



## **Eighth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty**

### **STATEMENT ON TREATY UNIVERSALIZATION**

**23 August 2022**

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Thank you Mr. Chair,

Control Arms welcomes the demarches carried out this year by the German Presidency to engage directly with a number of Signatories and non-States Parties. Direct dialogue with states is essential to understanding their specific concerns and challenges towards joining the ATT.

Control Arms also worked to support universalization this year by engaging with non-States Parties in Geneva and by providing assistance to in-country stakeholder meetings. We also had the honor of once again co-hosting an ATT universalization meeting for the Asia Pacific region, with Australia, Japan and New Zealand.

Our work on universalization in 2022 is far from finished. In the coming months, we will engage with non-States Parties from Latin American and Middle East and North African regions and we will conduct national outreach during the First Committee of the UN General Assembly.

Control Arms welcomes the Co-Chairs' proposal for a mid-to-long term work plan as a way to ensure continuity of efforts of this Working Group. To develop tailored and effective outreach, the WGTU should strive to reach a deeper understanding of each non-State Party's position on the Treaty. Through its thematic chapter, the ATT Monitor 2022 Report, provides a comprehensive examination of three non-States Parties and the unique challenges they face with regard to joining the Treaty. We hope these case studies will help future universalization efforts.

We also welcome the proposal for regional champions, as such an initiative could be useful for promoting ATT universalization while lifting the profile of the Treaty in all regions. Control Arms is developing a study on the contributions of regional organizations to the universalization and implementation of the ATT, which aims to provide ideas for better integrating regional perspectives and efforts into the work of WGTU.

Although efforts to enlarge the ATT community have been hampered over the past two years by the pandemic, we are confident that the Co-Chairs' proposed plan will provide fresh impetus to the drive to greater universalisation.

Thank you, Mr. Chair