



Preparations for the Third Conference of States Parties for the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP 2017) in September are already underway. The ATT working groups have already met twice in Geneva this year and reported their progress toward ATT universalization, implementation, transparency and reporting at the first and second Informal Preparatory Meetings (PrepCom) of 2017.

The next preparatory meeting, scheduled for 01 June 2017, is fast approaching. We hope you will consider making a meaningful contribution to this process to help shape the ATT framework to ensure it addresses the concerns of all states in regulating the trade of conventional weapons, including small arms, and seeking to curb the incidence of armed violence worldwide.

The ATT PrepComs are open not only to States Parties, but also to signatories and Observer States, which includes non-States Parties. Signatory States are able to participate in all activities except for voting, and Observer States are invited to engage in the meetings and can deliver statements at plenary sessions as well as submit their views in writing. Broad participation – including Observer States - is critical to the ATT's success as a multilateral instrument designed to reduce human suffering.

What you missed at previous PrepComs

- Opportunities to highlight your State's progress in ATT ratification or accession and identify areas where you may benefit from international assistance, including technical or financial support.
- Discussion of implementation strategies that can be undertaken after accession to develop strong national control systems.
- The ability to call attention to areas of conflict or violence in your region that are being fueled by the arms trade.
- A chance to shape the CSP 2017 agenda and frame the debate to cover issues that are important to your interests.

Why your participation at the final PrepCom is essential

Avoid Implementation Bias...

- Significant input from importer and transit states during the early stages of the ATT's development will lower the risk that implementation will only focus on the preferences and expectations of the more vocal exporter states.
- Ensure that all regional interests and concerns are expressed to highlight the wide range of implementation challenges faced by States Parties as well as those interested in or close to accession to the ATT.
- Highlight areas of current conflict or violence fueled by the arms trade that require attention from ATT States Parties and are being overlooked.

Share and Learn...

- Obtain a broader perspective on how the ATT is operating in different regions to help inform national ratification or accession efforts.
- Engage in reflective dialogue with State Parties concerning the implementation experience.

Provide and Request Assistance...

- Explore the availability of implementation assistance at various levels and make requests known either at plenary sessions or in the margins of the meeting.
- Attend briefings about the Voluntary Trust Fund and discuss potential projects for your country.