Diversion of arms and ammunition has long been recognised as a major problem associated with the international arms trade. It serves as a crucial link between the authorised or 'legal' arms trade and the illicit trade, undermining international and national peace and security, while fuelling crime and terrorism.

The dangers of diversion were explicitly acknowledged during the negotiation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), such that diversion became the focus of one of the Treaty’s most extensive articles (Article 11). It is also the subject of one of the sub-Working Groups on Effective Treaty Implementation, and has in one form or another been prominent in the thematic priorities of a number of ATT Presidencies.

This virtual event, hosted by the External Action Service of the EU (EEAS) and Saferworld, introduces the new report Preventing and mitigating the risk of arms diversion in Africa, which assesses the problem of the diversion of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in Africa in particular. The event will examine the nature and impact of SALW diversion in different parts of Africa, as well as the responsibilities and roles of exporting and importing states. It will also consider practical measures that could reduce the likelihood and consequences of diversion.

Panellists
Elizabeth Kirkham, Saferworld
Richards Adejola, Ambassador & Permanent Representative, Permanent Mission of the Federal Republic of Nigeria to the UN
Geoffrey Duke, South Sudan Action Network on Small Arms (SSANSA)

Facilitator
Eran Nagan, Chair of COARM (Conventional Arms Exports Subgroup of the Working Party on Non-Proliferation and Arms Exports), EEAS