



IM Swedish Development Partner and The International Network on Small Arms (IANSA) and kindly request the pleasure of your company at the official side-event to the 6th Conference of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty:

A virtual debate: Exploring the Arms Trade Treaty and Silencing the Guns

Date: August 18th, 2020

Time: 12.15 to 13.30

CET

Venue: Zoom

Background

In much of Africa, the proliferation and misuse of arms – especially small arms, light weapons, and their ammunition – has been driven for many decades not just by the lack of robust regulation but by the legacy of colonialism. This legacy includes widespread poverty, weak institutions, constricted political spaces, corrupt practices, and non-inclusive processes. This has been compounded by ethnic divisions, Cold War rivalries and competition to control the Continent's natural resources. In this context, illicit flows of weapons have fueled violent conflicts and diverted resources away from Africa's critical development needs.

The Peace and Security Council (PSC) of the AU was inspired and guided by the clarion call made during the 50th Anniversary Solemn Declaration (ASD). Convinced that conditions for silencing the guns existed in the continent, they committed to achieving the goal of a conflict-free Africa. African leaders pledged to make peace a reality, end human rights violations, and effectively manage and prevent humanitarian disasters, including genocide. The pledge was initially coined under the slogan "Silence the guns by 2020". The AU Commission has called for "complete civilian control of security services within democratic practices, rule of law and due processes" to be achieved by 2025. The longer vision embedded in the idea is the need to prevent the burden of armed conflicts and armed violence from falling onto the next generations of Africans.

For more information
visit [imsweden.org](https://www.imsweden.org)

**INDIVIDUELL MÄNNISKOHJÄLP
SWEDISH DEVELOPMENT PARTNER**

In this side-event, we will explore the relationship between the Arms Trade Treaty and ‘Silencing the guns by 2020’ and explore concrete and tangible recommendations to the successful implementation and relevance of gendered approaches and gender equality for both. We aim for an inclusive event with participants being able to join and actively contribute to the discussion in break-out groups.

Expert Speakers

Christopher Kayoshe, Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons at the African Union Commission

Joseph Dube, Expert on Small Arms and Light Weapons

IANSAs Women Network

Dsumisani Dladla, Head of ATT Secretariat

You are welcome to join the discussion by signing in to zoom with the following details:

Access Link

<https://zoom.us/j/96171380991?pwd=VXF4OGM0WDlnK3Mrby9iaW95TmJ0dz09>

Meeting ID: 961 7138 0991

Passcode: 221879