



ICRC

Eighth Conference of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty 22-26 August 2022

International Committee of the Red Cross Statement on Treaty Universalization

Distinguished Colleagues, Ladies and Gentlemen,

The International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) expresses its appreciation to you, Mr President, and Ambassador Lansana Gberie of Sierra Leone, for your work as Co-chairs of the Working Group on Treaty Universalization.

The ICRC would like to congratulate the Philippines in becoming the 111th state to ratify the Treaty. Now that the world is slowly emerging from the Covid-19 pandemic, we are encouraged to see advancements made by several States at the national level towards joining the Treaty. We welcome and stand ready to support these positive steps. It is incumbent on all stakeholders now to rekindle this momentum and redouble efforts towards the universalization of the ATT.

The ICRC urges all states that are not yet party to the ATT to accede to the Treaty at the earliest opportunity. In particular, we urge the 30 Signatories to complete the ratification process and bolster the ranks of existing States Parties.

With a view to fostering progress towards universalization, we encourage States Parties to set themselves ambitious and time-bound objectives, and to commit to undertake concrete actions to achieve them. The ICRC shares the Co-Chairs' view that more structured and tailored efforts by States Parties and other stakeholders, sustained over time, would help attract additional States to join the Treaty. In its role as President of this Conference, Germany's targeted engagement with States not yet party, including in concert with other states and stakeholders, will no doubt pay off in coming years.

The ICRC also agrees that the common goal of treaty ratification would benefit from better coordination and cooperation among all stakeholders involved. The ICRC and the broader Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement significantly contributed to the elaboration of the ATT. We remain deeply committed to advancing its universalization in cooperation with States and other stakeholders. As such, the ICRC's Advisory Service on IHL here in Geneva, our delegations in capitals around the world, as well as our delegation to the United Nations in New York, offer technical assistance to States in support of the adoption and implementation of the Treaty.

The ICRC continues to encourage States Parties to share their experiences in implementing the Treaty with neighboring States and see value in the Co-Chairs' suggestion to promote regional approaches.

To give a couple of examples, in Africa, the ICRC collaborates closely with the African Union (AU) in the framework of its 'Silencing the Guns' initiative. In May of this year, the ICRC Regional Delegation in Nairobi organized the 8th Regional Seminar on the Implementation of International Humanitarian Law with a session dedicated to promoting adherence to the ATT in the East Africa Region. In November 2022, the ICRC plans to organize a Regional Conference in Seoul for Asia Pacific States, during which the ATT will be discussed.

The ICRC will continue to work tirelessly to support States Parties in their implementation of the ATT to the highest possible standard. The faithful implementation of the ATT is the most compelling testimony to its effectiveness and will go a long way in attracting other States to join.

Thank you