

January

Assessment visit to Guinea Bissau for cluster munitions

Upon request from Guinea-Bissau (G-B), channelled through the Implementation Support Unit (ISU) of the Convention on Cluster Munitions (CCM), AMAT conducted a field visit to G-B to inspect its cluster munitions arsenal. The objective of the inspection was to identify the types of cluster munitions and the extent of their stocks, and to assess the general state of ammunition management including potential safety and security risks, for provision of advice and measures to immediately reduce such risks.



AMAT held meetings with the Prime Minister, the Minister of Defence, the Secretary of State for the Interior and the Chief of Staff of the Armed Forces. A strong relationship was established with G-B through the ISU. Potential for future technical assistance was discussed.

First Meeting of the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on problems arising from the accumulation of conventional ammunition stockpiles in surplus

AMAT and GICHD participated in the first GGE 5-day session in New York. AMAT was invited to present on physical security and stockpile management and avail technical advice to the Secretariat function provided by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs, and the GICHD provides legal and policy advice as part of the advisory team to the Chair of the GGE. Other specialist organisations such as the UN Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) and the Conflict Armament Research assisted the GGE in the advisory team on key topics related to the state of play in conventional ammunition management.



February

EU Working Party on Non-Proliferation (CONOP) Meeting

In light of its endeavour to cooperate with the EU for a multi-year project, AMAT presented its concept paper on arms and ammunition management validation methodology to the EU Working Party on Non-Proliferation (CONOP). The CONOP meetings are attended by all EU States and regularly convened to discuss, cooperate and promote non-proliferation of conventional arms and weapons of mass destruction (WMD).

Several States engaged with the speakers during and after the presentation. In the subsequent closed session, the CONOP welcomed the initiative, officially requesting the launch of the process to develop the concept into a full proposal and formalise the cooperation with AMAT.



March

SEESAC Regional Steering Group (RSG)

AMAT participated and presented in the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of Small

Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC) Regional Steering Group (RSG) Meeting. The SEESAC RSG is an annual meeting bringing together SALW Commission representatives and other national authorities from the Western Balkan States, as well as donors, international and regional organisations, and NGO implementers operating in the region. AMAT presented its mandate and services to the participants and established an entry point to the Balkans through potential future cooperation with SEESAC.

Other

- ◆ AMAT 2020 Workplan, Budget, and Strategy 2019-2022 were updated.
- ◆ New corporate communications policy for AMAT was finalised. See the logo above and our new website layout at amat.gichd.org.
- ◆ Consultant hired to assist building the Ammunition Management Activity Platform (A-MAP).

Planned activities in Q2, 2020

- ◆ Organise 3rd AMAT Advisory Council (AC) meeting as an online video-conference in May.
- ◆ Publish Ammunition Safety Management (ASM) e-book
- ◆ Launch of pre-selection process for Spanish-language UN SaferGuard expert validation process
- ◆ Commence the projects developing a comprehensive IATG training programme and an ammunition management assessment and validation method and tools.

COVID-19 situation update

AMAT team are working from home as per the Swiss governments' instruction until 19 April. The activities which can be performed remotely are being carried out while planning and preparing of post-lockdown activities continue. The Advisory Council meeting planned for 17 April is being postponed until May and will be held online. No other activities have been postponed.