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Universalization

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Madame Vice President

In order for the ATT to be effective in reducing human suffering, sustained attention and effort on its universalization remains essential.

Control Arms is encouraged that five new States Parties, including three from Africa, have joined the ATT in the last year. The establishment of the ATT Working Group on Treaty Universalization is also a positive step.

However, more needs to be done to engage countries in regions with particularly low numbers of ATT States Parties, in particular in South East and Central Asia and the Middle East and North Africa.

As this important work is undertaken, Control Arms calls upon States to be guided by the following principles:

First, universalization should not happen without implementation. It must not be achieved by diluting the norms and obligations of the ATT. Outreach efforts must focus on States that are sincerely committed to the required standards, and support them with the implementation of those standards as necessary to ratify or accede.

Second, effective implementation will encourage other responsible states to join the Treaty. Supporting effective implementation efforts in all regions allows new states parties to learn from early adopters. Through information sharing, cooperation and transparency, states with less developed systems can observe the positive impacts of effective implementation and benefit from their experience.

Third, the link between ATT universalization and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals is clear. Reducing corruption and illicit arms flows along with supporting, for example, gender equality and safer cities are shared goals. Strengthening these links across sectors, departments and agencies on all levels encourages creative and constructive thinking on ways to take concerted action to achieve peaceful and inclusive societies..

Madame Vice President

We note the earlier statement by the Philippines regarding Amnesty International's research. Amnesty International is an independent organisation and it carries out its research impartially, basing its findings and assessment of human rights violations around the world on credible, corroborated information and in line with relevant international law and standards. Its policy is to seek responses and information from relevant state authorities.



Earlier this year Amnesty International wrote to the Philippine National Police with questions related to their anti-drug operations. We stand by the findings of Control Arms' member Amnesty International and would very much welcome a dialogue with the Philippines and other states to discuss any of the issues raised.

Thank you.