



Second Preparatory Meeting for ATT Conference of States Parties 2017 (CSP 2017)

Geneva, Switzerland, 7 April 2017

At least 64 States attended this preparatory meeting (PrepCom), including 49 ATT States Parties, 12 Signatories, and three observers (Canada, Kazakhstan and Nepal).

In advance of the meeting, Control Arms circulated a briefing note to all States Parties, Signatories, and supportive states in Geneva [urging them to attend](#) the preparatory meetings. In the week of the meeting itself, campaigners met with delegates from over 20 Missions in Geneva, stressing the need for active participation as well as public and comprehensive reporting.

The meeting was opened by Amb. Korhonen of Finland, President of CSP 2017, who welcomed Honduras as the newest and 92nd ATT State Party. He described a recent ATT **universalization** trip to Asia, where he and Dumisani Dladla, Head of the ATT Secretariat, met with the governments of China, Indonesia and Thailand, as well as representatives from UNRCPD, ASEAN, and national civil society organisations.

Mr. Dladla provided an update on progress made to implement decisions taken at CSP 2016. Although 51 states have made contributions to the ATT Secretariat's **budget** for 2017, it has still received only 67 per cent of the total promised. States discussed ways to improve the rate of contributions and how to ensure that core activities remained fully funded. In discussing the **sponsorship programme**, the ATT Secretariat noted that although funds were allocated for five state representatives and two from civil society, not all invited participants were able to take up the offer. In several cases this is because a decision was made too close to the meeting for attendance to be organised.

The meeting was also updated on the status of the newly established **Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF)**. The VTF has received contributions worth approximately \$2 million, with the majority of funding coming from Czech Republic, France, Germany, Sweden, Switzerland and the UK. The first deadline for proposals has just passed (31 March 2017). The VTF has received applications from 19 states: 11 from Africa, four from the Americas, and four from Asia. Proposals are now being analysed, and the ATT Secretariat will prepare a shortlist for the Selection Committee to consider by 10 May. A decision on funding will be taken by 18 May.

Anna Macdonald gave an intervention on behalf of the Control Arms Coalition, reminding states of the ultimate reason for everyone's attendance at CSP 2017: to reduce human suffering, saying "*Effective Treaty implementation is a matter of very real life and death.*"

There was one side event, in which ATT-BAP presented new training materials to help states to fulfil their ATT reporting obligations, including a questionnaire aimed at collating information on reporting experiences and challenges faced by states.

The afternoon was dedicated to a proposal for CSP 2017 to include a thematic discussion on the linkages between the ATT and the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**. Control Arms distributed a [policy brief](#) on the practical measures that states can undertake and which link the two instruments.

Implementation of the ATT and its universalization complement the aims of the SDGs, and provide states with an effective tool to bring about a reduction in armed violence and human



suffering. Given this shared vision, there are many areas where actions needed to implement the ATT will inform and improve efforts to achieve the SDGs, and vice versa.

Sixteen delegations spoke during this debate, and there was strong support for this proposal. States emphasised that there were many areas where they saw overlap, with Sweden noting that the impact of armed violence and conflict on development is so broad that hardly any of the SDGs are left untouched.

Several states spoke about the linkages between the ATT and SDG Target 16.4, which calls for, among other things, a significant reduction of illicit arms flows, as one obvious point of overlap. While some states only spoke of the connection to ATT Article 11 (Diversion), several States noted that the overlap is much broader, and that the control of licit trade directly relates to limiting the proliferation of the illicit trade. Although development was not included in the ATT's risk assessment criteria, some states (Belgium, Japan) spoke of the importance of Article 7 and the obligations of exporting states to control the supply of arms and ammunition. States also highlighted possible synergies in addressing gender-based violence (e.g. Brazil, the EU), and the technical expertise that civil society has in this area (e.g. Australia).

Control Arms gave an [intervention](#) stressing that throughout all 17 of the SDGs, arms control appears as a central element to achieving the global development goals. From preventing diversion of arms into the illicit market, tackling wildlife crime, or ending gender-based violence, to protecting schools and hospitals and making our cities safer, there are many areas both within and outside of conflict where effective implementation can advance progress towards the SDGs.

The third preparatory meeting for CSP 2017 will be held in Geneva on 1 June 2017.

Read our policy brief: [The Arms Trade Treaty and the Sustainable Development Goals](#)