



Second Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
Statement by Roy Isbister, Control Arms
Voluntary Trust Fund and Assistance, 23 August 2016

Mr President,

Control Arms believes that assistance for implementation will be key to ensuring full implementation of the Treaty in regions that are most affected by the illicit and irresponsible international trade in conventional arms. It will be vital in helping signatories to become State Parties and will aid efforts to pursue universalisation of the Treaty.

Multi-stakeholder partnerships, including civil society, are an effective means of sharing knowledge, expertise and financial capacity to achieve the global commitment of societies with regard to peace, development and justice, as established in sustainable development goal 17. Work to prevent irresponsible arms transfers causing human suffering, has benefitted from, and should continue to benefit from, the wide array of possibilities in international cooperation and assistance.

We welcome the work to establish terms of reference for the Voluntary Trust Fund that has been taken forward under the leadership of Ambassador Biontino. In our view this is a good basis for the operation of the VTF.

We believe that the Selection Committee should be a diverse body with States from all regions represented and achieve a balance between likely donor and recipient states. We urge States Parties in a position to do so to pledge and deliver funds at the earliest opportunity to ensure that the VTF can begin to support States in their efforts to implement the Treaty.

We take note of the comments regarding potential additional administrative burden falling on the ATT Secretariat and urge States Parties to be ready and willing to provide additional resources as necessary to support this work.

Finally, we urge all States that are working towards implementation of the ATT to identify their specific needs and to come forward with requests for assistance. Control Arms and our members and partners will continue to provide expertise, capacity building and assistance where feasible. We stand ready to support States, as active and engaged parties, in this important work.

Thank you.