**TI-DS Statement at the ATT CSP11 General Debate**

Geneva, Monday 25 August 2025

Chair, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

Transparency International Defence & Security welcomes the opportunity to address the Eleventh Conference of States Parties. We strongly support the theme of ***universalization as a priority***. Universalization is not just about membership; it must ensure the Treaty **prevents diversion and strengthens collective security**.

Our recent [research](https://ti-defence.org/publications/under_the_radar_publication/) reviewed more than 400 cases of arms diversion linked to corruption in 70 countries. The evidence is stark: corruption is one of the most persistent drivers of diversion. From officials selling weapons to border agents taking bribes, corruption fuels diversion at every stage of the arms lifecycle. These practices hollow out institutions, empower armed groups, and obstruct reforms needed for peace.

For the ATT to win universal adherence, States and societies must trust that it can address these realities. Universalization must go hand-in-hand with defence transparency and integrity.

For these reasons, we urge States Parties to:

* **Integrate corruption risk factors systematically** into ATT transfer assessments (stockpile security, personnel accountability, and anti-diversion safeguards.)
* **Work with Parliaments** to strengthen oversight of arms procurement and transfers.
* **Engage with civil society, academia, and the media**, who play a critical role in exposing diversion and building public trust in the ATT and national arms control policies.
* **Ensure that industry practices align with Treaty principles**, particularly as global rearmament accelerates and new suppliers enter the market.

Public reporting on national exports is critical. Without detail on weapon types and prices, parliaments and civil society cannot assess diversion risks, detect trafficking networks, or spot fraud and corruption.

Universalization is ultimately about credibility. Each new accession should reinforce collective security. The ATT will only succeed if it is seen as an effective framework that embeds transparency, prevents diversion, and delivers results for communities.

We stand ready to work with States Parties, the UN, and civil society partners to advance this vision.

Thank you.

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