



**CONFLICT
ARMAMENT
RESEARCH**

A VIRTUAL SIDE EVENT

WEAPON TRACING

PATHWAYS FORWARD

A virtual panel sharing experiences, knowledge and ideas in weapon tracing with a view to identifying opportunities to strengthen implementation of the ITI.

Date

Wednesday 28 July 2021

Time

08:00 - 09:30 EST / 14:00 - 15:30 CET

Location

Zoom Video Conference

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The Permanent Mission of
the Republic of Kenya to
the UN, New York



CONTEXT

Tracing illicit weapons is a critical counter-diversion tool in preventing and combating the illicit flow of small arms and light weapons to unauthorised recipients. In 2005, the United Nations General Assembly adopted the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) to provide, for the first time, an international framework for cooperation in weapon tracing. Under the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, governments pledged to enhance weapon tracing. They made the same commitment under the Sustainable Development Goals, particularly in Target 16.4.2, which aims for a significant reduction in illicit arms flows.

Tracing illicit weapons helps to:

- 1 identify their provenance;
- 2 uncover the mechanisms and patterns of diversion; and
- 3 counter risks of diversion, including through the identification of weaknesses in supply chains, the provision of red flags for risk assessments of arms transfers, and support for law enforcement and intelligence efforts to counter illicit arms trafficking.

Sixteen years of the ITI have seen notable progress in its implementation, but also several persistent challenges that have impeded its full operationalisation. Challenges in identification, marking, record-keeping, and information sharing have been observed across various contexts, including in conflict-affected settings, where there may be lack of dedicated capacity and resources for tracing. In addition, emerging technologies and their applicability represent both challenges and opportunities for ITI implementation.



Ahead of BMS7, CAR has produced a report—*Diversions Digest: A Case for Tracing*—that provides analysis of five years of CAR tracing operations and offers observations on methods for strengthening tracing efforts globally. Since its inception in 2011, CAR has documented more than half a million diverted items and traced thousands of unique supply chains. This event forms part of a series of activities organised by CAR to mark its 10-year anniversary.

*CAR is an international investigative organisation that conducts field investigations to document illicit weapons, ammunition, and related materiel in conflict-affected locations and trace their supply sources. For more information about CAR, visit the website: www.conflictarm.com

THE EVENT



On the occasion of the Seventh Biennial Meeting of States (BMS7), Conflict Armament Research (CAR)*, in cooperation with the European Union and the Permanent Mission of Kenya to the UN in New York, is convening a virtual panel dialogue to share experiences in weapon tracing with a view to identifying opportunities for further strengthening ITI implementation. Specifically, the event seeks to promote knowledge and generate ideas on:

- **conflict tracing**, including to support monitoring and enforcement of UN and EU arms embargoes;
- the **use of tracing** to inform the development of preventive measures against the diversion of arms transfers;
- **national and regional efforts to enhance capacities** to undertake and respond to tracing requests; and
- **innovative investigative techniques**, including technological applications, to address obliterated weapon markings.

The event is open to the public and will be held in English.

FEATURED SPEAKERS



EVENT MODERATOR

James Bevan

Executive Director, CAR



OPENING REMARKS

Marjolijn van Deelen

EU Special Envoy for Non-proliferation and Disarmament



WELCOME: THE PAST AND THE WAY FORWARD FOR THE ITI

H.E. Ambassador Martin Kimani

Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to the UN in New York, and Chair-designate of BMS7



ANALYSIS OF FIVE YEARS OF CONFLICT TRACING INVESTIGATIONS

Hayley Gill

Trace Investigator, CAR



ENHANCING TRACEABILITY: REGIONAL APPROACH AND EXPERIENCE

Nikhil Acharya

Special Advisor to the Executive Secretary of RECSA, Regional Centre on Small Arms/Bonn International Center for Conversion



INNOVATIVE TECHNIQUES TO INVESTIGATE OBLITERATED MARKINGS

Bailey Henwood

Forensic Scientist, CAR

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