

Second Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

Remarks by Ms Mary Soliman

Delivered on behalf of

Mr Kim Won-soo, Under Secretary-General and

High Representative for Disarmament Affairs

United Nations



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Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

On behalf of the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Mr. Kim Won-soo, I would like to thank the States Parties and Secretariat of the Arms Trade Treaty for inviting the United Nations to address the Second Conference of States Parties of the ATT, or CSP2.

I commend Ambassador Emmanuel Imohe of Nigeria for his leadership of the preparatory process for CSP2. I also congratulate the facilitators, whose hard work will help inform the substantive decisions to be made at this conference.

I take this opportunity to renew the United Nations' support for the ATT and reiterate our commitment to promoting the universalisation of the treaty and to supporting its full and effective implementation.

I welcome the strenuous efforts by States Parties to ensure that the ATT achieves its potential as an instrument to prevent the flow of arms and ammunition to conflict areas and to those actors who would use them to commit grave human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law.

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Currently, close to half of the United Nations Member States have accepted to be bound by the ATT, as 84 States have ratified it and 3 have acceded. Of these, 13 ratifications and 2 accessions took place after the conclusion of CSP1.

In accordance with Article 22 of the Treaty, the ATT has entered into force for 85 of the 87 States that have ratified or acceded to it. I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Georgia and Zambia, both of whom became States Parties just yesterday.

The regional breakdown of ratifications and accessions to the ATT is as follows:

In the Western European and Others Group, 24 States have ratified the ATT and 1 State has acceded to it. 18 States from the Eastern European Group have ratified. The Latin American and Caribbean Group registered 22 ratifications. In Africa, 17 States have ratified and 2 have acceded to the Treaty. Unfortunately, participation by States in the Asia-Pacific Group remains disappointing: only 3 States have ratified the ATT and none have acceded.

It is also discouraging that, to date, only 2 African States and no Asia-Pacific State have ratified the Treaty in 2016. These figures remind us not only that much work remains to be done to achieve a universal ATT, but also where our efforts need to be concentrated in promoting universalisation.

As of today, 47 of the signatory States are yet to deposit their instruments of ratification. 20 of those States are in Africa, 15 are in Asia-Pacific, 6 are from the Latin American and Caribbean Group, 5 are from the Western European and Others Group, and 1 is from the Eastern European Group. It is important to continue encouraging those signatories that have not yet ratified the ATT to do so in the near future.

Additionally, I would like to mention that of the 154 States who have voted in favour of the adoption of the General Assembly resolution on ATT in April 2013, 32 States are yet to sign or accede to the Treaty. 17 of those States are in Asia-Pacific, 12 of those are in Africa, 2 are from the Western European and Others Group, 1 is from the Eastern European Group, and none from the Latin American and Caribbean Group. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage those States who have voted in favour of the resolution but are yet to sign or accede to the Treaty, to accede without delay.

Finally, we must reach out to those States that have not yet formally committed to the ATT and urge them to consider acceding to it. The Treaty can only fulfil its potential if it has the broadest participation of States, especially the major arms exporters and importers.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Mindful of the immense human suffering fuelled by irresponsible arms transfers, the United Nations has been a steadfast supporter of the ATT. We serviced the negotiations that led to its adoption, we supported the push for its early entry into force, and you can count on us to continue supporting on-going efforts to promote the Treaty's universalisation.

The Office for Disarmament Affairs, through our headquarters in New York and our Regional Centres in Africa, the Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, has been working with generous donors and partners to assist States at their request, to support ratifications and accessions, and to build States' capacity to implement the Treaty's provisions.

An important issue on CSP2's agenda is the consideration and adoption of decisions that will enable the establishment and operationalisation of the ATT voluntary trust fund, as envisaged under Article 16 of the Treaty. States Parties can rest assured that, however you decide on the ATT voluntary trust fund, ODA will ensure that it will be complemented by our efforts to support the capacity-building of States Parties through the United Nations Trust Facility supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR) and our regional centres.

As ever, the Office for Disarmament Affairs stands ready to assist you in whatever ways we can. I assure you, the Secretary-General is firmly committed to this Treaty and determined to fulfil his role as the Treaty's depository.

I wish you a very successful conference.

Thank you.