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Momentum continues on landmark Arms Trade Treaty, China votes in favour in new resolution

[FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE]

Today at the United Nations General Assembly First Committee, States overwhelmingly voted in favor of a resolution that encourages further action in support of the landmark Arms Trade Treaty. The resolution passed with zero votes against, signaling the high level of support the Treaty enjoys.

The Arms Trade Treaty currently has 114 signatories, including the United States, and 8 ratifications.

Significantly, China, who abstained when the ATT was adopted in April this year, voted "yes" to the ATT resolution. In explaining their vote, China declared that they had "no substantive issues with the content of the treaty" and are "seriously considering signing the treaty." This is an important breakthrough for the world's 5th largest arms exporter.

Anna Macdonald, co-chair of the Control Arms Coalition, said:

"It is very encouraging that the ATT has been so high profile during this year's First Committee, as confirmed by this vote in favour of encouraging signature and ratification. 50 ratifications are needed for the Treaty to enter into force and become legally binding, and with this level of momentum, we expect this to happen next year.

"Now we have the words on the paper, we need the action on the ground. Countries must now focus their efforts on ensuring effective implementation of the treaty so it can fulfill its core purpose of saving lives, and stop irresponsible arms transfers that fuel conflicts and armed violence around the world."

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Notes: The ATT resolution was approved with 141 votes in favour, zero against and 28 abstentions. The number of "yes" votes is expected to rise when the UNGA does a re-confirmation vote on all resolutions in December.