



*Co-operating to Disarm*

## **PRESS RELEASE**

**For Immediate Release  
Nairobi, 16 October 2018**

### **REGIONAL FIREARMS MANAGEMENT MANUAL VALIDATION BEGINS IN NAIROBI**

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Representatives from Member States of the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) are attending a three-day workshop in Nairobi to review a training manual for security officers who manage weapons and ammunition.

The senior government officials drawn from the Ministries of Interior and Defense as well as experienced armorers will discuss and validate the content of a Practitioners Handbook that contains guidelines on how to assess and improve the management and of arms. The manual shall be used by officers who manage armories of the military and police with the aim of encouraging and promoting safety and proper management of weapons and ammunition.

Speaking at the opening of the workshop, RECSA Executive Secretary Lt. Gen. Badreldin Elamin Abdelgadir said that the safe handling of state-held arms reduces their diversion to criminals and terrorists and reduces the risk of unintended explosions. This in turn enhances security and allows regional governments and citizens to focus on socio-economic development as well as good governance.

The Director of the Kenya National Focal Point on Small Arms and Light Weapons (KNFP) Mr. Marcus Ocholla affirmed the need for adapting international standards on arms management to local realities. He cited the example of steel arms boxes that are provided by RECSA to store firearms in remote areas and police bases where there are no permanent armories. This averts previous cases where



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police officers would carry their guns home in the evening and rent them out to criminals. Instead, they now have a safe box where the firearms and ammunition are stored at all times, preventing diversion and thus contributing to safety and security in our communities.

The manual complements a capacity-building course run by the Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) for armed security officers in the region to train them on international best practices in weapons and ammunition management. The curriculum and manual content is drawn from the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS) and the International Ammunition Technical Guidelines (IATG) which were developed by the United Nations. The development of the manual is fully funded by the United States government.

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#### **ABOUT US**

The Regional Centre on Small Arms (RECSA) is an intergovernmental organization established in June 2005 and mandated to coordinate regional efforts in controlling the accumulation, trafficking and misuse of illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). RECSA has 15 Member States, and its Secretariat is hosted by the Republic of Kenya. Our interventions include; marking of firearms, electronic arms data bases, destruction of obsolete firearms and capacity building.

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**PHOTOS OF THE EVENT:**



Group Photo: Representatives from RECSA Member States: Burundi, Central African Republic, Republic of Congo, Democratic Republic of Congo, Djibouti, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania, Somalia, Sudan, South Sudan, Uganda.



Director of the Kenya National Focal Point on Small Arms Mr. Marcus Ocholla (Right) and RECSA's Director of Administration Mr. Phillip Ouma



Participants at the workshop