



January – March 2024

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS IN Q4

The Arms and Ammunition Management Validation System (AAMVS) project entered its second year of implementation. The Ammunition Management Advisory Team's (AMAT) activities focused mainly on outreach with states to lay down the foundations for the piloting phase of the AAMVS. AMAT attended the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Working Group Sessions in preparation for the 10th Conference of States Parties (CSP10) to explore synergies with this year's focus on 'interagency cooperation'. AMAT also travelled to Stockholm to explore opportunities for collaboration with the Swedish licensing authority in the piloting of the AAMVS and travelled to Brussels to brief the European Union (EU) and meet with members states and agencies. 2024 will mark the official start of the "pilot" phase of the AAMVS with two states planned to complete the self-assessment tool.

AAMVS AT THE CSP 10 ATT WORKING GROUP MEETINGS

The ATT Working Group meetings took place in Geneva on 20-23 February 2024. AMAT followed all open sessions and discussions, pertaining to the practical implementation of the ATT in the pursuit of bridging the thematic focus of the conference—inter-agency cooperation and national control systems—with the concept and objectives of the AAMVS. Throughout the sessions and side-events, AMAT met with various stakeholders, including states representatives and the EU, to provide updates on the AAMVS and future activities, and explore areas for collaboration. Based on the objectives of the EU Council Decision CFSP 2022/2275 and the opinion of independent experts, the AAMVS can be utilised to support confidence-building and information sharing. It can contribute to assessing the risks of diversion and foster international cooperation to bolster treaty implementation efforts. Additionally, through the increased engagement with export and import licensing authorities, AMAT has had numerous discussions about the interagency challenges states would face in implementing the AAMVS. These experiences can provide valuable input and contributions to these discussions. AMAT plans to attend the upcoming Preparatory meeting in May and organise a side event during CSP10 in August 2024.

AAMVS PILOT

Following the "Pilot of the Pilot" Workshop conducted in Ghana in December 2023, AMAT held a first meeting "virtually" on 23 February with the National Commissions for Small Arms and Light Weapons of Ghana and Liberia. The aim was to launch the assessment process by presenting the updated and final AAMVS Self-assessment tool and next steps for the piloting phase. AMAT plans to hold a follow-up in-person meeting in Q2 or Q3 to review and discuss the final results and any issues in completing the questionnaire.

MEETING WITH SWEDISH EXPORT CONTROL AUTHORITIES

On 5 March, AMAT met with the Swedish Export Licensing Office (ISP) to discuss the AAMVS, to learn about their licensing processes, and to examine if the AAMVS could support their work. The meeting was successful in increasing awareness of the AAMVS and on how it can support licence authorisation processes, and in gaining useful insights on the unique features in national processes to adapt and improve the AAMVS. ISP agreed to participate in the piloting phase of the AAMVS by evaluating the results of the self-assessment results.

BRIEFING TO COARM AND MEETING WITH EU

AMAT updated EU member states on the progress of the AAMVS project during the monthly COARM meeting on 20 March. In addition, AMAT met with representatives from EEAS and EU agencies to discuss the management aspects of the implementation of the grant agreement and 2023 results.

AMAT also discussed with the European Peace Facility (EPF) the potential use of the AAMVS tool under the grant during their next plans to supply a third country with arms or ammunition. The AAMVS is designed to support risk assessments of arms transfers to third countries and can help identify mitigation measures. AMAT will continue to explore the possibility of testing the tool with the EPF.

PROJECT ADVISORS FOR 2024

AMAT renewed the mandates of three advisors who were part of the project team in 2023: one technical advisor and two policy and legal advisors. The partnership with the Small Arms Survey for this project continues in 2024. The project team is composed of three AMAT staff (Programme Manager, Technical Advisor and Programme Officer), the Small Arms Survey, one technical advisor and two policy and legal advisors.

