

**Nonviolence International Southeast Asia Statement  
On Agenda item 6, Treaty Universalization at the Eleventh Conference of  
States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP11)**

*Delivered by representatives of NISEA's  
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Mr. President, distinguished delegates, and fellow participants,

Good day. I speak on behalf of the Young Peoples Fellows from Nonviolence International Southeast Asia. We come from communities where armed violence has affected our families, our neighborhoods, and our hopes for the future. NISEA heeded the call of some States Parties for youth representation, so here we are answering that call and prepared to engage.

In many of our countries, and our generation – we are often exposed to many incidents of armed violence in our social media accounts, be it on facebook or Tiktok or other social media platforms. We may be privileged that the sound of gunshots is not more familiar than the sound of school bells, but today, we are here to speak up for those children who are our age, and whose realities differs so much from us. We are here to speak about solutions, responsibility, and hope.

Young people are not just victims of violence. We are community leaders, peacebuilders, and organizers of the very near future. We are students, researchers, and active citizens working for positive change. The Arms Trade Treaty is important to us because it has the power to stop weapons from reaching those who use them to hurt people and communities.

On Universalization, we believe that every country should be part of the Arms Trade Treaty. When one country stays outside the treaty, it becomes a possible entry point for illegal or irresponsible arms transfers. We call on all States that have not yet joined the treaty to take the step of becoming a State Party. We also hope that other countries and organizations will support them in doing so.

Having a treaty is a first step. Making it work in real life is the bigger challenge. National laws should reflect the treaty's rules, and governments must make sure these laws are followed. Implementation should be more than technical. It should be based on the experiences of people who face violence every day. Young people should be part of national discussions, monitoring, and decision-making. We are more than ready to contribute to policies which will greatly impact our future.

We also believe that people have the right to know what their governments are doing about arms transfers. Reporting should not be hidden or made too technical that it cannot be understood by our generation now – please remember, especially those

who have children our age – we are not going to rely on you forever. So please ensure that these decisions should be open to the public, easy to understand, and available in languages spoken by local communities. We ask that governments make their reports more accessible and that they include clear details about who receives the weapons and their intentions on how those will be used.

Many weapons end up in the wrong hands. These weapons fuel crime, violence, and fear. Diversion happens when there is not enough control and when corruption goes unchecked. We support stronger efforts to prevent diversion and better cooperation between countries. The Diversion Information Exchange Forum should become a safe and honest space to share information. Civil society groups and affected communities should also be involved in identifying risks.

Some countries face big challenges in putting the treaty into practice. They may need training, resources, or better tools. Assistance should be based on real needs and should support local solutions. How many young people is the Treaty reaching? We also ask that youth-led efforts be included. Many young people are already working to stop gun violence through education and advocacy. With support, we can do even more.

This conference shows that there is space for youth voices. But we need more than just space. We need meaningful roles in the process. That means being included not only in side events, but also in formal meetings and national actions.

We hope to see more young people involved in treaty work in the years ahead. We bring energy, creativity, and a strong belief in peace.

We are here because we care. We believe that every person has the right to live without fear. We want a future where schools, homes, and communities are safe. The Arms Trade Treaty can help make that happen, but only if it is fully used and truly respected.

Let us work together to make this Treaty real in people's lives. Let us stop the flow of weapons that fuel war and suffering. And let us build a future based on peace, justice, and dignity.

Thank you very much.