



# The Liberian Experience



## In the context of ATT General Implementation

Establishing a National Point of Contact  
Thru the VTF Project

# Introduction

The Liberia National Commission on Small Arms (LiNCSA) is an autonomous agency established by Executive Order in 2006 and through an Act of Legislature in 2012. All ECOWAS Member States have established a NATCOM.

The Commission is mandated to **formulate** and ensure the **implementation** of **policies** and **programs** to **fight against the illicit proliferation of small arms and light weapons** within and across the borders of Liberia.

# Liberia & the ATT

- Liberia made Substantial & meaningful contributions at all Preparatory Meetings and during Negotiations on the ATT
- Liberia participated in the drafting of the **AU and ECOWAS Common Positions** on the ATT
- Liberia's position in support of the ATT is Informed by its recent history of over 14 years of civil armed conflict

- Liberia became **the 68<sup>th</sup> Member State** to Ratify the Treaty in 2015
- In 2016, LiNCSA initiated a **National Assessment on Compliance & Domestication of the ATT**
- The Assessment was implemented **in collaboration with Saferworld** and **funded by the Government of Norway**
- Liberia became one of **few countries worldwide to conduct a nationwide assessment on compliance and domestication of the ATT once Ratification was finalized**
- Findings from the National Assessment were presented to the Government of Liberia and international partners in an elaborate formal ceremony
- Liberia has **Participated in all 4 previous Conference of State Parties (CSPs)** and other related meetings

# NATIONAL ASSESSMENT ON ATT Compliance



- In **2017**, Liberia was awarded a Grant from the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) to implement a project entitled:

**"Drafting legislations to effectively support Implementation of the ATT and Expand the mandate of the Liberia National Commission on Small Arms as the national implementing institution".**

- The Project was **implemented by LiNCSA in collaboration with the Liberia Action Network on Small Arms (LANSA)**, a consortium of civil society organizations working in the area of arms control

- The overall goal of the project was to ensure that all attendant obligations of the ATT were expressed in Liberia's domestic laws on arms . Key deliverables included:
- **Draft an Act to domesticate the ATT** – the proposed Liberia Arms Trade and Transfer Act (**LATTA**)
- **Amend** the Act of the National Commission - LiNCOSA - to expand its scope to include all conventional arms (**LiNCA**)
- Both proposed **Acts are under review by the Legal Advisor to the President of Liberia** pending submission to the Legislature for enactment.
- Establish a **national point of contact**

# Validating Proposed National Arms Trade & Transfer Act



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# National Point(s) of Contact

- The identification of ATT point of contacts is a requirement of the Treaty and Essential for Information Sharing, Reporting and Cooperation
- Liberia has submitted four points of contact including the Chairperson, Vice Chairperson and Technical Commissioner – the **Primary Focal Person is the Director of Programs of LiNCSA**
- Administrative guidelines are being developed and approved for the operations of the point of contact – to be finalized once the ATT Act is passed into Law
- The focal person was trained to maintain and respond to all ATT inquiries and submit reports (Liberia's Annual and Initial reports on ATT compliance)
- ATT Operations and Activities are conducted at the offices of the National Commission
- Currently information on the ATT is integrated into LiNCSA's website (<http://www.linlsa.gov.lr>)

## National ATT Point(s) of Contact

LiNCSA Program Director Vivian Dogbey – Liberia's Primary ATT Focal Person (right)  
LiNCSA Technical Commissioner Benoni Knuckles (center)  
and Civil Society's ATT Contact Mr. Nicholas Fayomba (left)



## Successes in establishing a national point of contact

- The focal person:
- Is trained and has the required expertise to respond to ATT inquires
- All ATT related work is handle in a timely manner
- Provide regular reports to relevant national and international actors
- Organizes national events on ATT Domestication
- Participated in National Assessment on Compliance
- Is responsible to lead the development and submission of ATT reports

# Challenges

- Insufficient and/or Inadequate Logistics
- Limited Office Space
- Need for refresher trainings for focal points and other staff with related assignments

# Conclusion

- Since the inception of the ATT, the Government of Liberia has been committed to the process and is making every effort to ensure full compliance.
- The government of Liberia, through LiNCSA, Acknowledges the support of the ATT Secretariat to the Domestication process, particularly the Funding of the Project to support the implementation of the Treaty.

# THANK YOU!

