



2026 Arms Trade Treaty Working Group Meetings, 16-19 March 2026

Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation

ATT Scope

Delivered by Charlie Linney

Thank you.

The Scope of the ATT has long been an issue of concern among certain groups, in that it was considered both too limited and out of date when the ATT was adopted. The list of weapons under ATT Article 2 is based upon the seven categories of major conventional weapons under the UN Register of Conventional Arms (UNROCA) – which was established in 1991 – with the addition of small arms and light weapons, which became an official option for reporting under UNROCA in December 2003.

From the very beginning, the ATT has not controlled explosive weapons *unless* they are tied to the weapons included in the seven categories of conventional arms listed under Article 2.1. This means that weaponised explosives, including mortars under 75mm, grenades, and military explosives as well as rockets and bombs not integrated into missile systems are not controlled under the Treaty.

Furthermore, in the absence of any update since adoption, the Scope of the ATT is increasingly being overtaken by technological advances. Important categories of new and emerging weapons such as autonomous weapons systems, some categories of uncrewed systems, and directed-energy weapons may remain outside the Treaty's controls, depending on individual states' interpretations.

Control Arms would therefore welcome the opportunity to hold a substantive discussion within the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation on how to address the growing gaps in the Scope of the Treaty, particularly in relation to the weapons that are increasingly being used in conflicts around the world.