



Oral Intervention

International aid and cooperation under the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)- item 10

Thank you, Mr. President, for allowing Maat for Peace, Development, Human Rights and the Global Coalition for Limitation of Armaments (GCLA) to participate in this important discussion on international aid and cooperation to implement the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

The ATT has dedicated Articles 15 and 16 to encourage parties to cooperate and seek assistance and advice on issues of common interest regarding the exchange of information to support the implementation of the treaty as well as joining efforts to combat illegal activities in order to reduce the illegal flow of weapons, and seek advice on inventory management and disarmament.

Based on this, states must strengthen cooperation to enhance respect for United Nations resolutions calling for the prohibition of supply of weapons to countries or armed groups in conflict areas.

Mr. President,

Both Maat and the GCLA confirm that in order to prevent terrorist groups from obtaining weapons, countries must join hands and efforts to impose strict monitoring on small and light weapons and their ammunition, restrict the manufacture of firearms, their spare parts, components and ammunition, and to stop the illegal trade in them.

Countries must also adhere to the monitoring mechanisms that specialize in monitoring the import, export, and inspection of weapons, and work to confront illegal arms trafficking operations, taking into account the application of human rights standards and the risk of the transformation of the arms path.

Maat and the GCLA confirm that countries must agree on a mechanism for monitoring and enforcement that provides for conducting an immediate, impartial and transparent investigation into all alleged violations of the ATT and agree on the punishment that should be imposed on those deemed guilty.

Detailed information on the arrangements for the transfer of the arms shipment must be submitted upon requesting an export or transit license. Effective cooperation between countries in order to take preventive measures to protect the coasts and maritime gateways must be taken to prevent arms smuggling.

Organization in special consultative status with the Economic and Social Council since 2016

Headquarters: 148 Misr Helwan El-Zyrae Road, El Matbaa Sq, Hadayek El Maadi, 4th Floor, No 41, Cairo, Egypt

Maat Training Center: 380 Corniche El Nil St., Gawharet El Maadi Tower, 38th Floor, Tower B, Cairo, Egypt

490 El Maadi www.maatpeace.org

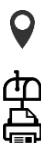
00(20) (2) 25266026

00(20) (2) 25266019



maat@maatpeace.org

+201226521170





ماعت للسلام والتنمية وحقوق الإنسان
Maat For Peace, Development, and Human Rights

We, therefore, emphasize the importance of international cooperation in monitoring weapons trade, especially in the areas where armed conflicts prevail (which are many). We also stress that the transit traffic control system must be activated, since irresponsible transportation operations can destabilize an entire region and violates the provisions of arms treaties, contributing to a surge in human rights violations. I think there are plenty of clear examples confirm this.

The legitimate and illegal weapons trade across black markets has contributed to the exacerbation of international conflicts and civil wars.

Mr. President, Ladies and gentlemen,

As you are aware, some countries violate the decision banning the supply of weapons. According to a recent report published by United Nations Committee, Iran is deeply involved in financing and arming the youth movement in Somalia and violating the sanctions imposed on the movement. Human rights and media reports confirmed that weapons provided by Iran to the Houthi militia in Yemen are being smuggled by the Gulf of Aden to Somalia.¹

The continued arrival of weapons to the Houthi militia in Yemen and the youth group in Somalia helped increase their strength and the continuation of the war that increased the suffering of civilians.²

Finally, Mr. President

Maat and the GCLA highlight the need for cooperation, mutual assistance and adoption of many initiatives at all global, regional and national levels. Moreover, it stresses adopting effective tracking mechanisms to enhance accountability and responsibility among weapons providers. Although the first responsibility for compliance with international humanitarian law lies with the users of the weapons, there is a general recognition that the countries and companies concerned with the production and export of weapons have a political and moral responsibility about how to use their weapons.

¹ تقرير دولي يكشف تهريب أسلحة إيرانية من اليمن إلى الصومال، الشرق الأوسط/ 10 نوفمبر 2021، الرابط، <https://bit.ly/3MsOF7X>
- شروق صابر، علاقات شائكة .. أهداف ودلالات التعاون بين إيران وحركة الشباب الصومالية، مركز الأهران للدراسات السياسية والاستراتيجية، 1 ديسمبر 2021، الرابط، <https://acpss.ahram.org.eg/News/17336.aspx#>
² تقرير أممي سري يكشف تفاصيل عمليات تهريب إيران للأسلحة من ميناء "جاسك"، Orient Net، 9 يناير 2022، الرابط، https://orient-news.net/ar/news_show/195032

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