



Eighth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

Working Group on Treaty Universalization

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Thank you Co-Chairs.

Control Arms congratulates the Co-Chairs of this Working Group, Ambassador Göbel of Germany and Ambassador Gberie of Sierra Leone, for their proactive start to this year's work on universalization of the Arms Trade Treaty. Control Arms looks forward to working with you both in bringing on board new States Parties in 2022.

As we support the ratification and accession of new States Parties, we emphasize that universalization must be tied to effective implementation of the ATT by all States Parties, current and future. This remains the key to its success in setting the highest possible common international standards for regulating the international trade in conventional arms.

Control Arms welcomes the progress made by the Philippines towards joining the ATT and looks forward to learning more about their implementation plans. It is significant that we are now on the cusp of welcoming the first ASEAN Member State as a State Party to the Treaty. Control Arms urges other ASEAN Member States to expedite their own progress towards joining the ATT.

Last year Control Arms welcomed the announcement at the Seventh Conference of States Parties by the Republic of the Gambia that it had decided to accede to the ATT and we welcome the update delivered today.

Solidifying the ATT as the globally recognised standard for the transfer of conventional arms requires demonstrating the relevance of the Treaty to all regions. Given the high incidence of conflict and low levels of accession, one region in which a discussion on arms transfers and international law is essential is the Middle East and North Africa.

Late last year, Control Arms along with its coalition member, Permanent Peace Movement in Lebanon, hosted a roundtable on universalization of the ATT in the Middle East and North Africa Region. The roundtable provided the opportunity for a robust discussion on the benefits and challenges of joining the ATT at the national and regional levels and highlighted the Treaty's potential to contribute to peace and security.

As the work on universalization has progressed over the last several years, a number of useful tools have been developed, including the ATT Universalization Toolkit. More recently, the SIPRI paper titled, “Taking stock of the Arms Trade Treaty: Universalization”, provides a valuable assessment of the progress and challenges encountered to date.

Last year Control Arms with the support of the Government of Germany produced the report titled “Arms Trade Treaty Regional Actor Study”, which focuses on how different regional actors support the universalization and implementation of the ATT. The study can be accessed on the Control Arms’ website in English, French and Spanish, and a follow up handbook on Regional Actors and the ATT is forthcoming.

With consultations and events in capitals, virtual roundtable discussions, regional meeting engagement, resource development and coordination with a range of ATT stakeholders, Control Arms will continue to use the strength and reach of our coalition members around the world to advance toward the universalization of – and faithful adherence to – the Arms Trade Treaty.

Thank you, Co-Chairs.