

Eighth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

Working Group on Treaty Universalization

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Thank you Mr. Chair,

The universalization of the Arms Trade Treaty, along with its effective implementation are essential to addressing the diversion of and the illicit and irresponsible trade in arms, and ultimately to reducing human suffering.

We take this opportunity to congratulate my country, the Philippines, for its leadership in becoming the first ASEAN state to join the Treaty. We hope the Philippines' ratification of the ATT can serve as an example for the other four ASEAN members that have signed the Treaty but have not yet ratified it: Cambodia, Malaysia, Singapore, and Thailand. Control Arms and its members and partners in the Southeast Asian region look forward to working with the Philippines government in implementing the ATT.

Earlier this year, the Control Arms Coalition undertook consultations with its members in the Asia-Pacific, African, Latin American and Caribbean regions on how best to support universalization. These consultations enabled us to better understand the political and practical challenges to ATT universalization and to identify non-States Parties likely to join the ATT in the coming years. Similarly in November 2021, Control Arms hosted an online meeting with government officials and civil society representatives from the Middle East and North Africa, the region with the lowest universalization rates. The feedback received through the consultations will form the basis for the Control Arms universalization strategy and we look forward to working closely with the WGTU Co-Chairs towards supporting states who wish to join the Treaty.

This week on Tuesday morning, Control Arms organized an online discussion titled "Advancing Universalization of the ATT in Africa". The event discussed opportunities and challenges for Treaty universalization in Africa and, using Cameroon's ratification process as a case-study, highlighted the benefits of the ATT for countries in this region and the role of ICRC and civil society in supporting governments in their universalization efforts. Control Arms wishes to express its appreciation for the updates provided by the Gambia and Malawi on their progress towards joining the ATT. We look forward to welcoming these two countries as ATT States Parties in the near future.

A recurring point in both the consultations and the side event this week is the need for tailored outreach and assistance for those states which have not yet joined the ATT. With the support of

Germany, Control Arms is working on an ATT Regional Actors Project, which maps the work of regional and sub-regional organizations in support of ATT universalization and implementation. The project also seeks to highlight linkages between the ATT and regional arms control instruments, programmes and activities; and identify concrete ways in which existing regional programmes, for instance on data collection or stockpile management, may be channeled towards strengthening the implementation of the ATT. Preliminary findings show that regional actors are uniquely positioned to coordinate and encourage the Treaty's universalization but often their efforts are unnoticed at the international level.

Control Arms would like to recommend that the WGTU Chairs consider the possibility of inviting representatives of regional organizations, beyond the UN Regional Centers, to present their work in support of the ATT. This will facilitate not only a better understanding of the work being undertaken in different regions but also of the linkages that exist between the ATT and regional and sub-regional agreements and instruments.

Thank you for your attention.