



**Eighth Conference of States Parties
to the Arms Trade Treaty**

**ATT Working Group on Treaty Universalization
Intervention by Aotearoa New Zealand**

22 - 26 August 2022

Thank you, Chair.

Aotearoa New Zealand thanks the Co-Chairs - Ambassador Göbel and Ambassador Gberie - for their efforts in guiding the Working Group on Treaty Universalization.

New Zealand is a strong supporter of efforts to universalize the Treaty. Our collective efforts to help encourage even greater membership will help ensure the Treaty achieves its full potential.

That the Treaty has today reached 114 States Parties is a significant achievement. But it is also clear that we cannot be complacent.

In order to support this goal, we must think of creative ways to promote the ATT's benefits, to understand the challenges to universalization, respond to the concerns of states outside the Treaty, and provide support where it is required.

In that regard, New Zealand very much welcomed the initiatives outlined in the Working Group's paper on "Enhancing the work of the Working Group on Treaty Universalization" [ATT/CSP8.WGTU/2022/CHAIR/735/Conf.Rep - Annex A]. We see this paper as a useful starting point for further elaboration by the Working Group in the year ahead, and therefore lend our support to the paper's adoption and the Working Group's proposed mandate.

In particular, I offer the following specific remarks:

- In our view, the Working Group's efforts may indeed be better supported through a longer-term work plan, which we agree may enable more effective and productive outreach and assistance to prospective States Parties in their ratification or accession processes. We are supportive of an approach that would enable more individualized, tailored support for prospective State Parties [Annex A, paragraph 3(a)].
- We likewise support a more targeted, stepped approach focusing on those signatory states as well as states most likely to ratify or accede to the Treaty in the coming years [Annex A, paragraph 3b].
- We also believe that a programme of "Regional Champions" [Annex A, paragraph 3c], would be a helpful means of boosting regional universalization efforts. On this point, we would also encourage the Working Group to utilize existing regional fora as a means of reinforcing this work, such as the African Union, ASEAN, and – in our own region – the Pacific Island Forum.

In New Zealand's view, championing the Treaty's universalization should remain among our top priorities as a Treaty community. We therefore commend the Co-Chair's work in seeking to enhance and revitalize our approach to universalization, and would support further work being undertaken in the intersessional period.

I thank you.

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