

Reflecting the campaign's crucial role in the long road to seeing this Treaty signed, Control Arms co-chair Anna Macdonald spoke on behalf of the coalition on the panel to officially open the ceremony. In a rousing speech she reminded governments the real impact of the Arms Trade Treaty, saying: "The most powerful argument for the ATT has always been the call of the millions who have suffered from armed violence around the world. "Survivors of armed violence, representatives of whom are here today, have played a major part in this campaign. Their suffering and experiences are the reason we are all here, and their courage and determination has been the inspiration to keep pursuing this goal."

Control Arms campaigners took photos of delegations after they signed the treaty, and shared these on twitter. You can see photos here, and join in on twitter with the #Armstreaty and #Timetosign hashtags.

After 10 years of campaigning for the Arms Trade Treaty, it was a time for Control Arms campaigners – whether in New York or watching online (<http://webtv.un.org/watch/part-1-special-event-to-mark-the-opening-for-signature-of-the-arms-trade-treaty/2431203765001/>) from around the world – to pause to take pride in everything we have achieved.

"Change does not happen only in the UN or parliaments. Change happens when we work together on a shared goal and put aside our differences for a common good. Change happens from workplaces, from schools, from universities, and from our own homes, when we refuse to take no for an answer, and keep going," Anna said, capturing the spirit of this campaign.

"So to everyone around the world who has supported this campaign – thank you for all you have done. This has been a global movement and you have all contributed. Thank you for making this happen."

Read the full text of Anna's opening statement here (<http://controlarms.org/en/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2013/06/Signing-Speech-Anna-MacDonald.pdf>).

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Control Arms is a global civil society alliance campaigning for a bulletproof Arms Trade Treaty.

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