



**Statement by Katy Donnelly
Deputy Permanent Representative to
the Conference on Disarmament**

**Fourth Conference of States Parties
to the Arms Trade Treaty**

Universalisation

22 August 2018

Mr President, please allow me to thank you and Ambassador Korhonen, for your work as co-chairs of the Working Group on Treaty Universalisation, and the Secretariat for their presentations this afternoon including on the excellent new website.

New Zealand agrees with the recommendations in the report of the Working Group, including that there should be a focus in outreach efforts on regions with few States Parties, including Asia and the Pacific.

Certainly, for our part, New Zealand has been very focused on encouraging Pacific support for the Arms Trade Treaty. Our Auckland Conference held earlier this year and co-sponsored by Australia, brought together 14 Pacific countries to focus on the ATT, including on the challenges faced in the region with respect to joining and implementing the Treaty.

Many Pacific states do not have any national control systems and transfer processes in place in their jurisdictions. This means that ATT membership comes with resource implications, competing against a range of other important, and in some cases existential, priorities. As Pacific delegations have themselves made clear at this Conference, challenges include capacity constraints, border security issues, data collection and record maintenance, and the need for legislation.

Pacific delegations at the Auckland Conference were frank about the challenges faced but open to commitments to move toward membership of the ATT. The Conference identified a range of strategies to overcome obstacles to membership as well as assistance that may be required by Pacific States in doing so, including access to the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund and other sources.

New Zealand has stayed in close contact with our Pacific partners, including by conducting bilateral follow-up visits. Additional outreach visits are planned over the coming months and we reiterate our commitment to assisting the Pacific in any way we can on ATT issues.

More broadly, Mr President, New Zealand was pleased to sponsor a roundtable in Nepal on "Promoting Universalization and Strengthening Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty in South Asia". That event brought together government representatives, parliamentarians and civil society from seven regional states, and we are delighted that one of the coordinators of that event has been able to attend this Conference with New Zealand sponsorship. The Nepal workshop was just one example of the energy and expertise brought by Control Arms to ATT universalisation efforts and we wish to place on record our appreciation of their important work.

Finally, Mr President, New Zealand notes the proposed activity of the WGTU in preparing a universalisation toolkit (as outlined in Annex B of the Working Group report). This is an excellent idea and we look forward to engaging in this work, including to share our regional experience.

Thank you Mr President.