
CONTROL ARMS SWISS ASSOCIATION **2020 ACTIVITY REPORT**

1 JANUARY TO 31 DECEMBER 2020

Ongoing Engagement with Geneva-based Diplomats and Civil Society Representatives

In 2020, the Policy and Government Liaison Officer continued to build relationships with a wide range of institutional and governmental actors in Geneva, including Permanent Missions, academic and research organisations, technical assistance providers and non-governmental organizations (NGOs), including the Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat, Centre d'Accueil - Genève Internationale (CAGI), Geneva Centre for Security and Peace (GCSP), United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR), Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO), International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC), Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) and Small Arms Survey. These partnerships resulted in a range of initiatives and events that helped raise awareness of the ATT and the Treaty's links with other cross-cutting issues as detailed below.

Arms Trade Treaty Workshops and Events

On 3 February 2020, Control Arms organized a one-day practical workshop on "Harnessing Information Sharing & Transparency to Prevent & Respond to Diversion". Representatives from 25 states, 13 civil society organizations and United Nations representatives engaged in practical and concrete discussions on the role of information exchange in tackling diversion before, during and after an arms transfer. Panellists from various professional backgrounds including criminal investigation, export control, and investigative journalism led the workshop with innovative & interactive discussions on the role of risk assessments, investigations and information sharing related to detecting, prosecuting and preventing arms diversion.

In the lead up to the Sixth Conference of States Parties (CSP6), Control Arms organized three regional roundtables - for Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean regions - to brief delegates on the upcoming meetings and to discuss regional specific issues, including diversion, illicit trafficking of small arms, gender based-violence and ATT universalization. As these events were held online for the first time, Geneva-based representatives and government officials from capitals were able to participate in the discussion.

With funding support from the Friedrich-Ebert-Stiftung Geneva (FES) foundation, Control Arms also organized four virtual consultations for Control Arms members and partners around the world, as follows:

- **On 24 June 2020**, Control Arms hosted its first consultation on ATT universalization. This ATT mapping exercise was instrumental in identifying the countries most likely to join the Treaty in the coming year and explored measures, assistance and messages that may support efforts to ratify/accede to the ATT.
- **On 30 July 2020**, Control Arms hosted an online consultation on transparency and reporting. Experts and participants addressed progress and challenges to transparency in ATT reporting, arms transfer decisions and the ATT process, particularly the procedures for CSP6. Building on the input received during the meetings, Control Arms organized two virtual side events - at CSP6 and during the UNGA First Committee to discuss transparency in the ATT and participated in a series of other panels and discussions on this issue.
- **On 13 October 2020**, Control Arms discussed strategies for developing a youth engagement strategy and campaign. Representatives of the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the Campaign to Stop Killer Robots discussed their efforts to develop youth-based campaigns and engagement at the international level, while Control Arms member organizations shared experiences with developing youth programmes at the national and local levels. The input received from this consultation will form the basis for a future Control Arms youth engagement strategy.
- **On 2 December 2020**, the fourth Control Arms Coalition virtual consultation was focused on arms diversion. Following a brief overview of the elements of arms diversion provided by ATT Monitor Coordinator, Ms. Carina Solmirano, Control Arms members shared information about the impact of diversion on their countries and communities and efforts their organizations are taking to raise awareness of and combat diversion. The meeting also explored how the COVID-19 pandemic has affected efforts to prevent diversion and the proliferation of arms and ammunition.

Control Arms engagement in Geneva-based processes beyond the ATT

Throughout 2020, Control Arms continued to monitor human rights developments that were relevant for the ATT, particularly the Business and Human Rights Working Group. In this regard, Control Arms conducted research on, consulted with its members and drafted a submission for the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) report on the impact of diversion of arms and unregulated or illicit arms transfers on human rights of women and girls. In April 2020, Control Arms also contributed input to the “Joint NGO Submission to the UN Working Group on Business and Human Rights: Project on business in conflict and post-conflict contexts” co-authored by the Business, Conflict and Human Rights Network (BCHR Network), Christian Aid Ireland, Control Arms, Quaker United Nations Office (QUNO) and Swedwatch.

On 18 and 19 February 2020, the Geneva Peacebuilding Platform and Switzerland organised consultations on the review of the United Nations Peacebuilding Architecture. Control Arms consulted with its Members and presented its recommendations on the link between disarmament and peacebuilding

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