
Arms Trade Treaty
Second Conference of States Parties
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ATT – SECOND CONFERENCE OF STATES' PARTIES
EXCHANGE OF VIEWS ON TREATY IMPLEMENTATION
Guidance for Discussion

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is a unique multilateral treaty that establishes norms for the international trade of conventional weapons. It aims to improve regional security and stability, reduce human suffering caused by illegal arms transfers, and promote accountability and transparency by States Parties concerning the transfer of these conventional arms.

One year and four months after the ATT's entry into force, the real challenge ahead lies in the effective implementation and universalization of the Treaty. Implemented effectively, the ATT will have a major positive effect on the way the arms trade operates. The ATT has set common standards and it has enshrined strict controls on the arms trade.

The Arms Trade Treaty is implemented at the national level. According to the Treaty, all States Parties must establish a national system for the control of international trade of conventional arms which consists of control lists, laws, regulations and administrative procedures, reporting and enforcement mechanisms

In order to support and facilitate ATT implementation by States Parties, there is also a need to strengthen reporting, information-sharing, and dialogue among State Parties on issues relevant to the application of the Treaty; facilitate co-operation among States Parties and the provision and co-ordination of appropriate assistance for implementation. Different aspects are interdependent.

Basic requirements for national implementation

The obligation to implement the Arms Trade Treaty falls not only on the exporter States but on all importing, transit and transshipment States, and in that regard all States parties must establish or adapt their existing arms transfer control systems to fully comply with the Treaty obligations.

Although specific situation and approaches differ from country to country, the ATT requires States Parties to adopt certain national measures to implement the Treaty. These include, but are not limited to, requirements for States Parties to have in place relevant control lists, laws, regulations, administrative procedures and enforcement capabilities that enable fulfilment of all Treaty obligations bearing in mind that each State Party shall implement this Treaty in a consistent, objective and non-discriminatory manner, taking into account the principles referred to in this Treaty.

Initial reporting to the ATT indicates that the situation in terms of progress in national implementation varies greatly around the world. We therefore invite States Parties in the 2CSP to share their experiences, challenges and best practice in the implementation of this Treaty, in accordance with article 17.4. a), for example in the areas of;

- 1) legislation and regulation: for example how the Treaty is enforced by national legislation, and by the development of control lists.
- 2) practical implementation of the Treaty at national level, including administrative arrangements and enforcement capabilities, inter-agency coordination and cooperation, as well as capacity building and awareness raising of the Treaty obligations and their application.
- 3) engagement in regional and international cooperation, information-sharing and support of implementation, for example on issues related to export assessments, risk of diversion, capability to produce annual reports. Partnerships with civil society, industry, researchers.
- 4) any other aspect deemed relevant

Discussions in the CSP2 are expected to have a positive impact on the national implementation of the Treaty and would hopefully contribute to the universalization of the Treaty. Furthermore the discussion could help in mapping the needs for possible technical assistance in the national implementation of the Treaty and uncover areas that may need further elaboration in the up-coming CSPs. Working papers on this theme are welcomed prior to CSP2 as they ideally provide further input for discussions. At the CSP2 State Parties may also wish to consider how to take the matter forward towards the CSP3, by establishing a facilitation process, e.g. an informal open-ended working group.
