

Control Arms Summary, CSP 2016 Day One

The Second Conference of States Parties (CSP 2016) of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) opened in Geneva, Switzerland on 22 August 2016. More than 100 States have registered to attend the conference.

The meeting was opened by the President of the CSP, Ambassador Emmanuel Imohe of Nigeria and by the President of Switzerland, Johan Schneider-Ammann. In his opening remarks, President Ammann praised the success of a Treaty which, two years after opening for signature, now has 85 States Parties and 45 Signatories. The Treaty has now reached a phase, he told delegates, where States should move on from institutional issues to how to more effectively control the import and export of weapons, how to avoid the misuse of weapons, and how to encourage other States to accept the Treaty's rules.

The **high level segment** of the meeting included ministers from Nigeria, Costa Rica, Mexico, Finland and Panama, as well as representatives of the ICRC, UNODA, and Geoffrey Duke, representing Control Arms.

The segment was followed by a general debate, featuring comments from a total of **28 speakers**, with more to speak tomorrow. Many delegations paid tribute to the positive contribution provided by civil society in supporting ATT implementation and universalization, specifically naming the crucial impact of the Control Arms Coalition. Other important themes that emerged included statements in favour of:

- A move **towards a more substantive focus** and away from discussing procedural elements (including Austria, Brazil, Germany, Moldova)
- **Transparency** (Austria, France, Germany, Guatemala, Ireland, Japan, Uruguay). Austria and Ireland both made explicit calls for public reporting.
- The **Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF)** (Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Chile, Germany, Moldova, South Africa, Thailand). South Africa noted the importance of greater diversity on the VTF's Selection Committee, while Brazil spoke about how eligibility for funding should extend beyond States Parties.
- The link between the **ATT and development/SDGs** (Argentina, Australia, El Salvador, Ireland, South Africa and Thailand).
- The inclusion of **Gender-Based Violence (GBV)** (Austria, Belgium, Montenegro, Senegal).

There were two side events on the opening day of the CSP. Control Arms launched the second Annual Report of the ATT Monitor, to an audience of more than 100 diplomats and civil society representatives. RAND Europe hosted a panel event to discuss the barriers and obstacles to a globalized ATT.

Control Arms is calling for transparency and public reporting, telling States Parties that 'Secrets Cost Lives'. Campaigners held a photo action outside the iconic Broken Chair



Statue in front of the UN, while activists handed out copies of a ‘Top Secret’ file as delegates arrived at the conference, containing key reasons why transparency is urgently needed in the arms trade.

Before the conference began Control Arms and the CSP President hosted a press conference in the United Nations, briefing journalists about the expectations for the conference and how arms transfers to Saudi Arabia are causing human suffering in Yemen.