

Arms Trade Treaty Third Conference of the States Parties

Statement of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC)

Agenda item 6 - Treaty Implementation: Thematic discussion on ATT and SDGs

Thank you Madam Chair,

The International Committee of the Red Cross acknowledges the overlap between the humanitarian purpose of the Arms Trade Treaty and the Sustainable Development Goals.

The intersection between the ATT and the SDGs is based on international recognition that armed conflict and other situations of violence present a major obstacle to maintaining development gains and actually threaten major development 'reversals'.

The continued availability of arms fuels protracted conflicts and hinders post-conflict development efforts. Regions and communities affected by conflict and other forms of armed violence are often left the furthest behind and can develop into pockets of under-development. The ATT can have a real impact on these affected communities.

The ICRC's mission and mandate to alleviate human suffering and protect and assist people affected by armed conflict and other situations of violence sees us working tirelessly in the same direction as the SDGs.

Against this background, we are happy to see that the Treaty's humanitarian objectives are being discussed as part of a roadmap towards the SDGs.

We welcome further discussion and awareness of the consequences of widespread and uncontrolled availability of arms and how the Arms Trade Treaty can further the goals of Agenda 2030, many of which are shared by the ICRC and the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

Thank you, Madam Chair.