



Bonn International Center for Conversion

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# bulletin

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## Moving on and forward in the ATT process

By Katherine Prizeman

As the mandate for the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Diplomatic Conference expired in July 2012, delegates and civil society alike were disappointed at the failure to adopt a treaty after four weeks of negotiations and, perhaps more importantly, the inability to address the lack of internationally adopted common standards for the unregulated trade in conventional arms. The latest draft treaty from the President of the Conference was adopted as an annex to the report of the Conference, although there was no clear indication of how that text would be treated in the future either in the General Assembly (GA) First Committee this October, or elsewhere. While many delegations expressed regret over the lack of a consensus document, there was general agreement that the process is not over. In a statement to the plenary delivered by Mexico, a group of 90 countries expressed the desire to bring the current text to the GA First Committee to “finalize our work” to achieve “a strong and robust Treaty.”

While this large majority of delegations is correct and commendable in their desire to continue to identify a way forward to achieve the still elusive goal of an ATT, after four weeks of hard work and difficult political wrangling, there is much to be disappointed over. The draft treaty still has significant loopholes and is far from the robust ATT that was aspired to by many delegates and civil society advocates—ammunition and munitions are lacking in the core items listed in the scope; the implementation measures provide for a superseding of the criteria by the vague references to “contractual obligations under defence cooperation agreements;” records of authorizations do not need to be made public; and amendments can only be adopted through consensus leaving very little flexibility for substantive future changes in the Treaty.

Although the particulars of the text will certainly continue to be debated, the question

now becomes how to proceed with the process at large. Although the overwhelming majority of member states have made apparent their intention to continue the ATT process, the specific path forward, and on what basis, does not enjoy the same clarity. The most feasible option would be to bring the draft treaty to the First Committee this October and request another mandate to continue work through a new Diplomatic Conference whereas the viability of adopting a treaty in the First Committee by a 2/3 majority is limited. The time required to consult on the latest draft treaty text and subsequently to re-submit the text this month is obviously short and would require a large and robust group of like-minded states to take up the issue as a top priority, which does not seem to be the case. Additionally, the option for taking the ATT forward by securing a new mandate from the GA for a second Conference next year, with its rules of procedure indicating adoption by consensus or 2/3 majority, is not universally supported. There are strong advocates, including the United States, against any process that is not subject to consensus.

### **Inclusion of ammunition and munitions and legally binding criteria for national risk assessment**

As member states prepare to bring the ATT to the GA this fall, and they must at the very least report back to the body on the progress made, it is important to encourage a process not subject to the rule of consensus and ultimately the de facto veto power of each member state. As such, the majority of member states that have called for an ATT with stronger provisions than the ones found in the President’s text (presumably more than the 2/3 majority required for adoption of resolutions in the GA), should propose a text at a second Diplomatic Conference that encompasses more of the provisions that these member states have fought for throughout the negotiations, most notably inclusion of ammunition and munitions in the scope and clear, legally binding criteria for national risk assessment. The group of 90 states noted at the conclusion of the July Conference, “Compromises have had to be made, but overall

the text you [the President] put forward yesterday has the overwhelming support of the international community as a base for carrying forward our work." Ultimately, if the rules of procedure change, then so should the Treaty such that these compromises be reevaluated if they only apply to a few select states and a new, stronger text should be presented.

The goal of a universal, legally binding treaty for the trade in conventional arms was and remains a noble one. A global ATT would certainly serve as a complement to already-existing, but mostly non-binding, agreements such as the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms, as well as future instruments seeking to contribute to the strengthening of the UN's multilateral security framework. As the next "phase" of this process begins, delegates and civil society should seize the opportunity to adopt a Treaty that can make a robust contribution to such a framework.

Katherine Prizeman is International Coordinator Disarmament Program of Global Action to Prevent War

→ For more information on the ATT, please see the ATT Monitor:  
<http://reachingcriticalwill.org/disarmament-fora/att/negotiating-conference/att-monitor>

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## Staff Spotlight



Michael Dedek

Michael Dedek is Managing Director for Administration at BICC. He is responsible for developing and implementing cohesive organizational structures and procedures that support the achievement of BICC's content and business objectives. On the operational level, he plans, directs and coordinates all administration and financial services for the full portfolio of BICC's work. He thereby ensures that the operational capabilities are in place to sustainably support BICC's mission and mandate.

Together with the Managing Director for Research, he is responsible for business development as well as for national and international cooperation and project acquisitions.

Michael Dedek specializes in the business- and legal management of service-oriented research and consultancy institutions. His expertise lies particularly in commercial management, human resource management and commercial law. At BICC, these fields cover mainly organizational build-up and development, finance and accounting, annual accounts, audits, project implementation and controlling as well as contracting.

To him, it matters to put his management expertise at the service of an organization which addresses major societal challenges. This is his motivation for his long commitment to BICC.

Michael Dedek graduated in Economics, Diplom (Graduate Economist, equivalent to MA) and Commercial Law, LL.M. (Com). He was nominated Managing Director for Administration by BICC's Supervisory Board—effective as of 1 September 2012. As the position of the Managing Director for Research is still vacant, Michael Dedek currently leads BICC's affairs on his own.

Michael Dedek is married and has two teenage sons. Besides spending time with his family, Michael likes to run long distances often accompanied by the family's dog.

→ For further information please contact Michael Dedek at [dedek@bicc.de](mailto:dedek@bicc.de)

## Economic driving factors behind the Arab Spring

In the years 2011 and 2012, the so-called Arab Spring has had a different impact on countries in North Africa and the Middle East, in both political and economic terms. In Egypt, for example, mass protest movements and manifestations led to the overthrow of the former President Hosni Mubarak, after almost 30 years of absolute rule, while in Syria, the uprising of the people resulted in a—still ongoing—bloody civil war between the Assad regime and the armed opposition.

Since June 2012, BICC has been running the project "Economic interests and actors in Arab countries and their role during and after the Arab Spring." The pilot study sets out to clarify whether economic driving factors have guided the behavior of actors during the Arab Spring and in the following political processes. Within the framework of authoritarian political systems in the Arab world, certain political elites had acquired crucial roles in the domestic economies and in socio-economic development, consolidated them, and generated comprehensive patronage networks. BICC's research will focus on the economic positions and interests of political actors, guided by the question of whether and to what extent these positions and interests can explain support, inactivity, repression or violent suppression of protest movements in 2011/12 and active engagement or inactivity in the socio-political process following the Arab Spring.

By combining a political economy approach with social theory, an interdisciplinary and international research team will conduct the pilot study in Egypt, Sudan (North), Jordan and Syria—



four countries where political actors play a strong economic role but have been acting differently towards protest movements, as mentioned above. BICC's project partners are Dr. Salam Said; Prof. Dr. Atta H. El-Battahani, University of Khartoum, and Dr. Walid Abu-Dalbouh, University of Jordan. The project is funded by Volkswagen Foundation.

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## Remote sensing-based research on mining activities in Afghanistan

The European Space Agency (ESA) has awarded a contract to the German space company GAF AG for a project involving the German space agency (DLR) along with the Institute for Environmental Security (IES) and the Bonn International Center for Conversion (BICC).

The main objective of the project "SYstem for Monitoring Law Enforcement of Informal MINing (SYMIN)" is to provide timely information for the Afghan Ministry of Mines about informal mining in Afghanistan, covering previously defined hot-spot areas within the country. The intended service will detect mining activities with very high resolution (VHR) data and will provide maps with the detected mining activities, analyses of temporal changes during the project's life time as well as with most recent VHR-data of the region. The service provision will be accompanied by capacity-building, including training of ministry staff concerning earth observation, Geographic Information System, and policy support.

During the last years in Afghanistan, numerous small-scale and artisanal mining sites started operating without legalization. Until today, no comprehensive overview on informal mining activities in terms of their geographic localization, size of the mining sites and the exploited resources exists. The process of detecting, identifying and regularizing these operations is important in such varied aspects like finance, health and safety and in terms of governing resource extraction.

Within the project, BICC is principally concerned with providing insights into socio-economic effects of mining activities on the national and local level, especially to discern the various potential links between informal mining and violent conflict. Moreover, BICC assesses to what extent and in which manner the intended service contributes to existing resource extraction governance regimes, such as the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative (EITI) or other specific natural resources related regimes.

The project started already in November 2011 and will last until April 2013. It is part of a research programme of the ESA on "Out of Europe Timely Situation Awareness for Law Enforcement and Intelligence Application".

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## Publications

**BICC Focus 11:** Marc von Boemcken. *Dealing with private security companies—Options for development cooperation in Timor-Leste, Liberia and Peru (in English)*  
[http://www.bicc.de/uploads/tx\\_bicctools/BICC\\_Focus\\_11.pdf](http://www.bicc.de/uploads/tx_bicctools/BICC_Focus_11.pdf)

**BICC brief 46:** Marie Müller, Friedel Hütz-Adams. *Auf der Suche nach dem sauberen Gold: Kleinbergbau von Gold in Peru und DR Kongo (in German and French)*  
[www.bicc.de/publications/publicationpage/publication/auf-der-suche-nach-dem-sauberen-gold-kleinbergbau-von-gold-in-peru-und-dr-kongo-348/](http://www.bicc.de/publications/publicationpage/publication/auf-der-suche-nach-dem-sauberen-gold-kleinbergbau-von-gold-in-peru-und-dr-kongo-348/)

**BICC Feature 3.** Jerry Sommer. *Iran-Verhandlungen - und wie weiter? (in German)*  
[www.bicc.de/publications/publicationpage/publication/iran-verhandlungen-und-wie-weiter-344/](http://www.bicc.de/publications/publicationpage/publication/iran-verhandlungen-und-wie-weiter-344/)

**Festschrift.** *Farewell to Peter J. Croll (in English)*  
[www.bicc.de/publications/publicationpage/publication/festschrift-farewell-to-peter-j-croll-346/](http://www.bicc.de/publications/publicationpage/publication/festschrift-farewell-to-peter-j-croll-346/)

**BICC Annual Report 2012** (in English and German)  
[www.bicc.de/publications/publicationpage/publication/annual-report-2012-335/](http://www.bicc.de/publications/publicationpage/publication/annual-report-2012-335/)

City. Marius Kahl, BICC Technical Advisor at the Bureau for Community Security and Arms Control in Juba, presented lessons from the German Foreign Office-funded project on arms and ammunition management in South Sudan. Wolf-Christian Paes, Head of Section Advisory Services at BICC, discussed the perspectives of regional SALW control cooperation in the framework of the "Khartoum Declaration" and presented an outlook on the planned BICC project activities in Sudan.

Lars Wirkus, Head of Data and GIS at BICC, presented the "Interactive Guide on Small Arms: A tool for PoA implementation", which the Center is developing in close cooperation with the Verification Center of the German Armed Forces with support from the German Foreign Office.

The event took place in the context of the Second Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action on SALW (26 August – 07 September 2012).

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## BICC Notes

**B**ICC, SÜDWIND e.V. and Congolese partner organizations held a workshop from 17 to 18 September to discuss its research outcomes on chances and limits regarding the certification of artisanal and small-scale gold miners in Peru and the DR Congo. Representatives from the mining administration, the private sector and civil society took part in this workshop, which was financed by the German Church Development Service (EED).

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On 12 September 2012, BICC received a high-level visit led by the President of the Ivoirian SALW-Commission, Mr Adjoussou. The delegation used the opportunity to familiarize themselves with the work done by BICC in the area of SALW control. They expressed an interest in closer cooperation with BICC in the future with regard to a French translation of the database for SALW identification as well as a possible hardcopy of the guide for the Ivoirian police and justice authorities.

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 Wolf-Christian Paes at [paes@bicc.de](mailto:paes@bicc.de)

On 28 August 2012, BICC and the Verification Center of the German Armed Forces organized an experts' meeting at the German Permanent Mission to the United Nations in New York



From 23 to 25 July, BICC hosted the 9th International South Sudan and Sudan Studies Conference "Identity, Economy, Power Relations and External Interests: Old and New Challenges for Sudan and South Sudan" in cooperation with the Sudan Studies Association USA and the Sudan Studies Society UK at the Rheinische Friedrich-Wilhelms-University Bonn, funded by BMZ, DFG and Stiftung für Internationale Begegnung der Sparkasse in Bonn. Elke Grawert organized the conference, assisted by Ruth Vollmer.

In early 2013, a book with conference papers will be published. A statement by Elke Grawert highlighting interesting topics of the conference in the closing session on 25 July can be downloaded from BICC's website ([www.bicc.de/fileadmin/Dateien/pdf/press/2012/Sudanconf\\_closing\\_remarks.pdf](http://www.bicc.de/fileadmin/Dateien/pdf/press/2012/Sudanconf_closing_remarks.pdf)).

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