



**Sixth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty  
First Informal Preparatory Meeting  
Voluntary Trust Fund**

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Control Arms welcomes the continued support for ATT implementation assistance provided by States Parties through the Voluntary Trust Fund. The VTF is one of the key instruments through which states facing challenges to universalization and implementation of the ATT may receive international assistance.

Contributions to the VTF are an important means of supporting a range of assistance programmes including outreach, capacity building or information sharing. Indeed, Namibia's efforts to contribute to the Treaty's universalization and effective implementation in Southern Africa, a project which Control Arms is pleased to be supporting, was made possible with the generous support of the VTF.

However, it is important to recognise that international assistance needs to go far beyond what can be provided through the VTF. While civil society organisations play a significant role in their own right supporting ATT implementation assistance around the world, they cannot apply to the VTF independently and must, instead, secure a partnership with a government.

However, there are many worthwhile projects that do not necessitate a partnership between civil society and government, or where the more natural lead in the project would be from civil society rather than the government. Examples of such projects include the ATT Expert Group convened by Saferworld, the ATT Baseline Assessment project led by the Stimson Center and the Control Arms ATT Monitor. These projects can only continue with the generous support of government donors. Indeed the tools and resources generated by these projects are used in projects supported by the VTF.

Control Arms urges States to continue to provide stand-alone funds for capacity-building, training, awareness-raising and technical assistance, as appropriate, to civil society and other stakeholders who wish to support accession to or implementation of the ATT.