

SYMPOSIUM

"Preventing and Combating Trafficking of Conventional Weapons" CHALLENGES AND LESSONS LEARNT IN THE INDO-PACIFIC REGION

13 May 2022

9:00 – 4:00 p.m. (UTC+2)

Illicit arms' trafficking constitutes a threat to international peace, security and stability. Combating this traffic is a priority for France, especially in the Indo-Pacific region. Consisting in the large area between Djibouti and Polynesia, the Indo-Pacific is a central hub for international trade but also for various traffics that can fuel terrorism and organized crime, often transiting via sea routes. France, which has established a defense-oriented Indo-Pacific strategy in 2020, has made this region an external policy priority of its presidency of the Council of the EU in the first half of 2022.

In this context, the seminar will be an opportunity to explore the topic of arms trafficking in the Indo-Pacific area and related issues. It will aim at providing food for thought on these issues, strengthening dialogue between key French and international stakeholders and developing proposals for action.

AGENDA

9:00 AM: RECEPTION OF PARTICIPANTS AT THE MILITARY SCHOOL AND LAUNCH OF THE ONLINE MEETING

9:30 AM: PRESENTATION OF THE FULL-DAY PROGRAMME

Édouard Jolly, Researcher Theory of Armed Conflicts, Institut de Recherche stratégique de l'École Militaire (IRSEM)

9:30 AM: INTRODUCTION

Bertrand Le Meur, Director for the defense strategy, prospective and counter-proliferation, Directorate General for International Relations and Strategy (DGRIS) of the French Ministry of Armed Forces.

10:15 AM: FIRST ROUNDTABLE – OVERVIEW OF ARMS TRAFFICKING IN THE INDO-PACIFIC AND EFFORTS TO COMBAT IT

This roundtable will take stock of arms trafficking in the region and efforts to combat it, including through the regulation of trade: trafficking sources and methods, transfer control, transit control, customs control.

1 - "Detecting and Addressing Arms Diversion"

Himayu Shiotani, Head of International Policy, Conflict Armament Research (CAR)

2 - "The EU and the regulation of the conventional arms trade in INDOPACIFIC: past and future" (in french)

Benjamin Hautecouverture, Technical director, Expertise France

3 - "Firearms trafficking and related crimes in Asia: past and future threats"

Marie-Pierre Arnold, Crime Prevention and Criminal Justice Officer (Firearms Control Expert), United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC)

4 - "The Importance of a Comprehensive Approach to Tackle Illicit Arms and Ammunition Trafficking"

Theò Bajon, Associate Researcher, United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)

Moderator:

Jean-Claude Brunet, Ambassador – Transnational Criminal Threats, French ministry of Europe and Foreign Affairs



11:30 AM - 1:00 PM : *Lunch break*

1:00 PM: KEYNOTE SPEECH - THE SECURITY DIMENSION OF THE FRENCH STRATEGY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

Contre-amiral Marc-Antoine Lefebvre de Saint-Germain, Centre d'Études stratégiques de la Marine (CESM)

1:30 PM: SECOND ROUNDTABLE - LIGHT WEAPONS TRAFFICKING IN THE INDO-PACIFIC: MARITIME ISSUES

This roundtable will focus on the risk of maritime diversion associated with certain "sensitive" goods that are difficult to control/trace: law of the sea, maritime security, floating armories, piracy, organized crime, terrorism.

1 - "Feedback on capacity-building training on small arms and lights weapons in South-East Asia"

Andrew Reynolds, Small Arms and Light Weapons Project Coordinator, World Customs Organization (WCO)

2 - "Arms trafficking in Somalia"

Gregory Robin, Expert in Arms trafficking and explosives in the Indo-Pacific region, Robin Smith Consulting

3 - "Preventing Illicit Arms Flows: A capacity building perspective on the UN arms embargo on North Korea"

David Atwood, Consultant, Small Arms Survey

4 - "Piracy and floating armories - a legal conundrum" (on Zoom)

Lydelle Joubert, Expert in International piracy and arms smuggling in the Western Indian Ocean, Stable Seas

Moderator:

Marianne Péron-Doise, Researcher North Asia (Japan, Koreas) and International Maritime Security, Institut de Recherche stratégique de l'École Militaire (IRSEM)

3:00 PM: *Coffee break*

3:15 PM: KEYNOTE SPEECH

Enrique Manalo, Permanent Representative of the Philippines to the United Nations, Republic of the Philippines (on Zoom)

3:45 PM: CONCLUSION

Marjorie Vanbaelinghem, Deputy-Director, Institut de Recherche stratégique de l'École Militaire (IRSEM)