



July – September 2023

MAIN ACHIEVEMENTS IN Q3

In Q3, the Geneva International Centre for Humanitarian Demining's Ammunition Management Advisory Team (GICHD-AMAT) continued engagement with European Union (EU) experts and stakeholders, in addition to reaching out to regional organisations. Two closed-door workshops were organised alongside the 9th Conference of States' Parties (CSP9) to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) to explore the compatibility of the Arms and Ammunition Management Validation System (AAMVS) with EU export control processes. GICHD-AMAT also held meetings with the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) and the Regional Center on Small Arms (RECSA) and member states in view of promoting the AAMVS in their regions and preparing for an upcoming workshop in Ghana in Q4 2023.

AAMVS CLOSED-DOOR WORKSHOP – CSP9 ATT

On the sidelines of CSP9, GICHD-AMAT organised a closed-door workshop to evaluate certain aspects of the current design of the AAMVS with the export authorisation process used by participating EU member states. Participants of the workshop provided their thoughts on the compatibility of specific features of the AAMVS project with existing state export licensing practices.

The Workshop aimed to test key theoretical elements of the current AAMVS against the current states' practices. During the workshop, members of the AAMVS team engaged with EU Member States' representatives to ask more about general aspects of their work and risk assessment efforts and to explore how the AAMVS system may consider their needs and practices. This provided vital information as to which elements of the design are feasible and which elements need to be redesigned.



The workshop was organised twice, on Thursday 24 and Friday 25 August 2023, to allow maximum in-person participation in the discussions. A total of ten EU Member States (Austria, Belgium and Walloon Region, Czech Republic, France, Germany, Ireland, Italy, Poland, Romania and Spain), plus a representative of the European Union, participated in the workshop.

AAMVS OUTREACH AT CSP9

During the CSP9 week, the AAMVS team organised a lunch meeting with four ECOWAS member states: Ghana, Liberia, Senegal and Sierra Leone to plan a "pilot of the pilot" workshop of the AAMVS in Accra, Ghana. In addition, GICHD-AMAT met with RECSA to finalise the signature of a Memorandum of Understanding and discuss future plans.

A presentation on the AAMVS, its benefits and potential for supporting the implementation of the ATT was delivered by the AMAT Programme Officer during a side event titled "Challenges to Effective Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty: Ten years since the Arms Trade Treaty" organised by MAAT Foundation. In addition to these activities, several team members followed the formal sessions, attended side-events and held bilateral meetings with states and organisations' representatives to promote the AAMVS and gather input for its design in preparation for its piloting next year.

AAMVS IN THE ECOWAS REGION

In Q2, the project team had met with ECOWAS in Abuja, Nigeria to discuss potential for promoting the AAMVS among West African states. The discussions had resulted in the decision to co-organise a workshop in Q4. However, due to conflicting commitments, it was decided to postpone the event to the first half of next year 2024 to allow more time for planning and outreach.

Consequently, GICHD-AMAT discussed with four ECOWAS member states to hold an initial "smaller" workshop (pilot of the pilot) to test the AAMVS self-assessment tool for their arms and ammunition import processes. The workshop should be held towards the end of 2023 or early 2024 in Accra, Ghana with the participation of three representatives from four states and one from ECOWAS secretariat. The EU mission in Accra will be invited to attend the event.

MEETING WITH FRENCH EXPORT CONTROL OFFICIALS

On 25 September, the project team met with licensing officers from the French Ministry of Armed Forces. The aim was to inform French export licensing authorities about the developments of the AAMVS project and to get their feedback on certain aspects of the design and its suitability towards their work. Many important insights were gathered, and the team hopes to replicate this meeting with other EU member states.

