Preventing IEDs through the Assessment of Regulatory Frameworks

United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)

Convention on Certain Conventional Weapons
2019 Amended Protocol II Group of Experts (GOE)
Thursday, 22 August 2019
Improvised Explosive Devices (IEDs) pose a major threat to societies around the globe

The threat of IEDs is exacerbated by:
- increased sophistication of designs and means of detonation
- informal methods of production
- means of delivery
- diversity of components (both military and civilian)
- relative simplicity
- ability of producers to adapt to changing operative contexts

As a result:
- Proliferation of IEDs, and their components, is difficult to address
- Comprehensive regulatory approach is elusive
Background to the Self-Assessment Tool

United Nations General Assembly Resolution on Countering the Threat Posed by Improvised Explosive Devices (A/RES/73/67, OP 28)

“Encourages States in a position to do so to support the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research, in consultation with relevant bodies of the United Nations system, in developing a voluntary self-assessment tool to assist States in identifying gaps and challenges in their national regulation and preparedness regarding improvised explosive devices”

United Nations Secretary-General’s Report on Countering the Threat Posed by Improvised Explosive Devices (A/73/156, 2018, 14th Rec.)

“States are encouraged to support the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) in developing a voluntary self-assessment tool which can assist States in self-identifying gaps and challenges in national IED regulation and preparedness”
UNIDIR will produce a reference document that will contain a comprehensive overview of key regulations and counter-IED capacities that can aid in preventing the proliferation of IEDs and their components. UNIDIR will:

• Capture key regulations on IEDs currently in use by States, and/or promoted by States, regional organizations or multilateral organizations

• Consider best practice and policy currently in use by States, and/or promoted by States, regional organizations or multilateral organizations

• Evaluate regulations used by States and present the most effective/relevant in the form of a checklist of key regulations that may be used by States (the ‘Self-Assessment Tool’)
UNIDIR anticipates that this project will:

- Enhance the knowledge of the wider community on the components of IEDs and the sources from which such components are derived, via the Self-Assessment Tool

- Develop wider understanding of regulations on IEDs due to the Self-Assessment Tool, leading to greater understanding by States of the regulatory options available to them

- Develop understanding of the challenges and opportunities facing one or more particular States with respect to IEDs

- Support specific implementation by States of IED regulations highlighted in the Self-Assessment Tool
UNIDIR, supported by the Government of France, held an informal expert meeting on 7 August 2019.

**Included representatives of:** states; international bodies; humanitarian actors; and private sector actors.

**Objectives of the meeting:**
1) Promote knowledge and facilitate dialogue on regulatory and policy-based approaches to the prevention of IEDs and the proliferation of IED components;
2) Consider the proliferation of IEDs and IED components, as well as map trends and particular issues; and
3) Review and feed into UNIDIR’s development of the voluntary self-assessment tool.

A meeting summary will be released.
Informal Expert Meeting – Key Findings

No ‘One-Size-Fits-All’ Approach

• Different levels of support required

• Legislation, Regulation, Decree, Policy or Best Practice

• Centralized vs. Decentralized

• Allocation of responsibilities

• Guidance on cooperation, coordination and use of specialist agencies (e.g. law enforcement, customs etc.)
Informal Expert Meeting – Key Findings

Specific Areas to be Highlighted

• Mode of proliferation
• Components
• Regional / International
• Industry / Sector
• Specialist Actors
• Data Collection & Tracking
Informal Expert Meeting – Key Findings

Suggested Structure of the Tool

- Comprehensive – to set out key regulations, policy, best practice
- Instructive – to provide information on standards
- Modular – to allow States to focus on relevant concerns
- Voluntary – open to all States to access
- Responsive – to develop with use by States
Next Steps for the Self-Assessment Tool

**Second Informal Expert Meeting**
A second informal meeting will take place to confirm the draft self-assessment tool.

**Release of the Self-Assessment Tool**
Intend to release the Self-Assessment Tool at CCW in November 2019.

**Pilot States**
Interested in any expressions of interest from potential ‘Pilot States’ for the Self-Assessment Tool.
Questions?

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