



**Third Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
September 11- 15 2017
Geneva**

**International Assistance
Delivered by Cesar Jaramillo, Project Ploughshares**

Mr President,

International assistance is essential to ensure effective ATT implementation, for universalization and for broad participation at CSP and related meetings.

Control Arms and Sweden shared in advance of this meeting a paper from an informal lunch held with a diverse range of governments at a CSP3 preparatory meeting. Recommendations from this included a longer planning schedule of meetings, the facilitation of multi-entry visas, the importance of translation of materials, interpretation at meetings, holding meetings back-to-back where possible, and considering organising some meetings, especially informal ones, outside of Geneva.

It is encouraging that the VTF has begun to support concrete projects in support of ATT implementation. Civil society has been very active in supporting States Parties and Signatories in the development of VTF proposals; 17 out of the 19 approved projects have non-governmental implementation partners.

There are also lessons learned in this new grant assistance programme, and we are keen to share these with donor governments and the VTF selection committee. We welcome Germany's initiatives to gather feedback. The application process is a little cumbersome, creating difficulties for those that are unaccustomed to writing proposals. The rules on disbursement of funds would benefit from greater flexibility, for example so that funds can be more easily shared among project partners. It will be important to learn from the early operation of the VTF so that processes and policies may be adjusted to ensure smooth operation for the benefit of all concerned.

States Parties' Initial Reports are a potential goldmine of information—an assessment of these Reports could be undertaken with a view to identifying potential needs, and which then are matched with offers of appropriate assistance. Where useful, support could be offered to ensure that Initial Reports are as complete as possible.



Control Arms has been running a sponsorship programme for civil society representatives to attend relevant ATT meetings for 10 years now. This year we are extremely grateful and extend our thanks to the governments of Australia, Germany and Sweden, donors for our sponsorship programme for the CSP and its preparatory meetings. This support has enabled Control Arms to sponsor the attendance of 27 civil society colleagues at the three Preparatory Meetings and Working Groups, and 34 at this CSP. This is a total of 61 colleagues from every region, especially Africa, Caribbean, Pacific, Middle East, Latin America, and Asia. Selection is based on ensuring a balance across geography, language and gender, as well as previous relevant ATT work, and future plans to support universalization and implementation.

Sponsored civil society colleagues have made substantive contributions to Working Group meetings and papers. They have met with many delegations, have presented on side event panels, and have briefed governments and the media in their regions. Control Arms remains committed to ensuring effective representation from civil society, and encourages governments to support us in this effort.

Thank you.