

**Remarks by Tom Andrews
Arms Trade Treaty Working Group
26 February, 2025**

I appreciate the opportunity to provide brief remarks to the Arms Trade Treaty Working Group. Hello, my name is Tom Andrews and I am the United Nations Special Rapporteur on the situation of human rights in Myanmar.

The Arms Trade Treaty is particularly relevant in the case of Myanmar as it prohibits Member States from transferring weapons to countries when it is reasonable to conclude that these weapons will be used to commit war crimes or crimes against humanity.

As my reports to the UN Human Rights Council and General Assembly make very clear, there is every reason to conclude that weapons transferred to the military junta of Myanmar will, indeed, continue to be used to brutally attack civilians. As my recent reports have pointed out, as the military junta's grasp of Myanmar continues to weaken with the significant loss of territory and troops, it is responding by escalating its attacks on civilians, including a significant increase in aerial attacks on villages using sophisticated weapons of war.

I have been pleased to publish three special reports or Conference Room Papers on the transfer of weapons to the military junta of Myanmar:

- "Enabling Atrocities" published in 2022;
- "The Billion Dollar Death Trade" published in May of 2023 and
- "Banking on the Death Trade" published last year.

I have been pleased with the response of some Member States to these reports.

- The Government of Serbia, for example, followed the publication of *Enabling Atrocities*, by committing to halting the sales of weapons and related materials to Myanmar. They indeed have done so.
- *Billion Dollar Death Trade* identified over \$1b in weapons sales in the first two years of the coup.
 - Russia was identified as the largest supplier at \$406m.
 - China was the second largest at \$267m.
 - Singapore came in third at \$254m of weapons materials. Although, as I made clear in my reporting, there was no evidence that the government of Singapore was involved in or even aware of these transfers.
- The government of Singapore responded to the report by launching an investigation. The result, as outlined in my follow-up report, *Banking on the Death Trade*, there was a decline in these transfers by over 90% - from \$110 million to \$10 million, with a

decline, overall globally of 33% in weapons transferred to the military junta in this time period.

My report, *Banking on the Death Trade* also noted, however, that transfers from Thailand-based companies more than doubled over that same period, increasing from \$60m to over \$120m.

In the very short time that I have remaining, I'd like to reiterate that all ATT Member States should halt arms sales to the military junta and should have done so following the genocidal attacks against the Rohingya ethnic minority in 2017.

I would like to recommend that the Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat provide guidance to Member States as to those who should not be receiving weapons, given all that we know about their use to attack and kill civilians. The military junta of Myanmar should head that list.

I would urge that ATT Member States that are non-compliant with their obligations, based on the record of their weapons sales, be publicly identified.

I would recommend that consideration be given to amending the Arms Trade Treaty to include 'jet fuel' to its list of conventional arms as jet fuel is what is needed to fuel military vehicles, enabling the use of powerful weapons use to attack civilians.

Finally, I would recommend that consideration be given to expanding guidance around 'brokering'. My reporting has shown that many weapons and related materials are sold without the explicit authorization of governments. Robust controls should therefore be put into place that can prevent companies based within their jurisdictions from selling weapons to states that are committing war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Thank you for the work that you do, and thank you for opportunity to provide these brief comments and recommendations to you. I wish you all the best as you carry out your important work.

Thank you.