



Second Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
Statement by Anna Macdonald, Control Arms
General Debate, 22 August 2016

Mr President, Excellencies,

Many of you have seen the photo of Orman Daqneesh, the 5 year old boy pulled from the rubble in the aftermath of a bomb. This photo captivated the media, and has exemplified the horror of Syria's lengthy and bloody civil war. Many people round the world have looked at that photo and thought - I wish could do something.

You in this room can do something. You are in the extraordinarily privileged position of having the power to stop the arms transfers that fuel wars, serious human rights violations and the devastation of communities.

Tragically there are many children like Orman around the world. Thousands of children whose lives are devastated by armed violence and conflict, but whose pictures do not make the headlines.

You here in this room do not have to read stories of civilians being bombed and shot, and wish that there was something you could do. You can rigorously implement this Treaty that governments and civil society alike worked to achieve, and whose purpose is to reduce human suffering.

In Yemen, civilians are dying every day from bombs, including those authorised by States Parties in this room. This is unacceptable, and we call on all States to stop arms transfers to all warring parties in Yemen immediately.

The Control Arms Coalition is here at the CSP with representatives from every region of the world. Our members and partners see, and work to reduce, the human consequences of the poorly regulated arms trade every day. We call on all States to properly apply the Treaty, in particular the core human rights and humanitarian provisions in Articles 6 and 7 on prohibitions and risk assessment, and without delay. The men, women and children being shot and bombed every day do not have the luxury of time.



One of the stated objectives of the ATT is to bring greater transparency. The arms trade is the world's most corrupt business, responsible for around 40% of corruption in all global trading. Secrecy breeds corruption, costs public money, and undermines development, the rule of law and peacekeeping efforts.

The most effective counter to corruption and unscrupulous arms transfers is public reporting. Greater transparency can help stop illegal sales, reduce the risk of arms being diverted to terrorist groups and criminals; stop the flood of weapons to human rights abusers, and stop the arms that are being used to violate humanitarian law in too many communities on too many days. Control Arms therefore calls on States Parties to agree to mandatory public reporting at this CSP. Public reporting is a key transparency mechanism that will help assess how the ATT is being applied in practice.

Civil society around the world has been active in working to encourage universalization, and to support States Parties in effective implementation. Over the last year, there have been countless workshops and seminars in every region, research and monitoring, and work with Parliamentarians and the wider public. Control Arms remains committed to working to stop the arms flows that are leading to human suffering, and to supporting all States who seek to effectively implement the ATT.

We call on you all to use the power that you have, and to not leave civilians who are suffering waiting any longer.

Thank you.