



**Control Arms intervention on draft financial rules as delivered by Shobha Shrestha,
Women for Peace and Democracy Nepal (Nepal)**

Monday 6 July 2015

Mr Chair,

Control Arms believes that to be effective, decision-making should be majority-based for all procedural and substantive issues. There should be no risk of veto. This includes for financial decisions. We therefore recommend deleting the term “as a last resort” from Rule 6.

The financial rules will of course not exist in a vacuum. They will have implications for the ATT Secretariat and are related to the Rules of Procedure. Therefore we wish to underscore the importance of States Parties agreeing to a fundraising mechanism that is sustainable, will allow for effective implementation and prudent financial management, while avoiding crisis situations and sudden activity interruptions. It must also be transparent and fair for everyone, especially less resourced States Parties.

The rules and budgetary processes must be designed to ensure the success of the entire ATT system, including conferences of States Parties, of subsidiary bodies and the work of the ATT Secretariat. These activities are vital to the Treaty’s implementation. We are concerned that draft Rule 3.4 could present a problem and would constitute an anomaly in how financing rules and budgeting occurs across other disarmament fora, in that it is unrealistic to expect 80 per cent of the necessary contributions for a CSP to be available two months ahead of time. There are ways to design a system that will allow a CSP to take place that takes into account financial realities – such as a contingency fund, a working capital fund or similar.

Similarly, the suggestion in Rule 4.4 that the work of the ATT Secretariat, additional to servicing Conferences of States Parties (plus salaries and infrastructure support), could be supported only on a voluntary basis, without a clear understanding of what that means and how it may affect implementation of agreed tasks, has strong potential to impact both the independence and productivity of the ATT Secretariat, and also potentially disadvantage the needs and interests of less-resourced States Parties. In principle, if the CSP approves an activity for the ATT Secretariat, such an activity should be covered, at least to a meaningful degree, by the regular budget – with possible additional support from well-intentioned donors.

Thank you,