Development of IATG Version 3

The International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) were first produced in 2011. The IATG are voluntary, practical and technical guidelines. They offer a frame of reference to assist states and relevant stakeholders in developing effective ammunition management policies and practices. The IATG provide guidance for the development of a safe, secure and sustainable ammunition management system.

Version 3 of IATG will be released in early 2021. AMAT technical advisors are supporting the UN SaferGuard in collating comments and amendments and reflecting them in the IATG. The first round of amendments was completed during the reporting period. The next step is to go through all modules again to incorporate suggestions and changes from other Strategic Coordination Group (SCG) and TRB members.

Version 3 will have 4 modules removed which are not thought to apply to ammunition management any more. It will gain modules on organisation and on airport storage. In addition, it will include a comprehensive end note on transport of ammunition by road.

An interim TRB meeting will be held online in July 2020 to discuss these changes in preparation for the final TRB meeting in November 2020, which will validate the changes to be made in version 3.

Spanish UN SaferGuard Validation Process

The first Spanish validation process was launched in March this year. In light of the ongoing pandemic the exercise has been postponed until December 2020.

The process was launched with the call for applicants. 43 candidates applied to undertake the online pre-test on the IATG. 17 candidates were successful and subsequently invited to participate in a phone interview with AMAT, UNODA and UNLIREC to further evaluate their knowledge and skill. The panel selected 12 candidates to proceed with the validation process and participate in the exercise in December 2020.

The launch of this process coincided with the finalisation of the translation of the IATG in Spanish. Currently, AMAT is developing an online e-learning module on IATG in Spanish. This online course, in addition to an ammunition storage test, will be completed by the candidates in preparation for the exercise in December 2020.

3rd AMAT Advisory Council Meeting

The 3rd AMAT Advisory Council meeting was held on the 14th of May 2020 via Zoom. Ambassador Stefano Toscano, Director of the GICHD, and Mr Adedeji Ebo, Chief of the Conventional Arms Branch, United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs (UNODA), co-chaired the meeting.

The meeting presented AMAT’s achievements since the last Advisory Council in November 2019 and the plans for 2020. In light of the ongoing health crisis, a portion of the meeting was devoted to the impact of COVID-19 on the work of AMAT and, more broadly, on the ammunition management sector. The meeting was divided into three thematic sessions: Session 1 outlined AMAT’s progress on activities since the last meeting in November; Session 2 focused on how COVID-19 may impact the ammunition management sector; Session 3 examined plans and opportunities for AMAT in light of the current pandemic.

The AC meeting was attended by representatives from states, and international, regional and non-governmental organisations.

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