



## Seventh Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

### Treaty Universalization

30 August 2021 - Geneva, Switzerland

**Delivered by: Shobha Shrestha, Women for Peace and Democracy Nepal**

Control Arms wishes to express its appreciation for the work of the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on Treaty Universalization. Even with no new States Parties this year, the work conducted on universalization amid the COVID-19 pandemic has laid a solid foundation which we hope will result in concrete outcomes in the coming year.

*[We also welcome the announcement by the Gambia of its intention to accede to the Arms Trade Treaty and look forward to welcoming it as a State Party.]*

In moving forward on universalization, Control Arms supports the conclusion in the WGTU Report that coordination and information sharing between all ATT stakeholders can assist universalization efforts. In this regard, forming an informal universalization contact group in Geneva could be a practical initiative to advance universalization, even during a time when delegations must operate within the restrictions imposed by COVID-19.

Control Arms calls on the WGTU to focus its efforts on regional engagement approaches as set out in the original [WGTU mandate](#). Many states who have not yet joined the ATT - especially in Asia and the Middle East and North Africa - can benefit from tailored outreach and engagement to address specific regional challenges. Engaging regional stakeholders to lead these efforts is critical to its success. In this regard, with Germany's support, Control Arms is studying the potential impact regional organizations can have on ATT universalization and implementation.

We also encourage the WGTU to set a target on universalization. A concrete and tangible number - such as 125 States Parties by 2025 - could assist in galvanizing all stakeholders' efforts on universalization and bring much needed focus to this area of work.

For our part, Control Arms has continued to follow-up directly with non-States Parties to encourage them to join the Treaty. This year, we again welcomed the opportunity to co-host with Australia, Japan and New



Zealand a roundtable on universalization in the Asia-Pacific region. We look forward to the first ASEAN Member State joining the ATT.

Control Arms also continues to highlight the positive impact of the ATT on the national, regional, and international levels by directly engaging with national governments through its ATT Academy programmes.

Finally, Control Arms welcomes the European Union Council Decision in support of universalization of the ATT. This is an important initiative and one that we hope will make significant progress.

Thank you.