



**Control Arms intervention on Rules of Procedure as delivered by
Anna Macdonald, Control Arms**

Wednesday 8 July 2015

Thank you Mr. Facilitator,

We are a bit surprised at any opposition to the idea of an international coalition being able to attend as a regular Observer at the CSPs. Indeed we heard a lot of support in the room for this yesterday.

We are not seeking to change the status of NGOs, merely to continue the practice that we have had for more than 10 years, of organising and representing ourselves as an international coalition.

The Control Arms Coalition came about because many NGOs from all continents decided to work together to try to achieve an Arms Trade Treaty. It was launched in 2003, and has campaigned for the ATT ever since. Control Arms played a key coordinating role for civil society in all the meetings and conferences that led up to, and during the negotiation of the ATT. We are well-known to almost all of you. Many delegations in this room call upon our expertise and our many members and associated partners around the world fulfil this.

Our diversity is evident. With us, at this meeting, there are colleagues from all regions and include technical experts, faith-based organizations, peace groups, doctors, academics, campaigners, and world-wide membership organizations working on development and human rights. Anyone who supports the aims and objectives of the Treaty is welcome to work with us toward the implementation and universalization of the ATT.

We play a vital role in coordinating and facilitating civil society participation in this conference and in all previous ones. This is a role that takes place behind the scenes but the effects of which can clearly be seen around you. We have received funding from many States throughout the ATT process. We have also managed the sponsorship of many colleagues, almost all from developing countries, who without that support would not have been able to participate.

We helped the organizers of side events, which provide substantive contributions to your discussions. We produce policy analysis and research, and respond to your requests for information and technical advice.

For global civil society to effectively participate in future conferences, coordination through inclusive, broad and democratic international coalitions will be very important.