

**Conference of States Parties to the ATT (CSP 2017)
Geneva, 11 – 15 September 2017**

Daily Summary: Day 2 (Tuesday 12 September 2017)

The morning session of day 2 at CSP 2017 began with the continuation of the General Debate. Seven Signatory states and one Observer took the floor. Control Arms was not able to speak in this session, as the President stopped the session and moved to Implementation. Control Arms decided to give our [opening statement](#) outside the conference room and post online so delegates could see it anyway.

Implementation

Twenty-two states took the floor in the implementation session, as well as the EU, the ICRC, Control Arms, ASER and WILPF.

The Chairs of the Working Group on Treaty Implementation (WGETI) reported on its work during the past year. Having only met twice, and being unable to decide on its priority issues, the only recommendations to CSP 2017 related to the WGETI's own status and future work plan.

Several States suggested their priority issues for the WGETI to focus on in the future. Articles 6 & 7 (Prohibitions and Export Assessment) received the most support of those that made suggestions (Japan, Mexico, Switzerland). Other issues included General Implementation (UK), Transit & Transshipment (Sweden), Brokering (Ghana) and Diversion (Mexico).

Several states provided updates on new legislation or other implementation efforts (Argentina, Costa Rica, El Salvador, Peru, Republic of Korea, Sierra Leone).

Germany, the Netherlands and the EU all made offers of international implementation assistance. The EU suggested that future CSPs play a role in reviewing implementation efforts.

Many States endorsed the suggestion that the WGETI become a standing body (Brazil, Bulgaria, Costa Rica, France, Ghana, Netherlands, New Zealand, South Korea, Sweden, Switzerland).

Several made proposals relating to the working process of the WGETI, including translating materials (South Africa), providing timely submission of papers (Sweden), bringing national experts to meetings (Belgium, Netherlands, Sweden), keeping meetings open (Mexico) or otherwise ensuring that meetings were only made private in exceptional circumstances and with four weeks notice (New Zealand).

James Lynch of Amnesty International delivered the [Control Arms statement](#), called for states to include compliance discussions as part of ATT implementation, and outlined irresponsible arms transfers fuelling violence in Yemen, Egypt and the Philippines.

The ICRC, ASER and WILPF all also commented on the urgent need for responsible arms transfers.

Thematic Debate: Linking the ATT and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

CSP 2017 is the first conference to include a thematic debate, focused on identifying practical measures to link the ATT and [SDGs](#). A panel, featuring Ambassador Stevens of Sierra Leone, Farah Karimi of Oxfam, and Dr Simona Graci of UNODC.

‘Does anyone sitting here who supplied arms to combatants in Yemen think that they have improved Yemen’s security and development?’ Ms. Karimi [asked](#) delegates. ‘Yemen would have always found meeting the SDGs difficult but now, goals on health, on clean water, or any SDG is beyond reach until the fighting stops.’

Dr. Graci explored the importance of data collection, and recommended that denials, and reasons for denials were included in ATT Annual Reports to aid measuring progress in reducing illicit arms flows, and highlighted indicators using SDGs as an evidence basis to support ATT risk assessments.

Fourteen states took the floor in an interactive discussion. As expected, many states referenced the link between the ATT and SDG Target 16.4 (Reducing illicit arms flows) as an obvious link. Several states (Australia, Belgium, Ireland, Guatemala and the EU) also highlighted as important the link between SDG 5 (Gender Equality), and ATT Article 7.4 (reducing gender-based violence). Belgium called attention to 16.4 linkages meaning more than solely focusing on diversion measures, but also on controlling all licit trade in arms, and the special responsibility of exporters.

Identification of specific practical measures were limited. However, Ireland introduced recommendations in a new working paper on [preventing GBV](#), and Sweden suggested building structured links with development experts. Argentina, Belgium and South Africa proposed that this issue be furthered under one or more working groups. Control Arms also took the floor to reiterate the wide range of connections between the SDGs and ATT. Control Arms and Oxfam distributed a [joint paper on the ATT – SDGs links](#).

Side Events

Amnesty International, Control Arms, Oxfam, Pax and Saferworld hosted an event on **how arms transfers fuel conflict and atrocities in the Middle East**. Radhya Al Mutawakel (Mwatana) and Farah Karimi (Oxfam) revealed the impact of arms transfers to the Saudi-led coalition on civilians in Yemen, while Roy Isbister (Saferworld) discussed the fall out following the legal action in the UK to challenge their ongoing arms supplies. Frank Slijper (Pax) highlighted ongoing arms sales to the UAE, and their involvement in Yemen and Libya. Patrick Wilcken (Amnesty International) explored issues with high risk transfers to Iraq, and the extent of arms diversion to ISIS and paramilitary units. Despite a high attendance from States Parties, there were no comments and questions from suppliers to conflict parties in the Middle East.

Peru and WILPF co-hosted a panel discussion of the impact of arms transfers on the enjoyment of human rights. UN OHCHR presented its [new report](#), featuring testimonies from Control Arms and other NGOs, which includes practical guidance to States Parties carrying out a human rights risk assessment. Rasha Abdul-Rahim (Amnesty International) discussed Amnesty’s own practical guidance for states, and Oluwafisan Bankale (ECOWAS), shared West Africa’s experience in using an independent body to assess risk of human rights abuses in all regional requests for arms transfers. Professor Marco Sassoli (University of Geneva) explored the legal human rights framework that underpinned states’ responsibilities to ensure arms transfers did not facilitate rights abuses.

Expertise France and BAFA hosted a side event to explain the EU’s ATT-Outreach Project, which begins its second three-year phase in September 2017. This second

phase has a budget of 8.3 million Euros. Government representatives of Costa Rica and Senegal shared their experiences of the first programme phase, and lessons learned.

The day began with a breakfast panel on the role of industry in the ATT, featuring Roy Isbister (Saferworld), Spencer Chilvers (Rolls-Royce), and Andrew Wood (ASD) on a panel hosted by Mark Bromley (SIPRI).

Australia hosted a panel discussion at the Graduate Institute of Geneva, exploring how international frameworks can address illicit arms flows, reduce the risk of atrocity crimes, and connect arms control to the SDGs.

Check out the [video diary for Day 2](#) of CSP 2017

Media

Control Arms members were quoted in strong articles in [The Guardian, which focussed on UK Ministers attending the London arms fair but not the CSP](#), and the [Nigerian Tribune](#) which highlighted Control Arms' calls for action to the conference.



CSP2 017 Campaigners Briefing Meeting, 12th September 2017
Photo: Ralf Schlesener