



**Working Group on Treaty Universalization
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We left the CSP 2018 with the commitment to encourage states from particularly Asia and Africa as regions with low universalization rates. Six new states ratified or acceded to the ATT in 2018: Brazil, Cameroon, Chile, Guinea Bissau, Mozambique, and Suriname. Mozambique joined the ATT on 14 December 2018, bringing the total number of ATT States Parties to 100, while there are expectations that Andorra, Botswana, Canada, Gambia, Lebanon, the Maldives, and Namibia will ratify or accede to the ATT this year.

Civil society has an important role to play in supporting universalization, which I would like to demonstrate using Canada as an example.

Canada has been preparing to accede since 2017, through Bill C-47, and civil society has worked constructively with the government in pursuit of this objective. For instance, Control Arms partners such as Project Ploughshares, Amnesty International, Oxfam and others have sent to the Canadian government, including via meetings with the Ministry of Global Affairs, their joint impressions about the accession to the ATT and their concerns about the current state of Bill C-47. We have given testimonies to Parliamentarian Committees. They have produced a range of publications and editorials and maintained a constant media presence. At the same time, through all of this, they have not shied away from discussions about some transfers that would violate the spirit of this treaty.

Turning to Asia, the low rate of ATT ratification among states of the region is alarming. The region includes a number of significant or growing arms manufacturers and exporters, and yet of 48 Asian states, only six are ATT States Parties. We consider essential the strengthening y cooperation with the civil society in this region to improve the universalization in a middle term.

In Latin America, by contrast, while most states are either States parties or sympathetic to the Treaty, there is a group of five States that remain fundamentally sceptical. We as civil society remain determined to support local civil society engagement in those states, and to work to demonstrate how adherence to the Treaty can improve the security of all states in the regions. In this we think the role of bordering states could be crucial, and we encourage them to use every opportunity to promote the ATT at all levels with their neighbors. There is a strong element of enlightened self-interest in this, as poor control and diversion in one state has implications for and can drive illicit supply in bordering states. This is true not just for Latin America, but for all regions. For this reason, we will continue to do all we can to help States Parties to encourage non-States Parties to ratify the ATT, in their own interest and that of their citizens.



We cannot, however, talk about universalization independent of implementation. Universalisation for its own sake is not good enough. When we speak of universalisation, we must do so in the context of implementation to a universally high standard. To call on non-States parties to join the Treaty while at the same time undermining the Treaty through poor implementation risks one of two outcomes: States join the Treaty willing to ignore its strictures it suits, or they turn away from the Treaty on the grounds that it is of no significance. Neither outcome appeals. Even those who are themselves implementing to a high standard are at risk of damaging the long-time health of the ATT if they tolerate the behavior of States Parties who do not respect the foundational principles of the treaty, principally Articles 6 and 7.

We therefore urge the States Parties present in this room to reflect about the coherence of their actions and positions. These may still be relatively early days for the Treaty, but it is time to remember the humanitarian imperative that motivated its creation and keep in mind the consequences of failure.

Finally, I cannot finish this speech without calling on States to reflect on the consequences of their role – direct or indirect – in the crisis in Yemen. I wish to remind States Parties still supplying the conflict that it is not only the citizens of Yemen who suffer, it is also the credibility of the ATT and the long-term prospects for its meaningful universalization, and the victims of conflicts still to unfold.

Thank you very much for your attention.