

REINVIGORATING THE NARRATIVE

**THE BROADER BENEFITS OF
THE ARMS TRADE TREATY**

INTRODUCTION

The vision of the Arms Trade Treaty is a noble one. Small arms kill more people than all other weapon systems combined. Each year as many as 500,000 people are killed in armed violence, 70,000 of them in conflict zones.

The ready availability of lightweight illicit firearms enables child soldiers, triggers refugee flows, enables the drug trade, threatens the state and disrupts human security.

In 2016, the economic cost of violence world-wide was put at 13 per cent of GDP.

About 800,000 new guns are added each year to the global stockpile of 875 million.



Photo: Australian Federal Police

The rate at which states have adopted the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) surprised even its sponsors. Yet the treaty is often misunderstood and misrepresented – by some, mistrusted. Facts and answers can be found in a wide variety of sources, but until now the treaty lacked a compendium. The full breadth of advantages offered by the ATT, plus an accessible description of how it works had not been assembled in a single, thoroughly referenced source.

To reinvigorate the ATT narrative, the Centre for Armed Violence Reduction and the Government of Australia now offer the publication *Reinvigorating the Narrative: The Broader Benefits of the Arms Trade Treaty*.

This treaty offers something for almost everyone. From arms traders to civil society activists, from governments and global development agencies to the smallest of communities, from investors to tourists, the ATT promises improved human security, greater business certainty, more sustainable development and less personal suffering.

To be globally effective, the treaty must be widely adopted. Yet many states hold back, perhaps wondering 'How can we join the ATT if our systems aren't ready?' (Why not wait?) In reality, non-States Parties are welcome, and indeed encouraged to 'come as you are'. Accession and ratification are open to all, and once inside the ATT framework a new State Party becomes eligible for capacity-building assistance. In coming years every government will feel the impact of this global instrument. Only by taking a seat at the table can states influence its future direction.

Download the Broader Benefits of the Arms Trade Treaty from:

<http://www.armedviolencereduction.org/bbb/>



SNAPSHOT

THE BROADER BENEFITS OF THE ARMS TRADE TREATY



HUMAN SECURITY

- Enhances Atrocity Prevention
- Combats Gender-Based Violence
- Promotes International Humanitarian Law
- Saves Lives
- Reduces Drivers of Refugee Flows

THE SDGs

- Creates Stability for Development
- Advances Tourism
- Advances Education Opportunities
- Expands Investment Opportunities
- Improves Public Health
- Reduces Poverty

NATIONAL SECURITY

- Enhances National Defence
- Supports National Interests
- Combats Unregulated Arms Flows
- Complements Other Arms Agreements

MARKET VALUE

- Supports Industry and Investor Stability
- Creates Reliable Regulatory Standards
- Enhances Industry Reputation
- Provides Certainty for Importers and Exporters
- Weakens Black Market Supply

REGIONAL SECURITY

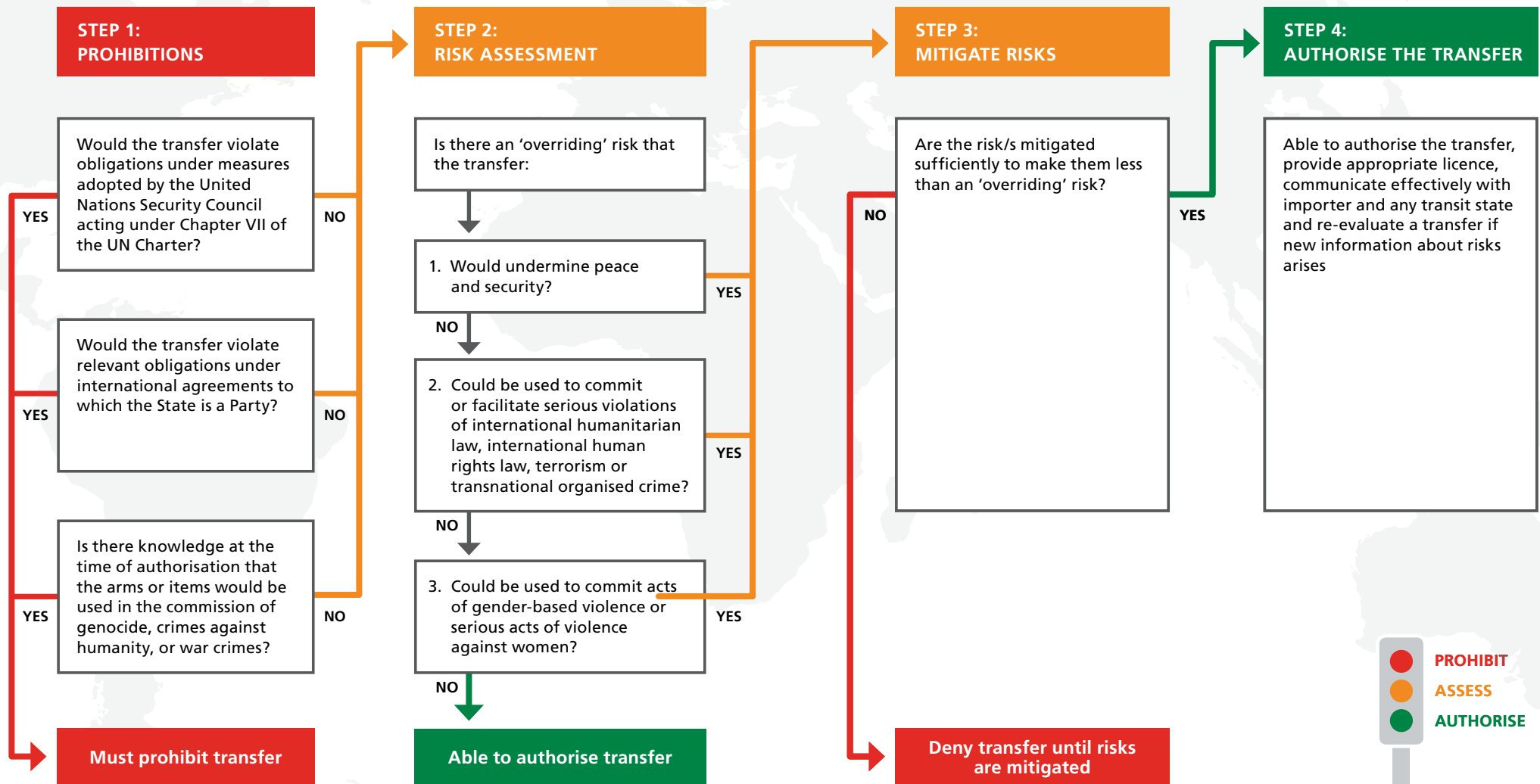
- Creates a Framework for Regional Engagement
- Enhances Cross-Border Cooperation

GLOBAL COLLABORATION

- Supports Relationship Building
- Generates Cooperation and Assistance Opportunities
- Provides a Seat at the Table
- Enhances Reputation

RESPONSIBLE TRADE

A STEP-BY-STEP CHECKLIST



What Does the ATT Mean for States?

The ATT recognises the sovereign right of a state to regulate and control conventional arms exclusively within its territory and recognises the legitimate interests of a state in the international trade in conventional arms. States Parties to the ATT must establish and maintain a national control system to regulate the export of conventional arms covered by the treaty. States are invited to 'come as you are' – to join the ATT immediately and then work towards compliance. Several states have already done this. States can seek assistance to establish a national control system through the ATT's Voluntary Trust Fund.



UN Photo: Stuart Price

What Does the ATT Mean for the Arms Industry?

The ATT is not a disarmament treaty. Its function is to prevent the illicit trade of weapons across borders. The treaty recognises the legitimacy of the arms trade and explicitly guarantees the right of nations to regulate arms in their own territory as they see fit. The ATT supports industry by providing market certainty and gives reputable operators and traders an edge over less scrupulous traders. Treaty compliance improves corporate reputation, an asset valued by investors and clients.

What Does the ATT Mean for the Responsibility to Protect?

The ATT is a global mechanism which will help states prevent atrocities, disarm child soldiers, reduce the flow of displaced people and prevent gender-based violence. It strongly reinforces human rights law and international humanitarian law. The establishment of a national control system will curb the proliferation of illicit weapons, thereby reduce armed violence and barriers to health and education, improve community safety and save lives.

What Does the ATT Mean for Sustainable Development?

The ATT brings substantial support to the attainment of the Sustainable Development Goals. By tackling the threat of illicit weapons and armed violence, the treaty promotes peaceful societies and poverty alleviation. By promoting national and regional stability, it aims to lessen the impediments to tourism, investment, health and education posed by armed actors and criminal violence.



What Does the ATT Mean for National and Regional Security?

In no way does the ATT make it harder for a state to defend itself. By focussing on illicit trafficking of arms and ammunition, the treaty helps to protect national borders and reinforces, rather than complicates, existing arms agreements and the legitimate trade in conventional weapons. By joining the ATT community, even the smallest states can contribute to regional security and a more peaceful neighbourhood.

The Centre for Armed Violence Reduction

The Centre for Armed Violence Reduction (CAVR), an international non-governmental organisation provides evidence-based research and services to prevent and reduce armed violence as a necessary precondition for effective and sustainable development. In partnership with governments and civil society we promote public health and safety by analysing, encouraging and contributing to effective regional and national armed violence reduction initiatives. A non-profit organisation, the Centre facilitates implementation of multilateral arms control instruments by adapting their aims to local needs, history and capacity.

We bring together officials and key actors to tackle armed violence prevention, using a 'whole of government' approach. The Centre finds donors and provides training, capacity-building, technical expertise and tools to help identify and fill legislative, technical and policy gaps. Our evidence-based research and analysis is made actionable through context-specific policy recommendations determined by consensus.

We deliver affordable, sustainable programmes, always in close collaboration with local stakeholders.

With support from the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR), our work has focused on applying global arms control instruments—the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and the United Nations small arms Programme of Action (UNPoA)—predominantly in Southeast Asia, the Pacific and the Caribbean. We provide states with full-scope support to enable them to understand the technical requirements of international arms control instruments, to incorporate their provisions in national policies and legal frameworks and to implement compatible local arms control systems.

The Centre for Armed Violence Reduction is a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), ABN 62 161 762 778.





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<http://www.ArmedViolenceReduction.org/bbb/>



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Centre for Armed Violence Reduction



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**SUSTAINABLE
DEVELOPMENT GOALS**

CAVR and Australia support
the Sustainable Development Goals