



Seventh Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

Working Group on Treaty Universalization

27 April 2021

Delivered by: Ms. Hine-Wai Loose, Control Arms

Thank you for the floor, Mr. Chair,

We congratulate Ambassador Gberie and Ambassador Villegas for their efforts in working with States to join the ATT. While 110 States Parties is a significant achievement for such a young Treaty, the work in support of ATT universality must continue.

Control Arms sees the achievement of universalization not just in the number of States Parties; true universality requires effective implementation of and adherence to the Treaty's provisions. Control Arms approaches the challenges of universalization and effective implementation concurrently as we develop new initiatives to support and enhance efforts to stop the irresponsible trade in conventional weapons.

In its work to strengthen the reach of the ATT, Control Arms is particularly focused on highlighting the benefits of Treaty accession in Asia-Pacific, Middle East and North Africa (MENA), and sub-Saharan Africa. As a part of these efforts, Control Arms, in partnership with its 158 member organizations, will conduct research and analysis, provide informational briefings and initiate social media campaigns with these regions in focus.

The ongoing violence in Myanmar is one of a number of reasons that Control Arms is encouraging ASEAN States to become more informed on the work of the ATT, its benefits on both the national and regional levels, and to provide assistance to other states in the sub-region seeking to join and implement the Treaty. We also look forward to co-hosting with Australia, Japan and New Zealand in June this year the third annual roundtable on ATT universalization in the Asia-Pacific region.

Control Arms takes this opportunity to welcome China as a State Party to the ATT. We are pleased to hear of China's commitment to rigorously regulate all military goods through the development of comprehensive national legislation, as set out in its recent statement to the ATT sub-Working Group on Articles 6 and 7. We were also pleased to hear that China has started to apply the ATT criterion to all exports since becoming an official State Party in December of 2020. We look forward to learning more about how China is organising its compliance with the Treaty and how this might help to drive forward Treaty membership and implementation in other States.



In the MENA region, Control Arms will continue to highlight the positive work being carried out by national and local civil society organisations. While in sub-Saharan Africa, Control Arms is planning two ATT Academy trainings: one for Southern Africa in partnership with Namibia and another for Indian Ocean States in partnership with Madagascar. Both of these comprehensive technical training programmes on the universalization and implementation of the ATT are made possible with support from the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund. While the timing of the two ATT Academy trainings remain uncertain due to COVID-19 restrictions, we appreciate the ongoing understanding and flexibility of the VTF and we look forward to moving ahead with these programs as soon as is feasible.

This week's ATT Working Group meetings can also have a positive impact on universalization of the Treaty. For example, Control Arms is aware that some States that have not yet joined the ATT in the Asia-Pacific and Central Asian regions seek clarity on the obligations concerning transit and transshipment. The anticipated work of the sub-Working Group on Article 9 -- through the recording of national interpretations and practices and the sharing of lessons learnt has the potential to provide such clarity.

We invite and encourage any delegation working on ATT universalization to approach Control Arms. We will be happy to provide information and insights from our experience and work to advocate for broad and meaningful ATT accession.

Thank you for your attention.