PROJECTS AND ACTIVITIES

AMAT participated and presented at the First National Conference on Preventing and Combating Illicit Trafficking in Weapons, Ammunition and Explosives in all its aspects in Kyiv, Ukraine on 15 and 16 February. AMAT attended the event both remotely and in-person and delivered a presentation on ammunition risk management and its activities to support national efforts in preventing diversion and accidental explosions at storage sites.

AMAT will assist NATO Building Integrity (NATO BI) with the development of a Building Integrity/Arms Control handbook of good practices, using examples from Bosnia and Herzegovina (BiH) to build national capabilities for strengthening accountability, transparency and good governance in the process of life cycle management of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and ammunition. AMAT contracted an expert consultant to author the final output for the project. NATO BI and AMAT conducted a series of preparatory meetings to agree on the project activities and to clarify roles and responsibilities of the project team. The first mission to BiH will take place on 11-14 April.

On 18 February, AMAT project team met to discuss feedback from the piloting of the Standardised Assessment Methodology (SAM) in Peru and Togo, as well as drafted strategy assessment tool currently under development. On 28-27 April, the project team will come together with the Swiss DDPS to finalise the technical tools which will be tested in the coming months in Peru and potentially Bosnia and Herzegovina.

Digitised IATG for international use Project

As part of AMAT’s goal to increase the ability and readiness of states to engage with the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) and promote their uptake, the Digitised IATG for International Use project aims to database the IATG and make them available through a web application with an automated translation into 5 languages: Arabic, French, Portuguese, Russian and Spanish. The first version of the IATG database has been thoroughly tested and the web application design has been finalised. Before an official launch of the application, AMAT will test it in-house and externally with partners and members of the UN SaferGuard expert roster.

AMAT’s technical advisor for Latin America will support the HALO Trust and UNIDIR with Weapons and Ammunition Management (WAM) baseline assessments in El Salvador and Guatemala. AMAT initiated the first assessment in Salvador at the end of March.

AMAT conducted a chain of high-level meetings in Peru in 2022, underpinned by a Memorandum of Understanding signed with the Ministry of Defence of Peru in January 2022. From initially responding to the request of assistance for supporting the army, AMAT has moved to streamlining support to all the armed forces branches, the police and the civilian authority in the country. AMAT will travel to Peru in April for a planning and coordination mission. Through its consultant technical advisor for Latin America and the Caribbean, AMAT delivered 6th IATG Introductory Course for Peruvian War Material Army Branch officers, Air Force officers and SUCAMEC (National Body for the Control of Arms, Ammunition and Explosives for Civilian Use). 23 military and civilian personnel successfully completed the Course.

First Planning Meeting in Phase

On 3 March, First Planning Meeting was organised as an introduction of the project team, goals and completed Phase I activities; to clarify the path forward for Phase II and provide a platform for the team to contribute to the development of the project outputs.

Stakeholders Outreach

AMAT organised a meeting with the Qatar Permanent Mission in Geneva to introduce and discuss the AAMVS project. The event aimed at promoting the concept of AAMVS and collect perspectives on the desirability of such a system. AMAT also presented its mandate and activities with a focus on the development of the IATG, the United Nations SaferGuard Programme’s Validation Process and Quick Response Mechanism. The GICHD’s Regional Cooperation Programmes (RCP) Coordinator participated in the meeting to present its work globally, recalling past meetings with certain Gulf States and Qatar, and collaboration under the Arabic RCP in the past years.