

**Working Group on Treaty Universalization**  
**March 7 2018**

Control Arms welcomes the two most recent ATT States Parties, Kazakhstan and the State of Palestine, and encourages all States who have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Treaty as soon as possible.

We welcome the work plan for the Working Group on Treaty Universalization, the Group's goals for CSP 2018 and the enumeration of challenges to universalization set out in Annex A. Of the 10 challenges listed, there are 4 areas in particular where civil society engagement makes a positive impact:

**Number 3: Gaining understanding of the ATT and alleviating scepticism toward it.**

Control Arms members across all regions have continually and consistently engaged in work to develop understanding of the Treaty, through public awareness campaigns, roundtables with parliamentarians, workshops and other events. We are pleased to note that persistent civil society engagement has contributed to recent developments in Lebanon and Brazil, both of which are in the final stages of becoming States Parties.

Control Arms notes that egregious instances of non-compliance erode the credibility of the Treaty, and builds scepticism of those who feel that the ATT will not prevent even the most questionable arms transfers. It is therefore essential that universalization goes hand in hand with effective implementation.

**Number 6: Accelerating the pace of domestic procedures for ratification.**

Control Arms has found that a practical partnership with governments is highly effective in addressing this challenge. Partnerships between civil society and government, in Liberia and Cameroon for example, have resulted in the mapping of a clear path towards Treaty ratification. Effective measures to facilitate this process have come in the form of roadmaps, technical manuals and capacity building workshops, all specifically tailored to overcome specific regional and national obstacles.

**Number 7: Building Capacity**

Control Arms has also found similar success with close partnerships with governments in the area of capacity building. Access to information, long-term support and sustainable projects are effective in meeting this challenge. We believe there is potential for the ATT Secretariat, States Parties and civil society to work together to improve the dissemination of accurate, timely information translated into multiple languages in order to increase the visibility of the benefits of the ATT.

One example of a sustainable capacity building project is Control Arms' ATT Academy which provides in-depth and tailored learning opportunities to government and civil society participants to support their on-the-ground engagement with ATT implementation. The ATT Academy also explores linkages with other international and regional instruments and addresses region-

specific challenges related to security, human rights and development. For example, in 2018 the ATT Academy in Latin America will specifically explore regional challenges concerning diversion and gender-based violence as it relates to the arms trade.

### **Number 8 - Reporting obligations**

There are a wide range of resources that aim to assist in overcoming challenges to accurate, timely and comparable reporting. For example, the latest report from the ATT Baseline Assessment Project produced in August 2017 examines the challenges and obstacles to ATT reporting and identifies good practice and opportunities to support reporting efforts. Control Arms' 2017 ATT Monitor Annual Report highlights discrepancies, both common and uncommon, between reported exports and imports and suggests possible sources for such discrepancies which can provide guidance to improve the quality of ATT annual reporting.

Each of these challenges to universalization can benefit from a comprehensive understanding of how the ATT can complement regional and national security and development agendas. Providing meaningful links between ATT implementation and the Sustainable Development Goals of Agenda 2030 can highlight the Treaty's broader benefits. Building on a case study published in advance of the third CSP "[Goals not Guns: How the Sustainable Development Goals and the Arms Trade Treaty are Interlinked](#)" Control Arms is developing a database that tracks and analyzes how priorities set by UN member states to achieve the SDGs relate to and benefit from ATT implementation. This database aims to broaden the discussion and increase awareness of how the effective implementation of the ATT can contribute to the achievement of a number of the SDGs, and we look forward to sharing this resource in the future.

Thank you.