

**UNITED NATIONS SECURITY COUNCIL ARRIA-FORMULA
MEETING ON SMALL ARMS CONTROL AND WEAPONS
MANAGEMENT IN UNITED NATIONS SANCTIONS REGIMES**

Conference Room 2; UNHQ

4 April 2025, 10:00 AM

Sierra Leone

OPENING

Good morning, **Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,**
dear Guests and Colleagues,

On behalf of **Sierra Leone** and co-sponsors **Algeria, Guyana, and Somalia,** I welcome you to this Arria-formula meeting on “**Small Arms Control and Weapons Management in UN Sanctions Regimes.**” This meeting is driven by deep concern over the continued threat posed by the proliferation of small arms and light weapons (SALW), particularly in conflict zones under UN sanctions.

Illicit SALW are **primary drivers of armed conflict**, arming terrorist groups, insurgents and criminal gangs, which **escalates violence and undermines UN peacebuilding efforts** and humanitarian work.

As conveyed in the Concept Note, the UN Security Council has recognized this threat by integrating arms embargoes into sanctions regimes. However, enforcement remains a challenge. Despite 14 active arms embargoes, compliance is often weak and nearly every recent embargo has been systematically violated by determined traffickers and porous borders.

This compromises the credibility of the regimes, prolongs conflicts and fuels criminal activities. Strengthening control measures, such as managing and disposing of seized weapons, is vital for halting rearmament, supporting peace processes, and enabling the disarmament and reintegration of ex-combatants.

International and regional frameworks provide useful guidance, including Security Council resolutions 2117 and 2220, the UN Programme of Action on SALW, the International Tracing Instrument, and the Arms Trade Treaty.

From the regional perspective, the African Union's "Silencing the Guns" initiative and CARICOM IMPACS, amongst others, underscore the need for regions-led action.

This meeting seeks to bridge the gap between normative frameworks and real-world challenges in sanctions-affected areas. Key discussion points include curbing illicit cross-border trafficking, improving border controls and information-sharing, and aligning sanctions with effective **Disarmament, Demobilization, and Reintegration (DDR)** strategies. The aim is to prevent the recurrence of violence by ensuring that weapons do not fall back into the hands of former combatants and criminals.

We invite open and practical dialogue, seeking actionable ideas to strengthen sanctions regimes, enforce arms embargoes, address criminality and support post-conflict recovery.

Sierra Leone calls for a collaborative spirit to achieve solutions that save lives and foster enduring peace.

BRIEFERS

Excellencies, Distinguished Ladies and Gentlemen, we have an excellent, most relevant list of briefers. I should like to welcome:

Mr. Ade-deji Ebo, Director and Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs;

Ms. Savannah de Tes-sie-res, UN Sanctions Committee Arms Expert;

His Excellency Dr. Mohamed Ibn Chambas, African Union High Representative for Silencing the Guns; and

Mr. Callix-tus Joseph, Assistant Director for Policy, Innovation and Strategy, the Caribbean Community (CARICOM) Implementation Agency for Crime and Security (IMPACS)

We will now hear from our briefers, and I thank them for their participation and the valuable perspective they bring to today's meeting.

I will now give the floor to **Director Ade-deji Ebo**.