



## **Agenda Item 6 - Treaty Universalization**

**Mr. Edward Chaka**

### **11th Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty**

We welcome the efforts carried out by the President, Ambassador Foradori, and the Working Group on Treaty Universalization to promote and expand the membership of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

For new States to be encouraged to join the ATT, it is crucial that work on the ATT - both internationally and nationally - is credible and clearly contributes to the Treaty's core goal: preventing irresponsible arms transfers and preventing human suffering.

Civil society has a key role to play in the work to universalise the Treaty, and Control Arms Coalition members around the world continue to promote its membership and implementation. My organisation, Peoples Federation for National Peace and Development, has actively engaged in capacity-building encouraging my own country, Malawi, to join, and I am proud that we are now, indeed, a State Party.

Other Control Arms members here today are also playing their part in promoting ATT accession. For example, we are joined by a colleague from Campaña Colombiana Contra Minas, an organization that collaborated closely with the Government of Colombia to support its accession to the ATT. The Security Research and Information Centre in Kenya and Saferworld, thanks to the generous support of Canada, have begun a two-year project promoting awareness and universalisation of the ATT across Eastern Africa. WILPF Lebanon is raising awareness of the ATT among feminist networks across the MENA region. In Latin America, Control Arms Members are working to support the efforts of Ambassador Foradori to encourage Ecuador to join the ATT.

From our collective efforts and experiences, it is clear that NGOs can play a vital role in initiating and sustaining dialogue with national governments about why they should join the ATT and what accession entails in terms of implementation, as well as necessary changes to policies, regulations, and practices. For example, in Colombia, it was important for campaigners to demonstrate that the ATT is not only a legal framework, but also a practical tool for bringing about transparency and accountability for arms transfers, and a means for protecting Colombian civilians.

Finally, we take this opportunity to congratulate Colombia for joining the ATT since the last Conference of States Parties and to Vanuatu for completing its parliamentary processes which are paving the way towards ratification.