

**Conference of States Parties to the ATT (CSP 2018)
Tokyo, Japan
Daily Summary: Day One - 20 August 2018**

This year Control Arms is calling on ATT States Parties to take immediate action and stop the diversion of weapons, which are fueling poverty, conflict and human rights abuses worldwide, and being used by organised criminals and terrorists. Before the Conference of States Parties began this morning, Control Arms campaigners from around the world [gathered in Tokyo to raise awareness about the importance of addressing diversion](#). Holding “Missing” posters which illustrated real-life cases of weapons that have been diverted into the illicit trade, campaigners called for the robust implementation of the ATT.

Control Arms also hosted an opening press conference where representatives from Amnesty International, Women for Peace and Development-Nepal, and Mwatana Organization for Human Rights highlighted expectations for the coming week and called on States Parties to immediately cease all arms transfers that violate the ATT. [[Press release](#)]

The CSP, chaired by Amb. Takamizawa of Japan and President of CSP4, began with the high-level segment which included speeches from the Foreign Minister of Japan Mr. Fumio Kishida, the Under-Secretary-General and UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, the Director of the Geneva Branch of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs Ms. Anja Kaspersen, Dr. Helen Durham of ICRC, and Shobha Pradhan Shrestha of Women for Peace and Democracy-Nepal representing Control Arms.

Telling two powerful stories of survivors from Nepal and Yemen, [Shobha Pradhan Shrestha reminded the conference](#) that *“We owe it to Hussein, to Sunita, and to the millions of girls, boys, women and men that are suffering in Yemen, Nepal and many other countries around the world to stop this. We owe them more than our sympathy. We owe them our action.”* She also stressed to governments that civil society *“will keep campaigning to stop arms transfers to all warring parties in Yemen. And we will keep campaigning for the ATT to be effectively implemented. We call on you as governments to stop the transfer of all weapons that fuel senseless suffering.”*

Similar concerns were raised by Dr. Helen Durham of ICRC who shared the powerful story of a survivor from Papua New Guinea that lost his family to armed violence, illustrating the tragic consequences of the poorly regulated arms trade. While at no other point in history did the world have more rules built to prevent such incidents from occurring, including International Humanitarian Law (IHL) and the ATT, these rules are under great pressure today as economic and political interests take precedence over humanitarian considerations. She therefore reminded delegates that *“the ATT can only stop weapons from falling in wrong hands if applied without bias or discrimination”*.

Over 60 delegates took to the floor during the general debate today, but only a few raised concerns regarding problematic arms transfers. Palestine, which addressed the CSP as the first State Party from its region, warned that *“inadequate controls come at a high cost for human life and dignity”* and cautioned that states which violate IHL, including through states practices of occupation, should not be allowed to buy weapons or to profit from their exports. Costa Rica urged States Parties to be

mindful of the risks when transferring weapons to “a particular country from the region”, reminding them of their responsibilities under Articles 6 and 7 of the ATT.

As aptly stated by New Zealand, “the yardstick for assessing the treaty will always be the extent of its **implementation**”. A number of countries stressed their commitments to implementing the ATT, many of them sharing concrete examples, including recent legislation, new procedures and policies adopted as well as workshops and regional meetings which seek to increase state’s capacity to implement the ATT (Panama, El Salvador, Zambia, Senegal, Samoa, Honduras, Chile, Peru, Brazil, Cameroon). Others stressed the importance placed on the implementation of Articles 6 and 7 (Chile, Palestine, Peru). New Zealand welcomed Sweden’s proposal for information exchanges as well as Control Arms’ call that states disclose information regarding their risk assessment and arms transfer decision processes.

France, Sweden, the UK, Finland, Romania, South Korea, Slovenia, Australia and Latin American governments, including Mexico, Panama, Costa Rica, and Peru welcomed the opportunity to meaningfully discuss challenges with **diversion** this week. Both Panama and Samoa spoke about their porous borders and challenges with countering the illicit trade of weapons. Mexico shared that its plans to tackle diversion are grounded in the ATT and the UN Secretary General’s Agenda for Disarmament.

Other important themes that emerged included statements in favour of:

- **Transparency and reporting** (the European Union, Peru, Italy, Slovenia, the Netherlands, Bulgaria, Montenegro, Luxembourg, Czech republic, Senegal, Guatemala, Poland, Romania, Republic of Korea). Many of these states shared their concerns over declining reporting rates.
- The **Voluntary Trust Fund** (Costa Rica, Argentina, Australia, New Zealand, Peru, Austria, Bulgaria, Macedonia, Luxembourg, El Salvador, Zambia, Czech Republic, Senegal, Samoa, Peru, Liberia, Cameroon). The Netherlands reaffirmed its commitment to the VTF, pledging a \$300,000 financial contribution over the next 3 years. Germany as Chair of the VTF Selection Committee encouraged new donors to support the fund, even with small or symbolic contributions, in order to strengthen the credibility of the VTF.
- **Civil society** engagement in the ATT process (Austria, Sweden, UK, El Salvador, Panamá, Zambia, Guatemala, Peru, France, Chile). Noting the crucial role of civil society in shaping the ATT, Austria stressed that it should have access to all meetings. Equally important, Guatemala noted that governments must consider civil society messages and must engage in dialogue with civil society.
- The inclusion of **Gender-based Violence** (European Union, African Group, Austria, Ireland, Sweden, Montenegro, Uruguay, Slovenia, Norway)
- Two governments, the Netherlands and Montenegro also announced their support for the candidature of Mr. Iannis Cultings of Latvia as **President of the next CSP**.
- A majority of states also expressed satisfaction with the structure and the progress made at the **ATT working groups** on implementation, on transparency and reporting and on universalization.



Side Events

There were four side events on the opening day of the CSP:

At a side event co-hosted with the governments of Australia and the Netherlands and attended by over 90 delegates and civil society representatives, Control Arms launched the [fourth Annual Report of the ATT Monitor](#). The ATT Monitor team outlined the main findings and analysis of the fourth Annual Report, which this year has a special thematic on diversion as well as a regional focus on Asia Pacific. The ATT Monitor Report includes an analysis of transfer data for 2016, and identified gaps, inconsistencies and discrepancies in the reports submitted by ATT States Parties.

The Government of Japan, Small Arms Survey and SIPRI hosted a discussion on “International assistance and the effective implementation of the ATT”. The panel shared concrete examples of where international cooperation and assistance enabled states to strengthen national capacity and advance the Treaty’s implementation. The panel also highlighted common challenges, areas where greater coordination is needed as well as ways to ensure long-term sustainability of projects.

“Taking stock of the Third Review Conference of the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons in the framework of the Arms Trade Treaty” was hosted by France and provided an opportunity to reflect back on the negotiations and conclusions of RevCon3 and discuss how they can be advanced within the ATT framework. The side event discussed synergies between the two instruments, particularly around transparency and reporting and diversion.

Hosted by the Meiji University Research Institute for the History of Global Arms Transfer, the “Using the ATT to Prevent Diversion” side event presented recent research which illustrates the complex risks of diversion and discussed mechanisms and best practices which can address diversion challenges.