



Regional meeting on ATT accession and implementation in East Africa

Mombasa, Kenya – 29-30 July 2025

The Regional Centre on Small Arms and Light Weapons (RECSA) in collaboration Saferworld and the Security Research and Information Centre (SRIC) successfully convened the Ninth Meeting of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Expert Group on 29-30 July 2025 at the Travellers Beach Hotel in Mombasa, Kenya.



Dr Raymond Omollo, Principal Secretary, State Department of Interior and National Administration, Republic of Kenya presided over the opening ceremony. In his keynote address, he underscored the significance of the ATT in enhancing regional security. He reaffirmed Kenya's commitment to acceding to the Treaty at the earliest opportunity, urging other RECSA Member States to follow suit as a step towards collective security.

Other high-level speakers included Ambassador Foradori, Carina Solmirano (Head of the ATT Secretariat) and Mr. Jean-Pierre Betindji (RECSA Executive Secretary).



The meeting brought together 40 high-level representatives from RECSA Member States namely; Burundi, Central African Republic, Djibouti, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, Tanzania and Uganda. Present in the meeting were also representatives from: Gambia, Madagascar and Mexico; experts from the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), Small Arms Survey, SRIC, Saferworld, the International Committee of the Red Cross, FECCLAHA, Germany-BAFA and Cameroon Youths and Students Forum for Peace, (CAMYOSFOP) who shared insights and practical approaches to strengthen dialogue and cooperation on prospects for ATT accession and implementation.



The meeting served as a vital preparatory forum ahead of the Eleventh Conference of States Parties (CSP11) to the ATT, scheduled for late August 2025. along with international partners and civil society

The two-day meeting featured plenary sessions, expert-led presentations and interactive breakout discussions, focusing on key priorities aligned with both the Arms Trade Treaty and RECSA's mandate under the Nairobi Protocol for the Prevention, Control, and Reduction of Small Arms and Light Weapons. The main themes included:

- The origins, scope and benefits of the ATT
- The link between illicit arms flows and regional insecurity
- National and regional security challenges in East Africa
- The value of ATT implementation in preventing arms diversion, improving control systems and mitigating gender-based violence



A key highlight was the in-depth session on how ATT membership can enhance East African states' ability to tackle illicit arms proliferation. Participants examined practical measures including; legislation, export and import controls, transit and brokering regulations, and transparency mechanisms.



The workshop concluded with a strong commitment to regional cooperation and sustained international support for capacity building. Mr. Jean Pierre Betindji, Mr. Stephen Mwachofi Singo of SRIC and Mr. Roy Isbister of Saferworld expressed gratitude for participants' active contributions and emphasized the importance of unified efforts to address the challenges of SALW proliferation in East Africa.



RECSA reaffirms its dedication to advancing the ATT's objectives as a core component of its mandate under the Nairobi Protocol and in alignment with the African Union's *Silencing the Guns* initiative. The Centre will continue to provide technical assistance and policy support to Member States to facilitate ATT accession and robust implementation, contributing to a safer and more secure East African region.