



Second Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
Statement by Linnet Ngayu, African Council of Religious Leaders, on behalf of
Control Arms
Universalisation, 24 August 2016

Mr President,

Control Arms believes that universalisation means securing the accession of as many States as possible that are ready and willing to fulfil the obligations elaborated in the Treaty. Efforts should not centre upon securing the accession of certain States to the Treaty at any price. We see implementation and universalization as going hand in hand, and establishing the new norms that will enable the ATT to be successful in its goal of reducing human suffering.

Mr President, Control Arms fully supports your paper on the universalisation of the ATT and agrees with its overarching emphasis on the need for a partnership approach involving all stakeholders. We are concerned that the proposal by France and Italy for a troika of CSP Presidents would mean the establishment of a powerful, but largely unaccountable institution that could lead to the marginalisation of some key stakeholders in the universalisation process.

We agree with your assertion that it is vital that this CSP sets the right tone for the priorities of future CSPs in this area. Given the long term nature of this work, we also fully support the establishment of an inclusive and open working group to assist work on universalisation.

Control Arms and our partners have been working in all regions toward universalization. Our extensive network and close working relations with many governments has informed our view that the reasons for non-ratification or accession are varied, not only between regions but also within regions. Therefore, we need outreach approaches which take account of the different challenges facing States, and assistance efforts in particular should be well tailored to needs.

Control Arms would also like to highlight the presence here at the CSP of civil society from countries who have not yet ratified or acceded to the Treaty. For example, I am from Kenya, which, despite not having acceded to the ATT has, in place, relevant national structures and mechanisms and is an active participant in the Regional Centre on Small Arms. African civil society is working hard to build on such foundations and is determined to achieve full universalisation in our continent.



As noted in your paper, civil society has significant experience and expertise that can make an impactful contribution to the collective effort towards universalisation of the ATT. We stand ready to work with all interested actors in order to realise these goals.

Thank you