



Inter-Parliamentary Union

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IPU Statement

IPU Representative

ATT Working Group on Treaty
Universalization Meeting
16 February 2022

Honourable Co-chairs of the working group,
Distinguished representatives,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Parliaments and parliamentarians, as people's representatives, have a core responsibility towards the security of their constituents. They have at their disposal several good practices, policies, and treaties that can be used to reduce the impact that uncontrolled arms flows have on society. By using these tools, they can truly become champions for the ATT and fight against armed violence.

We just heard the Representative from the Philippines about the key role of Senator Koko Pimentel in the ratification of the ATT. For sure, bringing in parliamentarians as active players in ATT universalization ensures a certain level of local and national ownership of the solutions adopted and provides citizens' buy-in.

To involve parliaments, the IPU has prepared a project where parliamentarians of States that are not yet a party to the ATT would be gathered in regional or subregional workshops in order to discuss and address the specific roadblocks that are holding back their countries from joining the Treaty. Gathering local expertise, media, civil society, and parliamentarians for each target region will provide a more complete picture of the reality of Small Arms and Light Weapons proliferation in each context and help parliamentarians champion for ATT ratification based on trusted data.

This should also help better understand the reasons behind non-adherence to the Treaty and get away from the one-size-fits-all solutions that are clearly not an option. To increase interest in the treaty, we feel there is a need to shift to a more people-oriented and context-specific approach that would target the root causes of insecurity, through the promotion of sustainable development, human rights, and better inclusion of civil society. That is what Parliaments can really help with.

Because the IPU firmly believes that Parliaments are key in the universalization of the ATT, a treaty that could ultimately benefit to their constituents, it has allocated initial funding to carry out a first pilot workshop. We intend that our results will be featured during the CSP8 in August and truly welcome any input from ATT stakeholders in the meantime.

Many thanks for your attention