



*Participants assemble for the 1st ATT Academy held at Lake Nakuru National Park, Nakuru Kenya 20-23 June 2016)*

# **The Role of Education in Advancing Arms Trade Treaty Universalization and Implementation**

## **Lessons Learned from ATT Academy East Africa 2016 - 2017**

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## **Executive Summary**

The 2013 Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), negotiated and adopted at the UN in New York, offers opportunities to limit the potential for conventional weapons to be used to commit crimes against humanity, terrorism, organized crime, violations of human rights and humanitarian law and acts of gender-based violence. It currently has 90 state parties, but some states that were strong champions of the Treaty have not yet acceded to it. Many states that have joined the ATT nevertheless report they need technical assistance and training to implement the Treaty effectively.

Responding to these concerns, in 2016-2017, Pace University's International Disarmament Institute in partnership with the Control Arms Secretariat organized the ATT Academy, a year-long program of education, research and training on the Treaty for carefully selected East and Horn of Africa officials and key civil society activists. Participants reported that the ATT Academy provided them with in-depth knowledge of the ATT, enabling them address accession and implementation challenges in the region.

Organizers learned that the ATT universalization and implementation effort will require an educational component, to share information, technical expertise and lessons learned. A targeted, intensive, long-term, in-person and contextualized program of training is better than one-off seminars. High-impact pedagogies like simulations and group discussions are often more effective than a lecture format alone.

## Background on ATT Academy East Africa

The 2013 Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) has established for the first time global regulations on the transfer of conventional weapons, to prevent arms getting into the hands of human rights abusers, terrorists, war criminals and organized crime. The Control Arms Coalition coordinated the global civil society campaign for a robust ATT from 2002 to 2013. Following the adoption of the ATT, the Control Arms Secretariat, located in New York, supports the work of Coalition members and partners advancing the universalization and effective implementation of the Treaty. In dialogue with government officials and civil society partners around the world, Control Arms Secretariat identified a lack of awareness and technical knowledge about the ATT as a key factor limiting ATT universalization and implementation. It thus reached out to Pace University, which is playing an increasingly important role in disarmament education and research, to assist in designing a training program on the Treaty. In 2016, Pace University and Control Arms Secretariat were awarded a grant from the United Nations Trust Facility for Supporting Cooperation on Arms Cooperation (UNSCAR) for their ATT Academy project. This one-year program of training and research, aimed to support ATT universalization and effective implementation in the East and Horn of Africa region. The ATT Academy curriculum was developed in coordination with other organizations engaged in training on the ATT.

The ATT Academy brings a new approach to learning about the Treaty and its implementation. It provides an in-depth and tailored learning opportunity to carefully selected participants, all of whom engage directly with the ATT in their work as government, or as civil society leaders. It also provides an opportunity to explore linkages to other relevant arms, security development instruments, and enables discussion and analysis of regionally specific issues, such as the link between wildlife crime and small arms proliferation.

While many training opportunities have emerged over the last year or two, the ATT Academy is unique in being a continuous year-long learning opportunity. This enables participants to have a thorough and technical understanding of the Treaty, and to have on-the-job support. The program features two in-person trainings, with the second training designed to specifically explore and tackle problems that participants identify, as they apply the knowledge gained to their day-to-day work. In this way, the ATT Academy is much more than a one-off training – it is a sustained and practical learning programme.

Pace University and the Control Arms Secretariat chose to host the first ATT Academy in the East and Horn of Africa region because of the devastating impact the poorly regulated arms trade has had in this region. African states and civil society called attention to the devastation of armed conflict on the continent and were among the champions of a robust ATT leading up to and during the negotiations. However, while the majority of African states have signed the ATT, movement toward ratification has been slow outside West Africa, and the level of accession in the East and Horn of Africa region has been low. Burundi, Djibouti, Rwanda and Tanzania are signatories (though have not yet ratified). Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Ethiopia, Eritrea, Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan and Uganda have not yet joined.

The ATT Academy East Africa had two proposed outcomes:

1. Government and civil society actors have greater understanding of the ATT and are equipped with the necessary knowledge and tools to overcome ratification and implementation challenges in their national context.
2. Increase the level of ATT expertise within target countries, including among non-Academy participants

These outcomes were pursued through the following activities:

1. Selecting participants in coordination with governments and civil society in the region. This aimed to identify people who could commit to the year-long program and who would play an important role in regional ATT universalization and implementation.
2. In-person workshops providing intensive technical training on the ATT facilitated by regional and international experts and tailored to particular contextual challenges.
3. Online training on specific topics that required more in-depth coverage as well as regular email contact with participants to provide further assistance and identify topics for further discussion.
4. Publication of research on how the ATT could be applied to address specific security issues in the East and Horn of Africa region, as well as this lessons learned report.
5. Identification of actions that participants could take to advance the ATT in the region.
6. Generating a dedicated webpage and social media posts to disseminate information about the ATT Academy, its research, syllabuses and online training.

The following sections outline in more details the experience of the ATT Academy East Africa, offering evaluation and lessons learned. The report concludes with general recommendations on the role of education in ATT universalization and implementation.

## **Selection of Participants**

Control Arms engaged in consultations with relevant stakeholders (often starting with the SALW focal points) in the governments of Burundi, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Djibouti, Kenya, Rwanda, South Sudan and Tanzania. Each of these states nominated one or two participants based on who they considered would benefit from the training. Control Arms recommended that governments pick senior people who would be involved in the accession and/or implementation process. Ten of the participants were chosen to represent regional governments.

For the remaining five participants, Control Arms and Pace University disseminated a call for applications through its networks in the region. Applicants for these positions had to be civil society leaders who have been actively engaged in advocacy for ATT universalization and implementation. Each applicant had to submit a CV and a plan of their ATT advocacy. Civil society representatives were selected based on merit with considerations for regional balance.

Control Arms and Pace University stressed that all participants needed to commit for the whole program – both in-person workshops, online trainings and email check-ins. Most participants were able to complete the whole training. Due to unavoidable events some government



representatives were unable attend all of the required activities. In these cases, governments were asked to send alternative representatives.



*Participants assemble for the 2nd ATT Academy held at Lake Nakuru National Park, Nakuru Kenya 5-8 December 2016)*

Ensuring a gender balance among participants, particularly among those from governments was a challenge, with unfortunately few women in relevant government posts in the sub-region. A third of the ATT Academy East Africa participants were women.

## **Lessons Learned**

- The participant selection process can often be an afterthought in the planning phase of the training. But in this project's experience, Pace University and Control Arms found that it was important to allocate significant time and attention to ensuring that participants would play a productive role in accession and/or implementation.
- Achieving greater inclusion of women cannot be left to chance. It requires active engagement by the training's organizers.

## **In-Person Workshops**

At the core of the ATT Academy East Africa project were two in-person workshops held in Kenya, each a week long. The curriculum was designed by Pace University in consultation with Control Arms, the participants themselves and in coordination with other relevant stakeholders. A survey of other workshops and training programs on the ATT was conducted at the very

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beginning of the project, including coordination with other present and past UNSCAR recipients such as Action on Armed Violence, the International Peace Information Service and the Geneva Centre for Security Policy and Stimson Center.

Both in-person workshops had a detailed reading list that was compiled into two separate course packs distributed to all the participants, who were assigned readings each evening during the workshop. Workshop sessions were a mix of lectures, simulations, group discussions and field trips. They were led by Pace University and Control Arms staff, and external experts from the public sector, international organizations, the ICRC and civil society. Participants also had homework assignments for each workshop, in which they gathered information that would be useful for ATT accession and/or implementation

## **Workshop 1**

Pace University and Control Arms Secretariat held the first workshop of the ATT Academy at Lake Nakuru Lodge in Kenya, 20-23 June 2016, with 10 participants from governments and 5 from civil society, from Burundi, Djibouti, DR Congo, Kenya, Rwanda South Sudan and Tanzania. Participants were sent an online survey in advance, gauging the level of their knowledge of the ATT and the curriculum was tailored accordingly. Besides staff from Pace and Control Arms, experts from the ICRC, Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA), Kenyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Kenya Wildlife Service (KWS), Saferworld and Africa Peace Forum gave presentations and ran interactive sessions. The evaluation of the training was very positive, with 100% of participants rating the workshop as either 'very good' or 'good'. Several participants noted that while they have been to a few workshops or seminars on the ATT, the ATT Academy has delved much deeper into issues. Discussion during the training revealed that participants do not have as full an understanding of the ATT as they had thought, and for this reason many appreciated the long and in-depth training opportunity and interaction with experts.

Control Arms and Pace University utilized social media and other platforms to share information being learned at the ATT Academy first training, such as through Facebook posts and Tweets. During the days of the first in-person training, Facebook views of posts from the Control Arms page were comparatively high, peaking at 15,000 people. Tweets sent from the Control Arms handle about the ATT Academy peaked at 36,000 impressions.

Further details on the first in-person workshop (including the coursepack) can be found on the ATT Academy website here: <http://controlarms.org/en/workshop-1/>

## **Workshop 2**

The second ATT Academy training took place from 5-8 December 2016 at Lake Nakuru Lodge, Kenya and focused on ensuring a deeper understanding of the Treaty's provisions and their practical application. Over four days, participants explored themes relevant to the sub-region including Wildlife Crime, Pastoralist Conflict, Tackling Gender Based Violence and Importer Obligations. Expert speakers were from Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA), ICRC, KWS, Saferworld and the Mennonite Central Committee. Group discussions, homework assignments

and hypothetical exercises ensured positive engagement among participants. Field visits with the KWS rangers provided participants with deeper understanding of the challenges they face in preventing poaching and preserving wildlife due to the proliferation of illicit weapons in the region.



Participants during interactive session at the 2nd ATT Academy held at Lake Nakuru National Park, Nakuru Kenya 5-8 December 2016)

In an evaluation survey, participants rated the second in-person workshop an average 4.58 out of 5. Representative answers to “what will you do differently as a result of the ATT Academy” included:

*Improve my skills on ATT content and how to mitigate challenges relating to the accession on ATT.*

*The result of the ATT Academy has strengthened and deepened the understanding of ATT and I advise the Control Arms with its partners continue.*

*Will change our way of advocacy and public awareness.*

*I will be more proactive in follow-up on universalization.*

*[I will] Incorporate specific provisions of the ATT during peace training programs. Liaise more closely with Govt ministries and stakeholders (departments) in ATT*

Representative general comments on the evaluation of the second in-person workshop included:

*It is more organized and better in quality.*

*It is just to thank you for this favorite opportunity of getting enough information to be good Campaigners on ATT.*

*The entire ATT Academy experience has been instrumental in learning and understanding international legal instruments, the UN processes and the content of the ATT has been demystified.*

Dissemination of ATT Academy second training information on social media earned over 33,000 impressions on Twitter and over 15,500 were reached via Facebook during that week.

Further details on the first in-person workshop can be found on the ATT Academy website here: <http://controlarms.org/en/workshop-2/>

The coursepack (including the schedule of activities) for the second workshop is available here: <https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B7QhcMSzG186TFM3QzhFZDVhcEk/view>

## Lessons Learned

- The in-person workshops were very effective at identifying gaps in participants' knowledge and ensured that discussions were tailored to their particular needs. They facilitated dialogue between participants, enabling sharing of information about ATT accession and implementation challenges from the region.
- Field visits with KWS rangers enabled participants to see more clearly the impact of unchecked SALW proliferation in the 'real world' and to ask questions of some of these at the frontline of armed violence challenges.
- Simulations and interactive discussions were more effective pedagogical methods – future in-person workshops should use these methods more than the lecture format.

## Online Engagement

Based on feedback obtained through an online survey, which assessed what themes are of greatest interest and what type of format will work best given varying levels of Internet reliability, Pace University and Control Arms prepared two online trainings. Both online training trainings featured lists of readings that participants were expected to complete, followed by an online webinar or videos.

### Online Training 1

The first online training, "The ATT and Sustainable Development, International Cooperation and Assistance" (28 September 2016) discussed the Treaty's relevance to sustainable development and how to integrate ATT accession and implementation activities into Official Development Assistance (ODA) programs. In particular, the webinar covered the relevance of the ATT to development, including the linkages to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly



Target 16.4. It outlines how governments can integrate ATT accession and implementation activities into resources received as part of Official Development Assistance (ODA).

Technical difficulties, particularly limited Internet connectivity proved to be a challenge during the first ATT Academy online training. This made it difficult to have an online group discussion on the linkages between the ATT and the Sustainable Development Goals.

Further details on the first online training can be found on the ATT Academy website here: <http://controlarms.org/en/att-academy-webinar-1/>

## Online Training 2

This webinar provided an in-depth look at the gender-based violence provision (Article 7.4) of the Arms Trade Treaty and its role in addressing cross-cutting international and regional challenges, such as arms trafficking and the drug trade. The required reading list and homework exercise aimed to illustrate some of the research the participants would need to do in order help their respective governments prepare for the implementation of Article 7(4) – the gender-based violence (GBV) provision – of the Arms Trade Treaty. To facilitate easier access and ensure a broader participation, the videos featuring UNGA delegates and civil society representatives for the second online training, were pre-recorded and uploaded on the ATT Academy second online training webpage.



*Participants during breakout session at the 2nd ATT Academy held at Lake Nakuru National Park, Nakuru Kenya 5-8 December 2016)*

The videos featured diplomats from the Permanent Missions of Jamaica and Trinidad and Tobago, as well as civil society advocates from Reaching Critical Will, the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom – DRC and Center for Peace Education, Miriam College. Pace University and Control Arms also posted UN General Assembly First Committee statements on gender and disarmament from Ireland, Trinidad and Tobago and Italy.

Further details on the second online training can be found on the ATT Academy website here: <http://controlarms.org/en/att-academy-webinar-2/>

## Email Check-Ins

At the beginning of the project the Pace University and Control Arms staff conducted a series of online surveys and email conversations with participants to gauge their interests and level of knowledge. This helped to guide the development of the curriculum for the in-person and online trainings.

Three staff conducted two rounds of one-on-one check-ins with participants in August and September. Participants were asked to identify actions undertaken as a result of their ATT Academy training, their strategies for reaching a wider audience, and to identify areas for further information and assistance. Most participants reported positive progress towards accomplishing their goals while others encountered challenges, particularly lack of funding and bureaucratic obstacles. Positively, some used meetings and workshop on crosscutting issues, such as small arms and light weapons or stockpile management to highlight the importance of the Treaty's universalization and implementation. A lower response rate from participants was registered during the second round of one-on-one check-ins, in September. This was due to an increase in security challenges in the region, particularly in South Sudan and the Democratic Republic of Congo. The email check-ins were also connected with a second round of online surveys that helped Pace University and Control Arms staff design the curriculum for the second in-person workshop.

Representative comments from the email check-ins include:

*The knowledge and skills gained from the ATT Academy were very resourceful and enriching. I have already started sharing with my working and network partners at the national level on the universalization of the Arms Trade Treaty. I also plan to organize and conduct some workshops capacity building to the Members of Parliament in the East African Community region ....*

*In conjunction with RECSA, [we conducted] an assessment of armed crimes in the EAC countries; Burundi, Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda ... [In a training] for 30 officers from the Military, Police and Correctional Services ... [we] introduced the ATT to the officers who manage arms on a day-to-day basis. ... We are now designing the SALW National Strategic Plan that shall include sensitization programs on ATT's importance and assess ratification progress.*

## Lessons Learned

- While there is an intuitive sense that online training can be a cheaper substitute for in-person training – and can reach a broader audience – there are many challenges. These include problematic internet connections in certain countries, a lack of human connection and difficulties in facilitating dialogue between participants.
- The webinar format only works well when participants have reliable hi-speed internet connections.
- The pre-recorded web video format is more accessible to participants with lower-speed and less-reliable internet connections.
- The email check-ins allowed connection with participants in between the various activities, as well as a tailoring of the curriculum to their specific concerns. However, response rates were lower than expected.

## Research

In addition to this Lessons Learned report, the ATT Academy East Africa project included the research, drafting, publication and dissemination of original research on potential uses of the ATT in the East and Horn of Africa region context. This resulted in two research reports: one on wildlife crime and the other on violence in pastoralist communities. The purpose of these reports was to demonstrate the efficacy of the ATT for policymakers in the region, showing how the ATT could be used to address policy challenges of concern to states in the East and Horn of Africa region. They can also be useful to arms exporting states in conducting risk assessments before authorizing transfers to the region, by highlighting the patterns of concern in the use and abuse of conventional weapons.

Perhaps one of the most useful aspects of the research element of this project was that it encouraged productive discussions in the in-person workshops. The workshops enabled a data collection through conversations with policymakers in the region about their concerns. They offered their collective knowledge to the Pace University and Control Arms team, which could then be distilled into the reports. The Wildlife Crime report was released in time to be discussed at the second in-person workshop, which prompted dialogue on how to put its recommendations into practice.

## Report on Wildlife Crime

In September 2016, the Control Arms and Pace University published a research report by Matthew Bolton on *“How to Use the Arms Trade Treaty to Address Wildlife Crime.”* In developing this report, Bolton interviewed KWS staff and local communities around Lake Nakuru National Park regarding the correlation between arms trafficking, particularly small arms and light weapons, and wildlife crime. The report offers specific advice to policymakers and advocates seeking to use the framework of the ATT to assess and mitigate the risk that arms transfers will be diverted to poaching networks or exacerbate the negative impacts of militarizing wildlife protection. Advocating international and regional cooperation, the report also encourages the universalization and rigorous implementation of the ATT, as well as the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora (CITES) and

other relevant instruments, particularly in States at risk of poaching and other wildlife crime. This research report was published and circulated among decision-makers present at the UNGA First Committee in October 2016. A special lunch was organized by Control Arms and the Permanent Mission of Zambia on 17 October to discuss “Wildlife Crime and Arms Control.” Attended by more than 10 delegates from the African region, including representatives from Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda and Djibouti, this event highlighted the main findings of the Wildlife Crime research report and facilitated discussions on this topic.

The Wildlife Crime research report was discussed in detail at the second in-person workshop in Lake Nakuru National Park. It was also promoted on social media, reaching more than 2,300 people via Facebook and more than 2,700 people on Twitter. Control Arms member, Nonviolence International South East Asia also circulated this report at the Hanoi Conference on Illegal Wildlife Trade, organized in Viet Nam on 17-18 November 2016. The report was also presented to more than 30 NGOs from around the East and Horn of Africa region at a Control Arms workshop in December 2016.

In a survey of the second in-person workshop, participants rated the session that presented the findings of the Wildlife Crime report an average of 4.33 out of 5.

The report is available on the ATT Academy website, here: <http://controlarms.org/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2016/10/Wildlife-Crime-Paper-REVISED-Email.pdf>

The report was also translated into French and is available here: <http://controlarms.org/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2017/01/Wildlife-Crime-Paper-FRENCH.pdf>

## **Report on Violence in Pastoralist Communities**

In March 2017, the Control Arms and Pace University published a research report by Matthew Bolton on “*How to Use the Arms Trade Treaty to Address Armed Violence in Pastoralist Communities*.” This report incorporated information gathered from qualitative fieldwork undertaken in a series of visits to Uganda and Kenya from 2014 to 2016. During these visits Pace University and Control Arms staff visited and interviewed relevant government and civil society personnel from around the East and Horn of Africa region. The report explored how the ATT offers opportunities to address the exacerbating effect of small arms and light weapons (SALW) proliferation among pastoralist communities in the East and Horn of Africa region and elsewhere. It illustrates how policymakers and advocates can use the ATT to limit the risks of diversion of guns and ammunition to militias, gangs and cattle raiders. The report also argues that the ATT also offers a framework to encourage security forces to follow international human rights and humanitarian law in pastoralist communities.

The “*How to Use the Arms Trade Treaty to Address Armed Violence in Pastoralist Communities*” was made available online on the Control Arms website as well as via social media outlets. Hardcopies of this report will be disseminated at the third Conference of States Parties scheduled to take place on 11-15 September in Geneva, Switzerland as well as at the 2017 UN General Assembly First Committee on Disarmament and International Security.



In a survey of the second in-person workshop, participants rated the session that presented the preliminary findings of the pastoralist report an average of 4.36 out of 5.



*Kitemo Liyet, a pastoralist violence survivor, suffered debilitating injuries on his hands and legs after an ambush in his village, Tirioko, Kenya. Photo credit: Rashid Kimani Mungai /Winds of Change*

The report is available on the ATT Academy website, here: <http://controlarms.org/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2017/03/Pastoralist-Conflict-Final.pdf>

The report was also translated into French and is available here: <http://controlarms.org/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2017/04/Pastoralist-Conflict-French.pdf>

## **Lessons Learned**

- The inclusion of a research program within the ATT Academy project proved to be very useful, focusing discussion in the in-person workshops as Pace University and Control Arms staff gathered information from participants and shared their findings.
- The reports demonstrated ways that ATT implementation could be contextualized in the Horn and East Africa region.
- The research reports enabled the ATT Academy project to reach a much wider audience than the participants.

## Recommendations and Overall Lessons Learned

- The ATT universalization and implementation effort requires in-depth education and training, to share information, technical expertise and lessons learned.
- The ATT Academy format enabled in-depth training that included problem solving and confidence-building in knowledge levels
- The organizers were also able to identify accession and implementation challenges in the region and facilitate sharing of strategies across countries.
- Multilateral and bilateral donors should fund further education and training on the ATT in other regions beyond the East and Horn of Africa region.
- Investment in in-person workshops – not just online training – especially when use high-impact pedagogies like simulations and group discussions is crucial to generate in-depth regional expertise on the ATT.
- Intensive, long-term engagement in training with a smaller group of key participants can generate more sustainable impact than one-off events with larger groups of people.
- Education and training on the ATT should be contextualized and tailored to the specific challenges of the region, drawing on a mix of regional and international experts.
- Inclusion of both government and civil society representatives in the ATT Academy enabled networking and advocacy

Written by Dr. Matthew Bolton, Anna Macdonald, Zoya Craig, Raluca Muresan and Allison Pytlak for the Arms Trade Treaty Academy, a project of Control Arms Secretariat, and Pace University International Disarmament Institute. Funded by UNSCAR. Photos courtesy of Control Arms. Layout design by Raluca Muresan.