



### GCAL - Oral Intervention to Working Group on Treaty Universalization (WGTU)

On behalf of our partners, the Global Coalition for Limitation of Armaments would firstly like to thank the Secretariat for hosting this session and all the states, civil societies, and relevant stakeholders for their active participation and commitment.

We would like to emphasize the trends of ATT ratification through a regional lens. Certain regions of the world, such as Asia, have a significantly smaller percentage of the ATT membership, as low as 11%. It is imperative to focus and engage in dialogue with these regions as unregulated arms trade and transfer have various challenges, such as- increased violence and conflicts and distribution of arms to children. To enhance their participation, we need to put civil societies to collaborate with the relevant stakeholders at the forefront.

Voluntary Trust Fund and the ATT Secretariat's Sponsorship Programme are tools that can help push for broader ratification. Even though only states are eligible to apply for VTF funding, they may have civil societies as implementing partners. This is where, we believe, there is an open door for us to collaborate with state governments for adaptation and effective implementation of the Treaty.

We appreciate the expansion of VTF eligibility to states that are not yet signatories to the Treaty. At this juncture, we would like to throw light on Article 23 of the Treaty, which allows for provisional application. Numerous states have adopted this practice, and a campaign to promote non-parties for the same can act as a pre-step towards ratification.

A particular and targeted focus on sub-regions with low participation using outreach programs and disseminating ATT knowledge can prove effective. For example, the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulations (UNSCAR) funding projects is open to regional organizations and NGOs. Such programs can be offered to organizations and civil societies working in regions of low treaty ratification.

We would like to draw attention to the linguistic barriers influencing universalization. We support South Korea's 2019 proposal on the translation of the ATT into local languages and a database to access the translations. The reason being that the six official UN languages are not widely spoken in Asia- a region with fewer state parties. Furthermore, the publication of a model national law made available in multiple languages can assist other states in fulfilling their obligations to adopt the Treaty in their domestic laws.

we would like to call for civil societies' enhanced participation and collaboration with the relevant stakeholders in informal consultations and outreach programs with a rotating regional focus on universalization each year.

Lastly, we want to inform you that we are currently communicating with the Special Rapporteur on private security and military companies to promote the agreement in the discussions that will take place in May, and we are implementing a side event on the side-lines



of that meeting to discuss with a number of organizations and active parties about transfers and the importance of strengthening the treaty

We will also send a proposal to the General Secretariat and involve them in training and workshops, which will be held in cooperation with national bodies and a number of universities to promote and disseminate the treaty

Thank you.

