



Inter-Parliamentary Union  
For democracy. For everyone.

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## Speech

Mr. Martin Chungong  
IPU Secretary General

Seventh Conference of States Parties  
to the Arms Trade Treaty

30 August 2021

Mr. President,  
Honorable delegates,  
Distinguished guests,

No one can deny the terrible humanitarian impact illicit arms flows have on populations. These flows escalate violence, destabilize societies and communities, and lead to human insecurity all of which have countless devastating long-term consequences. They jeopardize the future of millions, especially that of women and young people.

As the global organization of national parliaments, the Inter-Parliamentary Union addresses regularly the issue and advocates for a strengthened control of trafficking in small arms and light weapons. Already in its 2006 resolution the IPU called on parliaments to engage actively in combating illicit trade and diversion of conventional arms and encouraged them to agree to a set of global principles for international arms transfers.

However, in spite of the many achievements in this area, much remains to be done.

The fact that so many nations are yet to take meaningful steps towards ridding their societies of these everyday tools of violence, shows that we need to better understand the reasons behind non-adherence to the Treaty. There can be no blanket application of solutions which is why we need to change our approach to consider the diversity of people's needs while prioritizing their safety and security and fostering national ownership of the different solutions.

Parliaments and parliamentarians, as people's representatives, are the bridge between populations and governments. They can advocate and legislate for societies free of armed violence to allow their constituents to prosper. Parliaments are best placed to promote the Arms Trade Treaty as a tool to eradicate the root of illicit weapons proliferation and improve people's lives.

To help raise the interest and commitment of parliaments and advance ATT universalization, the IPU has prepared a project to gather parliamentarians of States that are not yet a party to the ATT to discuss and address the specific roadblocks that are holding them back from joining the Treaty. The project was built with inputs from the Permanent Mission of Sierra Leone in Geneva. On 2 September we will jointly hold an interactive panel to share more information on this initiative. I encourage you to register for the event. We would also highly appreciate your support to this parliamentary initiative.

To conclude, I would like to emphasize that there can be no development without peace and security. Sustainable peace can only be achieved by the people.

Thank you for your attention.