



## **Fifth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty**

### **Gender and GBV Intervention**

**26 August 2019 - Geneva, Switzerland**

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Mr President

Control Arms thanks you for leading this valuable initiative and fully supports this Conference for agreeing to a Decision on Gender and Gender-Based Violence.

We believe it is important that women delegates are encouraged to contribute to these discussions. However substantive contributions by women delegates can only be achieved if women are fully represented at all levels and in all roles within national governance structures, including arms transfer control systems. We recommend that any analysis of gender balance undertaken by the Secretariat should consider the level and nature of participation by gender, for example, highlighting how many women were Head of Delegation and how many women delivered a statement at CSP. I am pleased to report that the 70-strong Control Arms delegation here this week is led by a woman and has a 50/50 split between men and women.

Control Arms also believes that all States Parties should develop and adopt national policies and Action Plans in pursuit of gender equality in their national institutions, as some do already pursuant to UNSC Resolution 1325; such policies and Action Plans should contribute to ensuring equal representation in the competent national arms transfer control authority; include references to GBV and the ATT, and strengthen synergies between the ATT and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

We agree on the importance of achieving a clear understanding of the gendered impact of armed violence and support the call for States to collect and to make public gender-disaggregated data within their national crime and health statistics. We also consider that data gathered on the proportionality of harm to civilians should focus on both direct and indirect impacts. Available data indicates that while men are more often directly impacted, women are disproportionately affected by the indirect, reverberating effects of armed conflict and violence and the associated negative social and economic impacts including barriers to medical care and a heightened risk of domestic violence. Control Arms also urges States to do more to understand the impact of arms related gender-based violence in relation to gender non-conforming people. Civil society has much expertise in this area.

Mr President, Control Arms is committed to continuing to produce research and carrying out practical training on the implementation of the GBV criteria, and to helping increase understanding of the gendered impact of armed violence in the context of the ATT. We welcome

the proposal that States discuss and develop understandings around key ATT terms in order to assist full implementation of the GBV provisions; we see the working group on Articles 6 & 7 as an appropriate forum in which these discussions could take place. Finally, we would urge all States Parties who have not already done so, to provide information in their Initial Reports or in an update, on their policies and practices as they relate to the implementation of the GBV criteria, and specifically how GBV considerations impact upon arms transfer decisions. States could also report annually on licence denials broken down by category, including GBV.