnia and Herzegovina (EUFOR-Althea), by coordinating this approach with the master plan on ammunitions, weapons and

explosives, ensures progress and monitors the smooth phasing out of international support in ammunition disposal by the end of 2019.

## **B. Africa**

### **1. Stockpile management in the Sahel**

18. In order to address the lack of effective physical security and stockpile management in existing conventional arms and ammunition depots in the Sahel region, the European Union adopted Decision 2014/912/CFSP, supporting a 36-month project to be implemented by the Office for Disarmament Affairs through the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa. As regards activities in the field of capacity-building, the Regional Centre organized workshops for senior government officials and technical experts and practitioners directly responsible for physical security and stockpile management, during which participants reviewed, adapted and validated the proposed standard operating procedures developed by the Regional Centre based on the International Small Arms Control Standards and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines. The workshops were held in Burkina Faso, Mali and the Niger (in cooperation with their respective national commissions against the proliferation of illicit small arms and light weapons), in Chad (with the Chadian national small arms and light weapons focal point) and in Nigeria (in collaboration with the Nigerian Presidential Committee on Small Arms and Light Weapons).

19. In the context of the assessment of physical security and stockpile management at national conventional arms depots and during the transportation of small arms and light weapons and ammunition, the project led, among other things, to the rehabilitation of three pilot armouries in Chad and the rehabilitation of two weapons and ammunition storage sites in Burkina Faso, including training courses for armoury storekeepers and managers. A new mine action group country team for Mauritania, which was deployed in 2017, has been working on signing a memorandum of understanding with the army covering this project. Both the Regional Centre and the mine action group continue to liaise with the Mauritanian authorities to make this process progress as swiftly as possible. The future intervention sites in Mauritania have been identified. In Mali, in the context of its own regular activities, but contributing to the aims of the project, between January and December 2017 the Mine Action Service of the United Nations rehabilitated three existing buildings and constructed three container-based armouries. The Mine Action Service also constructed two ammunition depots and rehabilitated two more, all located in central and northern Mali. Within this period, the Service also carried out 10 capacity-building training sessions for storekeepers and managers. From 21 to 25 August 2017, the physical security and stockpile management expert of the Regional Centre travelled to Abidjan to meet the national small arms and light weapons commission in Côte d'Ivoire to gather information on the adoption of new technologies. Specifically, the Ivorian computerized management system of governmental weapons and ammunition was discussed and scrutinized. This information will be used for the new technologies component of the project.

### **2. African Peace and Security Architecture**

20. Peace and security is a key pillar of the partnership between the European Union and Africa under the Joint Africa-European Union Strategy. There is a common understanding of the importance of peace and security as preconditions for political, economic and social development. At the fourth European Union-Africa Summit, in April 2014, the Heads of State and Government of both continents reaffirmed their commitment to strengthening the operationalization of the African Peace and Security Architecture. At the fifth African Union-European Union Summit, in November 2017, leaders reiterated their commitment to the implementation of the project and agreed to strengthen cooperation and partnership to address peace and security challenges, including the proliferation and use of illicit weapons. The European Union-funded support programme III for the African Peace and Security Architecture is meant to improve the capacities of the African Union and of the regional economic communities/

regional mechanisms to fulfil their respective mandates under the project. Phase III is the continuation of the European Union support provided under the African Peace Facility since May 2011 (support programmes I and II) to support the development of the African Union and of the capacity of regional economic communities and regional mechanisms to effectively prevent, manage and respond to crisis and conflicts on the continent.

21. In 2017, part of the European Union financial support provided through the support programme III was allocated to a series of activities related to small arms and light weapons controls. At the level of the African Union, in order to enhance its support to member States in building capacity on relevant strategies, activities and technical and operational skills pertaining to the fight against illicit small arms and light weapons, technical support was provided to member States in controlling illicit arms proliferation, including by enhancing arms and ammunition management. Workshops were organized on arms-marking standards and best practices, as well as regional awareness-raising workshops on the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty and on the incorporation into national legislation of the Convention on the Prohibition of the Development, Production and Stockpiling of Bacteriological (Biological) and Toxin Weapons and on Their Destruction. At the level of the Economic Community of Central African States (ECCAS), in order to facilitate the ratification, incorporation into national law and implementation by ECCAS member States of continental (Arms Trade Treaty) and regional strategies or instruments on small arms and light weapons, an awareness-raising workshop for member States and stakeholders on the establishment of national focal points and national commissions was carried out. Also, a manual with guidelines was supported financially. At the level of the Southern African Development Community, in order to enhance cooperation on arms control and transnational organized crime among member States and partners, a regional strategy and a plan of action on small arms and light weapons were developed and their implementation was monitored and reviewed.

### **3. Economic Community of West African States-European Union small arms project**

22. The Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)-European Union small arms project is an intervention under the European Union programme to support the ECOWAS regional peace, security and stability mandate and covers selected countries in the Mano River Union and Sahel regions, namely the west of Côte d'Ivoire, the Guinea Forest Region, the east of Liberia, the north-east of Sierra Leone and the Sahel in the northern Niger, northern Nigeria and Mali. The project is aimed at raising the awareness of border communities, strengthening operational and institutional capacities of relevant stakeholders and collecting and destroying arms and ammunition. In each country, the project is implemented through the national commissions on small arms and light weapons. To reach out to the selected beneficiary communities, the project organizers partnered with civil society organizations, community-based organizations and local authorities, as well as unorthodox traditional partners, such as public criers, to reach out to people using local languages.

23. Overall, 49 public awareness campaigns were carried out, with more than 14,800 people reached (10,370 men and 4,430 women), thereby increasing community confidence and knowledge about the dangers of small arms and light weapons, which resulted in the voluntary identification and handing over of sites of large deposits of unexploded ordnance. Operational and institutional capacities of the national commissions were strengthened by providing office equipment, arms database equipment, motorbikes, satellite communication devices and equipment for the destruction of weapons. In addition, personnel from the commissions in beneficiary countries received training, and a number of containers for the storage of weapons and ammunition were built or restored. Also, stockpile management capability in line with the International Small Arms Control Standards was provided to pilot countries. Voluntary collections of weapons, arms and ammunition were organized in Côte d'Ivoire, Guinea, Liberia, the Niger and Sierra Leone and produced encouraging results. In Sierra Leone, the project organizers collaborated with armed forces to destroy more

than 30 items of unexploded ordnance, hidden weapons and ammunition that once posed a risk to communities and which were voluntarily surrendered to the national commission and destroyed, thereby increasing the safety and security of those communities.

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