

**Seventh Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
CSP7 Agenda**

30 April 2021

Delivered by: Ms. Shirine Jurdi, Permanent Peace Movement

Thank you for giving me the floor,

On behalf of the Control Arms Coalition, I would like to reiterate our deep gratitude to you, Mr President, your team and the ATT Secretariat for your inestimable efforts in organizing these virtual meetings this week. We congratulate you on your efforts to ensure transparency and inclusiveness of all ATT stakeholders in the CSP process, in line with the purpose of the ATT. We would also like to express our gratitude to the ATT Secretariat for establishing a clear virtual process for these meetings, and for their consistent and reliable coordination support.

Especially in these times when hundreds of millions of people all over the world are suffering from the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic -- many of whom were already faced with extreme hardship as a result of conflict and armed violence -- we welcome the opportunity to meet virtually this week, so that together we can continue to promote the effective implementation of the ATT to reducing human suffering.

As a number of states noted this week, amid the COVID-19 pandemic, many countries experienced a disconcerting rise in armed violence, including gender-based violence. This only serves to reinforce the importance and urgency of tackling irresponsible and illicit arms transfers. Since it first convened in 2015, the ATT Conference of States Parties has made great strides in developing its reporting system and improving its transparency. The work in the WGTR continues to progress in this CSP7 cycle as well, with the proposal of revisions to the reporting template.

We must now turn our focus to improving transparency in arms transfer decisions. The effectiveness of the Treaty's implementation cannot be assessed without concrete and open discussions regarding compliance with the Treaty's provisions in the context of the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation and its sub-working groups. Only by rigorously assessing arms transfers decisions against the Treaty's criteria and by providing scrutiny to possible Treaty violations by others can we ensure that implementation efforts are effective.

Mr. President,

As we consider the CSP7 agenda and programme of work, Control Arms wishes to propose the inclusion of a special session in the CSP agenda during which ATT States Parties and stakeholders can take stock of the progress made toward commitments adopted at previous CSPs relating directly to the annual CSP Presidency Thematic Focus. For example, Control Arms sees value in continuing to build on the Action Plan on Gender and Gender-Based

Violence (GBV) endorsed by the Fifth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP5) under the leadership of Ambassador Kārklīnš of Latvia. Similarly, at the Third Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP3) under the leadership of Amb. Korhonen of Finland, the ATT States Parties committed to exploring further the synergies between the ATT and 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At the time the conference “decided that the programme of work for the three Working Groups should address aspects of the linkages between the Treaty and the SDGs that are relevant to their mandates and report on these to the next Conference of States Parties.” However, this work has not yet been taken forward.

The ATT Presidency Thematic Focus allows the CSP to address and take action on current concerns. Decisions and action plans presented annually by CSP Presidencies are a result of significant efforts by all ATT stakeholders in this regard. The innovative ideas developed by States Parties to address these issues should not remain a simple piece of paper. Instead, they should be operationalized. On an annual basis, ATT States Parties should provide updates on the progress made at the national, regional and international level towards achieving these objectives.

With the support of the ATT office holders and former Presidents, the CSP Presidency can lead this special session so that, in addition to its new thematic focus, ATT States Parties can maintain momentum on the critical topics put forth by former Presidents in the years to come.

In closing, Control Arms suggests a first step toward implementing the commitments made at CSP5 concerning gender balance among delegations. Given that since its inception, the CSP Presidency has been held by a man, we encourage States Parties who will put forward their candidacy for ATT CSP Presidency in the future, to consider the appointment of a female President.

On behalf of Control Arms, thank you for your time and attention. We look forward to working with all of you in the run up to CSP7.

Thank you.