The Control Arms Coalition welcomes the work that States Parties and the ATT Secretariat have undertaken over the past year in furthering the Treaty’s implementation, and universalization. In particular, the Coalition reiterates its appreciation for this year’s thematic focus on gender and gender-based violence.

But that work is not done—not if we hope to fulfill the Treaty’s promise of reducing human suffering and transforming the global arms trade for the better. There are so many steps, small and large, that we can take to make the world better and safer—including developing training guides for export officials, promoting information-sharing and best practices, and - crucially - bringing an immediate halt to arms transfers that fuel conflict, poverty, and human rights abuses - including gender-based violence. We hope that States will do all of this, and more.

With that in mind, Control Arms calls upon all states to fulfill the ATT’s promise of reducing human suffering. States Parties must adopt the highest possible standards and establish the most rigorous systems for arms transfer control while ensuring faithful implementation of the ATT in its entirety. Only this can ensure that the Treaty fulfills its promise—and the promises of States when they signed on.

For Control Arms, the growing number of red flags surrounding such exports, as well as the well-documented humanitarian catastrophe that has affected millions of Yemeni men, women and children, demand a decisive response from the international community that must be aligned with expectations and legal obligations under the Treaty. The Coalition welcomes the decision of some states, such as Austria, Belgium, Denmark, Finland, Germany, Netherlands, Norway, Sweden and Switzerland to restrict their armed exports to warring parties in the Yemen conflict.

We should also strive to progress from 100-plus States Parties to 100% membership. States Parties must continue to work diligently towards Treaty universalization, encouraging
non-member States to join the Treaty and to fully take part in the global community that is
working to transform the arms trade for the better.

This Conference of States Parties is, as always, a remarkable opportunity for the global
community to come together and advance the work we are all committed to. The vast majority of
you in this room are diplomats and officials, here to represent your countries and their priorities
in the world. The rest of us are advocates and coalition members, representatives of
international organizations or of industry groups.

But all of us are, at the end of the day, people--and people who are part of this broader
community. And this community is fundamentally committed to the belief that this Treaty can
make the world safer and better--and that this Treaty can help make people, rather than profit,
the central consideration in the arms trade. Still, far too many weapons are sold to oppressors
and abusers. Still, far too often, profit remains the driving motive rather than the protection of
fellow human beings. Still, the Treaty’s promise of reducing human suffering remains unfulfilled.

With every statement, debate, and presentation this week, we challenge you to remember the
real people--the individuals, the families, the communities--who are affected by the arms trade,
and who suffer harm every year as a result. We challenge you to work with us to end this
suffering.

Thank you.