

Control Arms Summary, CSP 2016, Day Two (Tuesday 23 August 2016)

The second day of the Conference of States Parties resumed with the continuation of the **General Debate**, which had begun on Day 1. A total of 33 speakers took to the floor to conclude this session including 25 States Parties and Signatories.

In a continuation of the main themes within national statements from the first session, States continued to speak in favour of:

- **Transparency** (Netherlands, Nigeria, Norway, Poland, Romania, Serbia). The Netherlands and Romania both made explicit calls for public reporting.
- The **Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF)** (Guinea, Macedonia, Netherlands, Spain US, UK, Zambia)
- The positive role of **civil society** in Treaty implementation (Malaysia, Norway, Poland, Serbia, Sweden)
- The importance of discussions of **substantive** issues (Sweden, US,).

The UK spoke to “reconfirm its unerring support for the ATT” but then argued against criticising those who violate the Treaty, as it would “put off others from joining”.

Observer States speaking were Canada, China and Fiji. **Canada** informed delegates that legislation towards accession had been tabled in Parliament on 17 June 2016, and that Canada was taking steps to ensure it had the necessary domestic laws and policies in place, in the hope that they might be a full States Party in time for CSP 2017. **China** gave details of its legislative mechanism to control arms exports, and spoke of its participation in international cooperation efforts to combat illicit arms transfers. **Fiji** also informed the Conference of its intent to ratify the ATT in the near future. Both Canada and Fiji spoke strongly in favour of transparency, and both spoke of the need to condemn irresponsible arms transfers that violate the ATT.

Other Observers also took the floor, including Control Arms, UNMAS, WILPF, the Canada National Firearms Association, and the Wassenaar Arrangement.

Speaking on behalf of Control Arms, Anna Macdonald urged States Parties to properly apply the ATT, in particular the core human rights and humanitarian provisions in Articles 6 and 7, and to fulfil one of the Treaty’s objectives of bringing about greater transparency. *“You in this room can do something,”* she told the Conference. *“You are in the extraordinarily privileged position of having the power to stop the arms transfers that fuel wars, serious human rights violations, and the devastation of communities [...] We call on you all to use the power that you have, and to not leave civilians who are suffering waiting any longer.”*

The meeting then moved on to **International Assistance**, specifically discussing the Terms of Reference for a Voluntary Trust Fund set out by Germany and the informal Working Group. There was strong support for the VTF, with almost all speakers commending the current proposal. Some speakers stressed the importance that the Fund be available for Signatories and non-members committed to ratifying the Treaty, including **New Zealand, Sweden, Palau, El Salvador, Brazil**). Many States spoke of their concern that the Selection Committee that decided the funds should be diverse in make-up, especially incorporating regional diversity (**New Zealand, Guatemala, Ghana, El Salvador, Argentina, Mauritius, Palau**). Guatemala called for civil society to have a place in the Selection Committee. Several States offered to be on the Committee, noting that appointments should be made by the CSP: (**Cote d'Ivoire, Germany, Switzerland, Sweden, Japan, Nigeria**). A few States committed to providing funding, including Netherlands, Sweden, Switzerland, and Germany, who committed to donating €500,000 upon its establishment. Control Arms, through Roy Isbister, also spoke in favour of the VTF proposal, and noted the importance of diversity in membership of the Selection Committee, and the importance of providing resources to actually implement the Trust fund. A decision to adopt the proposal was suspended until 24 August 2016.

The Conference then moved on to discuss the critical issue of **Reporting**. The Chair of the Working Group on Reporting, Ambassador Beijer of Sweden, presented on the findings and feedback from the first initial and annual reports to be submitted by States Parties. He noted the high level of public reporting in both reports and outlined the work that been undertaken during the year by the group to develop both reporting templates, including on improving their accessibility and guidance to States Parties. Discussion on reporting began with comments from Guatemala, who called on States to report publicly. Reporting will continue on Wednesday.

There were three **side events** today. Control Arms, Pax, and Oxfam hosted a side event on how arms transfers are furthering human suffering in Yemen. Penny Lawrence, Deputy chief executive at Oxfam GB, presented the experience of Oxfam carrying out lifesaving aid work among the violence in Yemen. Rob Perkins of the ATT Monitor outlined the findings of a recent case study which showed that 19 States Parties and three Signatories had authorised licenses or carried out deliveries of arms and ammunition to Saudi Arabia since the beginning of 2015. Ann Feltham of the Campaign Against the Arms Trade discussed the ongoing judicial review against the UK's arming of Saudi Arabia.

Saferworld, Liberia and Norway co-hosted a discussion of Liberia's national compliance with the ATT, which included the presentation of Saferworld's national assessment methodology, a roadmap that equips states with flexible guidelines for implementation. Small Arms Survey, UNIDIR, GCSP and the ATT Network launched a new publication, "The Arms Trade Treaty: A Practical Guide to Implementation."



In the evening, delegates gathered to watch a special screening of 'Shadow World', a new documentary film from investigative journalist Andrew Feinstein which explores the shadowy world of the global arms trade.