

# WB SALW CONTROL ROADMAP MPTF

UN Multi-Partner Trust Fund for the implementation of the Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and their ammunition in the Western Balkans

## Minutes of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Steering Committee Meeting

14 October 2019

10:45 – 14:00

Venue: UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub, 13<sup>th</sup> floor

**I. MEETING OBJECTIVE:** Review the project proposals received within the 1<sup>st</sup> call for project proposals of the WB SALW Control Roadmap MPTF and approve the allocation of funds.

### II. LIST OF PARTICIPANTS:

STEERING COMMITTEE MEMBERS		
Mr.	<b>Gerd Trogemann</b>	Manager of the UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub for Europe and the CIS, Chair of the Steering Committee (SC)
Mr.	<b>Marcus Bleinroth</b>	Director of Division, Conventional Arms Control, Federal Foreign Office, Germany, SC Ex-officio Member
H.E.	<b>Jean-Claude Brunet</b>	Ambassador-at-large on transitional criminal threats and the fights against the illicit trafficking of SALW, France, SC Ex-officio Member
Ms.	<b>Hilde Berit Eide</b>	Senior Adviser, Section for South East Europe, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway, Member of the SC
Ms.	<b>Simonetta Grassi</b>	Head of the Global Firearms Programme, Senior Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Organized Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch / Implementation Support Section, Division for Treaty Affairs, UNODC, Member of the SC
Mr.	<b>Robert Lejon</b>	Desk Officer, Department for Disarmament and Non-proliferation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs, Sweden, Member of the SC
Ms.	<b>Amrita Ohbi</b>	Head of Western Balkans Programmes, Serious and Organised Crime Group, Ministry of Interior, UK, Member of the SC
Mr.	<b>Tim Heine</b>	Fund Portfolio Analyst, Multi-Partner Trust Fund Office, SC ex-officio Member without voting rights
OTHER PARTICIPANTS		
Ms.	<b>Bojana Balon</b>	UNDP SEESAC Project Manager Head of the WB SALW Control Roadmap MPTF Secretariat
Mr.	<b>Alain Lapon</b>	UNDP SEESAC Chief Technical Advisor
Ms.	<b>Juliana Buzi</b>	UNDP SEESAC Regional Cooperation Coordinator
Ms.	<b>Teodora Zafiu</b>	UNDP SEESAC Monitoring and Reporting Consultant
Mr.	<b>Diman Dimov</b>	Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer, Global Firearms Programme, Organised Crime and Illicit Trafficking Branch, Division for Treaty Affairs UNODC

### III. BACKGROUND

The WB SALW Control Roadmap MPTF was established to contribute to a donor coordinated funding approach in the implementation of the *Roadmap for a sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of Small Arms and Light Weapons and their ammunition in the Western Balkans* and to provide a comprehensive risk and results-based management system. Its governance structure includes a Steering Committee (chaired by the UNDP), a Secretariat (ensured by UNDP SEESAC); an Administrative Agent (MPTF Office) and the current Participating Organizations (UNDP and UNODC).

In the context of the WB SALW Control Roadmap MPTF, UNODC and UNDP Offices in Albania, Bosnia and Herzegovina, Kosovo\*, Montenegro, the Republic of North Macedonia, and the Republic of Serbia were invited on 29 July 2019 to submit project proposals in the area of SALW control, with a focus on tackling illicit flow of firearms and reducing illicit possession of firearms, and their inter-connection with other areas including strengthening of criminal justice system and prevention of proliferation. Project proposals were required to integrate the gender perspective. **Nine (9) project proposals were received by the deadline, which was set for 19 September 2019, amounting to US\$12,651,794.**

A review panel was established to conduct the administrative review and technical assessment of the received project proposals, in line with the criteria defined in the Call for Proposals. The review panel was comprised of the following experts: three UNDP SEESAC technical experts: Alain Lapon, Chief Technical Advisor, Juliana Buzi, Regional Cooperation Coordinator, and Jelena Bujakovic, SALW Project Coordinator; and two external experts: Tine Destrooper, Associate Professor, Ghent University, Human Rights Centre, former Director of Flemish Peace Institute, and Yuliya Shcherbinina, Country Programme Specialist, UNDP Istanbul Regional Hub.

A technical assessment report was submitted to the SC members by the Secretariat.

### IV. KEY POINTS DISCUSSED

1. The status of contributions in MPTF;
2. Review of project proposals submitted by the MPTF Participating Organizations;
3. Follow-up steps to the SC meeting.

#### IV.1. The status of contributions in MPTF

The current contributions to the WB SALW Control Roadmap MPTF amount to **US\$1,560,808**:

- UK: £500,000 (\$651,550)
- Sweden: SEK 7 million (\$724,300)
- Norway: NOK 1.7 million (\$184,958, 2019)

In 2020-2021 the contribution from Norway as per the signed agreement, amounts to NOK 3.3 million (\$380,506).

Additionally, \$7.3 million in commitments have been announced by the following donors:

- UK: £1.5 million (~\$1.8 million)
- Netherlands: €1 million (~\$1.1 million)
- Germany: €4 million (~\$4.4 million)

#### IV.2. Review of project proposals submitted by the MPTF Participating Organizations

The following nine (9) project proposals were received within the Call for Proposals, amounting to US\$12,651,794:

- Ending SALW Misuse Related to Intimate Partner and Domestic Violence in Albania, submitted by UNDP Albania, with the overall budget of \$483,300 and the duration of 18 months;
- Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT), submitted by UNDP BiH and UNODC, with the overall budget of \$3,119,585 and the duration of two years;
- Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+, submitted by UNDP BiH, with the overall budget of \$583,546 and the duration of 15 months;
- Support to Combating Illicit Arms Trafficking in Kosovo for Criminal Police (CPIAT), submitted by UNDP Kosovo, with the overall budget of \$ 1,297,843 and the duration of two years;

---

\* References to Kosovo shall be understood to be in the context of Security Council Resolution 1244 (1999).

- Reduce Possession and Proliferation of Firearms and Build Violence-Resilient Communities, submitted by UNDP North Macedonia, with the overall budget of \$1,070,685 and the duration of two years;
- Brezovik SALW Storage Upgrade, UNDP Montenegro, with the overall budget of \$1,590,538 and the duration of 18 months;
- Rogame SALW Storage Upgrade – Finalisation, submitted by UNDP Montenegro, with the overall budget of \$547,063.2 and the duration of one year;
- SALW Risks Resilient Communities, submitted by UNDP Serbia, with the overall of budget \$314,172 and the duration of 18 months;
- Criminal Justice Response Against Arms Trafficking (Regional project), submitted by UNODC, with the overall budget of \$3,645,062 and the duration of three years.

In reviewing the proposals, the Steering Committee prioritized proposals with a clear focus on tackling illicit flow of firearms and reducing illicit possession of firearms; those that address areas of the Roadmap that have received limited support until now; projects that would contribute to standardization of capacities and processes across the region; that are in complementarity with or building onto other ongoing initiatives whether at the national or regional level; and those with potential to be replicated throughout the region.

**Overall observations of the Steering Committee:**

- Several proposed projects did not provide a strong enough link to the contribution of proposed activities and outputs to tackling illicit flow of firearms and reducing illicit possession of firearms, and their inter-connection with other areas including strengthening of criminal justice system and prevention or addressing of proliferation.
- More efforts need to be made by project developers to ensure cost efficiency of proposed activities, particular attention should be paid to project management cost. Project management costs should be broken down and justified.
- Management costs approaching or even exceeding 20% should be subject to extra scrutiny and explicit approval of the SC.
- Cost sharing with other projects needs to be reflected in the proposals. In kind contributions, where existing, should be mentioned, where possible, in the project document and /or progress reports. More efforts also need to be made to demonstrate the sustainability of project results.
- Projects are advised to have a local presence in the region so that continuous on demand comprehensive technical support is provided to the authorities. Efforts need to be made to engage local staff.
- Project proposals were developed in cooperation with the beneficiary institutions, with varying level of engagement of the beneficiaries.
- While this is important, it is recommended that in the future the proposals are consulted/coordinated with the heads of SALW Commissions, who are the ones having the general overview of the priorities and needs across the functional areas of the Roadmap/Action Plan and not of one beneficiary/institution alone.
- Considering that the phenomenon of firearms trafficking does not take place in isolation but in conjunction with other serious crime, such as drug trafficking, money laundering, etc., consultations with national authorities should not be narrowly focused on SALW Commissions, but also take into consideration other actors in the criminal justice system, such as Ministries of Justice, Prosecutor’s General Office, and most importantly, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, which actually represents the country in each relationship with other international organisations, etc. depending on the scope and relevance of the project.
- Clear description of how the proposed project complements other ongoing initiatives and building on previous interventions, and description of remaining gaps in the area that the project is proposing to address, is necessary.
- Project proposals were developed in line with the SALW control Action Plans of the targeted jurisdictions. This aspect should be further considered in the future, as there is a fundamental need for project proposals to align with the WB6 Action Plans to ensure priorities are aligned with host government strategies and funding allocations.

- Needs of different countries vary to certain extent, so targeted approaches are required that support the authorities in standardization of approaches across the region, while the importance of regional initiatives to support harmonized and coordinated efforts was also underlined by the SC.
- Project developers need to clearly indicate in the project proposal if they have been submitted for funding through other funding mechanisms and need to include the reference to the status of resource mobilization efforts.
- The key guiding principles for future Calls for Proposals should be: standardization, complementarity, cost efficiency, national ownership and sustainability.
- Projects with a PSSM component should provide a clear link to the overarching concern of illicit trafficking and proliferation in that jurisdiction and should not just refer to ordinary stockpile management work. The projects should justify and explain, if possible, with facts, to which extent the trafficking problem in the country is linked to weak PSSM (if possible, with data on stolen and lost firearms recuperated in crime).

The SC also noted that two project proposals duration surpass 31 December 2021 (in contrast with the MPTF Terms of Reference); in four cases the “indirect costs of the Participating UN Organizations recovered through programme support costs (GMS)” was wrongly calculated at 8% instead of 7%; and in six proposals the budget was not presented in UNDG categories, as was required by the Call for Proposals.

Taking in consideration the recent announcements on contribution of additional \$7.3 million to the Trust Fund in the forthcoming period, the Steering Committee approved four projects for funding, pending the receipt of funds, and satisfactory revision of project proposals as per the SC comments. Detailed comments to project proposals are available in Annex I.

### IV.3. Follow-up steps to the SC meeting

The Secretariat proposed the timeline of actions that should follow the SC meeting. The SC requested the Secretariat to adjust the timeline in line with the decision of the SC to approve projects beyond the existing funding that is immediately available. The new proposed timeline is the following:

Meeting minutes finalized and signed	30 October
Participating organizations informed about the SC’s decisions	30 October
Deadline for submitting revised project proposals (those projects selected for funding)	22 November
Technical assessment of revised project proposals submitted to the SC by the Secretariat and virtual SC meeting organized	4 -11 December
Meeting minutes drafted and shared with the SC members	17 December
Virtual SC meeting minutes finalized and signed	20 December
Participating organizations informed about the decision of the SC	20 December
Project documents signed and submitted to the Secretariat	15 January
Funding request sent to MPTFO	16 January
Projects ready for implementation	Pending allocations to the TF

### Other issues discussed by the Steering Committee

- The duration of projects that would be supported through the next Call for Proposals: through the 1<sup>st</sup> Call for Proposals, the SC could approve funding for projects until 31 December 2021, which is the current end date of the Trust Fund. Question was raised if though the next Call for Proposals duration of projects could be longer. It was agreed that the MPTF Office will provide a written statement on whether the WB SALW Control MPTF can be extended at this point in order to allow the funding of projects with a timeframe beyond 31 December 2021.
- The SC discussed also the importance of avoiding conflict of interest in the Governance Structure of the Roadmap MPTF. While the Operations manual envisaged that during the Secretariat review all members of the review panel that perform administrative and technical review of project proposals must declare any conflict of interest that may exist, the conflict of interest was not defined in the Operations manual, nor

was it prescribed for the members of the Steering Committee. The SC members agreed that the Trust Fund's Operations Manual should be revised to reflect this. The Secretariat was invited to propose to the Steering Committee a clause in close cooperation with the MPTF.

## V. DECISIONS OF THE STEERING COMMITTEE

1. The SC **approved** for funding the following jurisdiction and regional level project proposals (for the period 2020-2021), pending their satisfactory revision as per the SC comments, and pending receipt of additional contributions by the MPTF Office:

- **Halting Arms and Lawbreaking Trade (HALT) in BiH**, in the amount \$2,200,000;
- **Support to Combating Illicit Arms Trafficking in Kosovo for Criminal Police (CPIAT)**, in the amount \$660,000;
- **Criminal Justice Response Against Arms Trafficking (regional project)**, in the amount \$1,900,000;
- **Urgent Action on Ammunition Destruction - Project EXPLODE+, in BiH**, in the amount \$583,546.

**The overall amount of approved funding is: \$5,343,546 including GMS.** The remaining funds will be allocated in the next Call for Proposals that will be launched towards the end of the year. The SC agreed to use remaining funds for a specific proposal for North Macedonia as it is considered that that jurisdiction deserves special focus and support.

The SC requested the MPTF Secretariat to request the above-mentioned Participating Organizations to **revise** their project proposals and re-submit them to the Secretariat. While revising the project proposals, the Participating Organizations are also invited to respond to the comments raised by the SC. The SC acknowledged the fact that the distribution of funds to the Participating Organizations whose revised project proposals are accepted by the SC will depend on the receipt of the additional contributions by the MPTF Office.

2. The SC **rejected** the following proposals, since they did not demonstrate their clear or direct contribution to the focus of the Call for Proposals:

- **Brezovik SALW storage upgrade**, submitted by UNDP Montenegro;
- **Rogame SALW storage upgrade – finalization**, submitted by UNDP Montenegro;
- **Reduce possession and proliferation of firearms and build violence-resilient communities**, submitted by UNDP North Macedonia;
- **Ending SALW misuse related to intimate partner and domestic violence in Albania**, submitted by UNDP Albania;
- **SALW Risks Resilient Communities**, submitted by UNDP Serbia.

UNDP Montenegro is invited to revise their project proposals as per the comments and recommendations of the SC and resubmit them in the next call for project proposals. UNDP North Macedonia, UNDP Albania, UNDP Serbia and UNDP Montenegro are invited to develop comprehensive project proposals which show a more direct link to combatting illicit trafficking of firearms, misuse and illicit possession, and submit them in the next call for project proposals.

3. The SC members agreed to launch a **second call for proposals in December 2019**, with focus on reduction of illicit possession of firearms, including through awareness and/or collection, misuse and combatting illicit flows, as well as focusing on criminal justice response. The Secretariat will prepare guidance for the Call for Proposals including the key guiding principles discussed by the SC (standardization, complementarity, cost efficiency, national ownership) and share with the Steering Committee for approval. Projects for which sufficient funding will not be secured through the Trust Fund would be offered also for funding from the EU.

4. The MPTF Office will inform the Steering Committee and the Secretariat if the **WB SALW Control MPTF** can be **extended** at this point in order to allow, during the next Call for Proposal, funding of projects with a timeframe beyond 31 December 2021, the current end date of the Trust Fund.

5. The SC members agreed that the Trust Fund's **Operations Manual should be revised in order to include a clause on the conflict of interest**. The Secretariat will propose a text to the SC in close cooperation with the MPTF, for approval by the SC.
6. The SC members agreed that the **next SC meeting will be organized virtually**, to review and approve for funding the 4 selected project proposals.
7. The Secretariat was invited to **share information on contributions by regional and international organisations** to Roadmap implementation, and on complementary activities and initiatives implemented in the region to support the Roadmap taking also into account that such information is shared regularly in the roadmap local and regional coordination meetings, based on inputs provided by the organizations themselves, including on SEESAC.
8. The Secretariat was requested to **share with the SC the presentation held by the Secretariat during the meeting**.

Annex:

Evaluation of project proposals submitted within the WB SALW Control Roadmap MPTF

Prepared by:

Bojana Balon, Head of the WB SALW Control Roadmap  
MPTF Secretariat

Cleared by:

Robert Bernardo, Governance and Peacebuilding Team  
Leader a.i.

Approved by:

Gerd Trogemann, Chair of the WB SALW Control  
Roadmap Steering Committee