

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

Daily Summary: Day 1 (Monday 11 September 2017)

Control Arms this year is calling on ATT States Parties to remember the Treaty's core goal, to 'Reduce Human Suffering.' Before the conference began, campaigners gathered outside the UN to remind them of the human suffering in places like [Yemen, Honduras, Papua New Guinea, Afghanistan and South Sudan](#).

Control Arms also hosted a press conference at the United Nations, where representatives of Amnesty International, Oxfam and the Mwatana Organization from Yemen briefed journalists about expectations for the coming CSP.

The Conference, which is chaired by Amb. Klaus Korhonen of Finland, began with the high level segment, and saw speeches by foreign ministers of Finland and Switzerland, the UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, the President of the ICRC, and Radhya al-Mutawakel, who represented civil society.

"You may not know much about the civilian victims or what is happening to the Yemenis enduring the daily onslaught of war," [Radhya told delegates](#) from more than 100 countries. 'Sadly, many ordinary Yemenis have come to know of your countries through the weapons that have destroyed their homes and killed their families. On behalf of Control Arms, my organisation Mwatana, and civilians suffering everywhere throughout the world, I call upon you as States Parties and Signatories to the ATT to remember that the purpose of the ATT is to reduce human suffering.' (See Radhya's op-ed in [The Guardian](#)).

These comments were strongly supported by Peter Maurer, President of the ICRC, who said in his remarks: "Failing to control the supply chain of arms is putting a dirt-cheap price on the lives of civilians. There is an urgent need to turn words into deeds, to prevent the irreparable harm caused when weapons fall into the wrong hands."

Forty-nine speakers took to the floor during the general debate. Notably, several states spoke about **problematic arms transfers**. Mexico, in a statement on behalf of 12 states referenced the recent [Lima Declaration](#), invoking Articles 6 & 7 of the ATT to stop arms transfers to Venezuela, and requesting all States Parties and others to abstain from transferring arms to Venezuela until peace has reached the country. Costa Rica also said: 'In Yemen, Syria and in our region, bloodshed continues. Costa Rica is concerned by the situation in Venezuela. We would ask, in virtue of Articles 6 & 7 of the ATT, that countries do not transfer arms to Venezuela.'

Several States referenced **recent legislation** or specific new procedures and policies recently adopted to implement the ATT (including Burkina Faso, Costa Rica, Cote d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Togo and Uruguay).

No new announcements were made on Day One regarding new membership, but many States Parties (including Peru, Samoa, Slovakia, Costa Rica, Iceland and the Republic of Korea) stressed the importance of **universalizing the ATT** and called on new countries to sign the Treaty as soon as possible.

Other key themes on Day One were:

- The importance of **civil society** (Belgium, Bulgaria, El Salvador, France, Ireland, Mexico, Montenegro, Norway, Slovenia, Zambia).

- The linkages between the **ATT and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** (Argentina, Luxembourg, Palau, Panama, Republic of Korea, Romania, Sierra Leone, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden)
- The needs for states to address **Gender-Based Violence** (Belgium the EU, Ireland, Norway, Uruguay).
- Ireland, Guatemala, Mexico, Montenegro and Romania all explicitly called for **public reporting**, while many states urged that all states submit their reports, or otherwise stressed the importance of transparency and information sharing.
- Many states welcomed the work of the Voluntary Trust Fund and several stressed their need for international assistance to implement the ATT (Burkina Faso, Guatemala, Palau, Samoa, Sierra Leone)

Japan announced its candidacy to be the next President of CSP 2018, and Panama declared its intention to stand as a member of the new Management Bureau.

Side Events

Control Arms launched the third Annual Report of the ATT Monitor today. At a side event co-hosted with the governments of Australia, Ireland and the Netherlands, the project team outlined the main findings and analysis of the third Annual Report, which this year has a special focus on transparency. The Report includes an analysis of transfer data for 2015, and identified a large number of gaps, inconsistencies and discrepancies in the reports submitted by ATT States Parties.

Conflict Armament Research, Germany, and the European External Action Service hosted a discussion of the iTrace project, which documents arms and ammunition found in countries suffering conflict and armed violence including Libya, Iraq, Syria, South Sudan and Yemen, and traces their route, seeking to identify the point of diversion. iTrace has logged more than 8,000 individual cases of diversion in 17 countries, originating from 54 different states.

Finally, the governments of Finland and Nigeria, as the current and former Presidents of CSP, hosted a side event with Saferglobe to analyse challenges and barriers preventing the 41 current Signatories to the ATT from becoming States Parties.

Photos of the campaign action, the press conference, and side events can be found at <https://www.flickr.com/photos/controlarms/>

