

**ATT Working Group on Treaty Universalization  
04 April - Geneva**

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**Activities of the Presidency**

Control Arms warmly welcomes the fact that we now have 100 ATT States Parties and looks forward to additional states joining in the run up to CSP5.

There is one aspect of current universalisation efforts that Control Arms believes could be enhanced. The important and valuable universalisation outreach that has been undertaken by the CSP Presidencies has been shared on the website of the ATT Secretariat, but only after it has taken place. Given that civil society has a vital role to play in encouraging and supporting states to become parties to the ATT, it would be extremely useful if, each year, the CSP President could publish their universalisation activity plan in advance on the ATT Secretariat website, updating it with any new engagements. This would enable civil society, including Control Arms members, to engage with and raise the profile of such events thus ensuring that the ATT remains a part of the national discourse in the longer term.

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**Universalization Toolkit and Welcome Pack**

We welcome the work that has been done on the Universalisation Toolkit and Welcome Pack. We think that, once finalised, these will be a valuable resource in support of our collective universalisation efforts. We are ready to support the co-Chairs of this working group in ensuring that these documents are shared as widely as possible.

We have a number of comments on different aspects of the two resources. In the interest of time, I will briefly highlight two key issues now and would request that we be allowed to provide the remainder to you in writing.

Firstly, Control Arms believes that some of the answers to questions in the Universalization Toolkit require further refinement. For instance, question 6.6 ("*does the Treaty prevent States from importing weapons?*") offers a description of Articles 6 & 7 when a concise answer explaining that the purpose of the Treaty is not to prevent states accessing weapons for legitimate national security purposes would perhaps, in our view, be more useful.

Secondly, the section on human security focuses primarily on the Treaty's contribution to reducing conflict related violence but does not address the issue of armed violence in non-conflict settings or gender based violence.

Control Arms also sees value in seeking the view of new States Parties on the utility of these two resources with in order to establish what would be useful to States that are considering joining the Treaty.

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### **Universalization Activities by other ATT stakeholders**

Control Arms is continuing to conduct and support universalization activities around the world. Our ATT Monitor continues to serve as an important resource for those seeking information about the operation of the ATT. In addition, in the next year, the Control Arms Secretariat is planning to host ATT technical trainings in the SADC and ECCAS regions. Our members and partners around the world are also active in raising awareness and understanding of the ATT, engaging in a wide variety of activities, including campaigns and workshops in their national and regional contexts. For instance, last year, Control Arms organised a meeting in Nepal, with the support of New Zealand, bringing together civil society, parliamentarians and officials from seven South Asian states on “Promoting universalization and strengthening implementation of the ATT in South Asia”. In Sri Lanka, our members translated the Treaty’s text and other ATT resources into two local languages and presented copies to key actors including the President, Government Ministers, the Speaker of Parliament, officials and the media. And our members in Kenya have recently published an article in the influential Horn Bulletin making the case as to why Kenya should join the ATT.

Finally, Mr President, we would like to reiterate our belief that universalisation and implementation are two sides of the same coin; states will only be encouraged to join the Treaty if it is seen to be effective. Continued work to ensure full implementation of all the ATT's provisions by states parties is therefore vital to ensuring the Treaty is viewed in a positive light outside this room and can attract many more states to join its ranks.