

Eighth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

STATEMENT ON MATTERS PERTAINING TO THE NINTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES

26 August 2022

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Mr. President,

As we come to the end of this 8th Conference of States Parties, I wish to place on record the sincere thanks of Control Arms to you and your team for the effort, time and resources invested into bringing the ATT and its processes back on track following the disruptions caused by the pandemic.

Control Arms looks forward to working with the Republic of Korea and bringing much needed attention in terms of universalization and implementation of the ATT to the Asia-Pacific region.

We wish to take this opportunity to make some preliminary remarks on the proposal to reduce the allotted time for the Working Groups from two sessions to one.

Control Arms is fully cognisant of the financial challenges confronting both the ATT and its States Parties.

We want to ensure that any proposals to change the ATT programme of work or working methods are undertaken not only for cost-cutting reasons, but to more efficiently and effectively support and further the Treaty's objectives. These matters require careful and comprehensive consideration.

We therefore suggest that any instruction to the Management Committee to review the formal process and annual cycle should include a requirement for broad-based, cross-regional and multi-stakeholder consultations. And rather than being centered on how to reduce the budget and whether to reduce the number of preparatory meetings, it should more fundamentally review how best in the current climate to structure and manage the ATT's processes and institutions so as to advance, efficiently and effectively, the object and purposes of the Treaty.

We stand ready to engage with all States Parties on these matters. As set out in our general statement, the end goal of the ATT process must be ensuring that the Treaty is effective in reducing human suffering fueled by irresponsible arms transfers.. Any proposed amendments to the processes of the Treaty must therefore consider how to champion this goal in the most effective and efficient way possible.

Moving forward, Control Arms is fully committed to working with all partners to ensure that the ATT process is fit for purpose and works to strengthen the Treaty and its norms.