



Preparations for the Third Conference of States Parties for the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP 2017) in September are already underway. Just weeks ago, the three working groups met in Geneva and reported their progress toward ATT universalization, implementation, transparency and reporting at the first Informal Preparatory Meeting (PrepCom) of 2017.

This meeting saw significant participation by States Parties from Western Europe, Australia and New Zealand, and some representation from Latin America. This type of active engagement is encouraging and essential to moving the development of the ATT forward. However, missing from these discussions was a strong presence from CARICOM, Africa, and Southeast Asia and the Pacific regions. Broad participation from all ATT States Parties is critical to the ATT's success as a multilateral instrument designed to reduce human suffering worldwide.

The next preparatory meeting, scheduled for 7 April 2017, is fast approaching. We hope you will consider making a meaningful contribution to this process. Together, States Parties can shape the framework to ensure the ATT achieves its aim of reducing human suffering.

What you missed at the February PrepCom

- Opportunities to highlight your State's progress in ATT implementation and identify areas where you may benefit from international assistance, including technical or financial support.
- Discussion of implementation strategies that can be undertaken by States Parties to develop strong national control systems.
- The ability to call attention to areas of conflict or violence in your region that are being fueled by the arms trade.
- A chance to shape the CSP 2017 agenda and frame the debate to cover issues that are important to your interests.

Why your participation at the April PrepCom is essential

Avoid Implementation Bias...

- Significant input from importer and transit states during the early stages of the ATT's development will lower the risk that implementation will only focus on the preferences and expectations of the more vocal exporter states.
- Ensure that all regional interests and concerns are expressed so that States Parties are aware of the wide range of implementation challenges.
- Highlight areas of current conflict or violence fueled by the arms trade that require attention from ATT States Parties and are being overlooked.

Share and Learn...

- Obtain a broader perspective on how the ATT is operating in different regions to help inform national implementation efforts.
- Engage in reflective dialogue with other State Parties concerning the implementation experience.

Provide and Request Assistance...

- Explore the availability of implementation assistance at various levels and make requests known either at plenary sessions or in the margins of the meeting.
- Attend briefings about the Voluntary Trust Fund and discuss potential projects for your country.