



**UNGA First Committee  
October 2017, New York**

**Delivered by Anna Macdonald**

Mr Chair,

The recent horrific mass shooting in Las Vegas is a shocking reminder of the violence that is being perpetrated in many places around the world, and of the harm that weapons in the wrong hands can do. No one should be living in fear of armed violence in their daily activities.

Since the ATT entered into force 3 years ago, over 1 million people have died from armed violence, and many millions more have suffered injury, displacement, torture and abuse. Control Arms is an international coalition, and our partners around the world see these devastating consequences of the poorly regulated arms trade every day.

In Yemen, where a child is now dying every ten minutes, time is running out. Direct deaths from conventional arms are continuing to rise. Indirect deaths and casualties are even higher. Much higher. Cholera cases have now surpassed half a million. All of this is caused by the war, and all of this could have been avoided.

Yemen is one tragic example of where arms transfers are directly fueling human suffering. There are many others example around the world: from South Sudan to Honduras to the Philippines to Papua New Guinea, arms fuel torture, human rights abuses, conflict and displacement.

The Arms Trade Treaty gives an opportunity for States to transform the arms trade. States have both the responsibility and the power to ensure that they do not supply arms that risk being used to commit or facilitate violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. ATT States Parties have this obligation through Treaty membership. Signatories are bound not to act to undermine the Treaty. It is hard to imagine how any State would argue against this basic principle to reduce human suffering. We call on all States who are not yet States Parties to join the ATT as soon as possible, and not to wait for accession to apply the core articles of the Treaty.

The majority of States that are meeting their ATT reporting obligations are making their reports openly available. There are however, questions in some cases about how accurate or complete some of the information provided actually is, and too many States are not reporting. Reporting is



a Treaty obligation, not an optional extra, and it is incumbent on States Parties to produce accurate, timely, comprehensive and public national reports.

*As we all know There can be no sustainable development without peace, and no peace without sustainable development.* Control Arms welcomed the focus at the ATT Conference of States Parties last month on the link between the Sustainable Development Goals and the ATT. The links are very clear, and go way beyond the immediate link with Goal 16, to the role of arms control in reducing poverty, inequality, ensuring gender equality and reducing corruption.

We also believe there can also be no Treaty universalization without implementation. Joining the ATT must take place concurrent with ensuring effective implementation. Ratification or accession without implementation is just words on a page. Worse, it can provide cover for irresponsibility and illegality.

All States have responsibility to bring the arms trade under control. You can choose to act to stop the arms transfers that are fueling the daily suffering of millions of men, women and children around the world every day.

To those saying that Treaty implementation will take time, we ask how they will explain to the grieving mother in Yemen, the widow in Iraq, the sister in Jamaica, the orphan in DRC that they 'need to be patient'. How much longer will victims and survivors have to wait before the world acts to bring the arms trade under control?

The ATT was adopted with the aim to Reduce Human Suffering. We call on each of you to make this a reality.

Thank you.