



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

Interactive Panel of Experts on the potential of parliamentary processes to advance the universalization of the ATT.

Webinar organized by the Inter-Parliamentary Union in collaboration with Permanent Mission of the Republic of Sierra Leone to the United Nations in Geneva, at the Seventh Conference of States Parties to the ATT.

Thursday, September 2nd, 2021 - 16:30 - 18:00

Armed violence from illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) continues to cause over half a million casualties every year. However, over 80 countries are yet to take meaningful and effective steps towards stopping armed violence from impairing political stability, public safety and development.

In May 2006, the 114th IPU Assembly adopted a resolution on *Strengthening Control of Trafficking in Small Arms and Light Weapons and their Ammunition* that calls on parliaments to engage actively in efforts to combat SALW proliferation and encourages them to agree to a set of global principles for international arms transfers. The IPU is uniquely equipped to incite debate among and between parliaments, while advocating for national ownership of solutions that will concretely and sustainably act at the root of the issue.

There are still important gaps in our collective understanding of the impacts SALW have on societies. To this effect, the IPU has devised a project that seeks to build a stronger understanding of the unique constraints keeping nations from participating in the ATT framework, in hope that concrete steps towards universalization can be taken in parliaments.

Objectives of the Side Event:

1. Introduce and discuss the framework, approach, and purpose of the project aiming at the universalization of the ATT through engaging members of Parliaments.
2. Discuss ways to foster national ownership of control and compliance frameworks on illicit SALW. Discuss the negative impact of illicit SALW proliferation on public safety, gender based violence and impediments to Sustainable Development Goals, to understand barriers and limitations of implementing the ATT framework universally.
3. Interact with countries' representatives attending the Side Event on the project's scope, aim, implementation, funding, and timeline. IPU experts and representatives will welcome ideas and suggestions on ways to strengthen the outcome of the project.

Format: The webinar will be organized in two parts, where initially speakers will be introduced and will provide short opening remarks. Following which, a chaired debate across the panel will take place where the audience will have an opportunity to further interact on the topic with each speaker.

Participants:

- CSP7 countries and members of the secretariat
- Representatives of the non-signatory states
- The IPU delegation to the CSP7 conference
- Members of civil society and the press

Speakers:

- Experts and IPU representatives from the IPU delegation to the CSP7.

Registration link: https://zoom.us/meeting/register/tJMvfu6rqDMjHdBGDgupKNwo3GSRTX_OxeAF