



## 2026 Arms Trade Treaty Working Group Meetings, 16-19 March 2026

### Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation

#### Brokering

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Control Arms welcomes this discussion on brokering, a topic that has long been overlooked on the ATT's agenda. Unregulated brokering allows for the circumvention of national arms transfer controls and policies, facilitates violations of United Nations arms embargoes, and enables the diversion of arms transfers to illicit markets, unauthorized end users, and for prohibited end use.

The need to regulate brokering is not new. All UN Member States have committed to regulating brokering under the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons, including the specific obligation to "develop adequate national legislation or administrative procedures regulating the activities of those who engage in small arms and light weapons brokering." The ATT reinforces this commitment by requiring States Parties to regulate brokering across the full spectrum of conventional arms covered by the Treaty.

Arms brokering is, however, an often hidden activity. We know from experience that there are states which did not regulate arms brokering and believed there were no brokers operating within their jurisdiction, but upon introducing regulation discovered that brokers were indeed active on their territory.

Yet, 12 years after the ATT's entry into force, we still have only a limited understanding of what actions States Parties have taken in this area and the real-world impact of those measures.

Our suggestions for follow-up work on brokering are:

Consultations with States Parties: To task the Chair of the WGETI to follow-up with States Parties which have not reported or spoken on this issue at an ATT meeting on the regulation of brokering and any challenges encountered or good practices to be shared.

Sharing of experiences: States Parties could share examples of how they regulate brokering, or cases where a broker has been convicted for violating national laws and regulations for illicit brokering activities. This would highlight effective approaches and good practices of national laws and judicial proceedings that have been effective in tackling illicit brokers. It will also alert other States on the modus operandi used by certain brokers, helping to prevent the same activities being carried out in other States.

Learning from other fora: the UN Programme of Action and Firearms Protocol both address brokering. It would be useful to receive briefings from either the officeholders or Secretariats of these fora on their respective efforts to regulate brokering.

Focus on actions taken at the regional level: It would be useful to hear from the experiences of regional organizations on brokering. For example, the Kinshasa Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons requires its States Parties “to enact laws and regulations limiting the maximum number of weapons brokers or brokering companies established or operating in their respective territories.” [*Also, we welcome the intervention today by RECSA and the work on brokering being undertaken by States Parties to the Nairobi Protocol.*] Learning from the experiences of Member States to the Kinshasa Convention and other regional instruments may provide useful insights for ATT States Parties.

Finally, Increased awareness raising: We are aware that brokering has been raised in discussions on the challenges States face in joining the ATT. Yet we understand that tools have been developed with a view to addressing this very issue. For example, we understand that the ATT Secretariat developed a training module on brokering under a previous project funded by the European Union. It would be helpful if this, and other such tools could be made available on the ATT website.