



Concept Note

Transit and the transfer of weapons by sea, land, and air to countries of conflict - Africa is an example

Introduction

Transit controls have not received much attention in international multilateral systems and agreements to control international arms transfers and in relevant international best practice guidelines. None of the current instruments to control international transfers of all conventional weapons include an explicit requirement for states to establish transit controls. However, many of the mechanisms that seek to put in place robust systems to control international transfers of small arms and light weapons include requirements for transit controls. Hence, the failure to include clear controls on the transit of weapons resulted in the spread of smuggling in all its forms by land, air, and sea.

Smuggling is a global criminal phenomenon faced by most countries of the world, as it affects the international community at all levels, especially the economic and security levels, as it is the most economic crime that threatens the national economy. These illegal activities, which have become affecting the entity of states, have already aroused the concern of the international community due to their difficulty and severity compared to other types of smuggling. Maritime smuggling is among the severe smuggling operations that rely on advanced means of transportation and support and communication devices and contribute to the transfer of more goods and materials in larger sizes and show its danger and gravity in arms smuggling.

The issue of the irresponsible transfer of conventional weapons to conflict areas has been included among the concerns of the international community as it threatens national security and negatively affects the humanitarian side, which reflects the disavowal by states of the obligations that require them to exercise the necessary care in order to improve the rights of civilians during armed conflicts.

Therefore, the Global Coalition for Limitation of Armaments and **Commission Indépendante des Droits de l'Homme en Afrique du Nord (CIDH)** is holding a side event under the title "**Transit and Transfer of Arms by Sea, Land and Air to Conflict**



Countries on the sidelines of the second preparatory series for the Eighth Conference of the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty.

Discussion Topics:

- Legal Framework for Transit Controls in the Arms Trade Agreement
- State commitment to arms transit controls
- Exerted Efforts
- Questions
- Recommendations

Event Objectives:

- Promote the Global Coalition for Limitation of Armaments and invite participants to join the coalition
- Raising awareness of the dangers and negative destructive effects of the transfer of weapons to countries affected by armed conflicts
- Come up with a set of recommendations to activate the objectives of the agreement and enhance the role of civil society
- Presenting recommendations during the Eighth Conference of the States Parties regarding the Arms Trade Treaty next August

Logistics Details:

The program used: Zoom

Link:

<https://us06web.zoom.us/j/89723223477?pwd=Rit6ZjMra3hoTi9COVFGNFIMN1JFQT09>

Meeting ID: 897 2322 3477

Passcode: 376452

Date: 29/4/2022

Timing:

11:00 am to 12:00 pm Geneva time

