

**BACKGROUND PAPER ON THE RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN  
THE SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS AND THE ARMS TRADE TREATY**

**Introduction**

1. This paper was prepared by the ATT Secretariat at the request of the CSP3 President as a background paper for the thematic discussion on the relationship between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) to be held during the Second CSP3 Informal Preparatory Meeting on 7 April 2017. The paper is designed to provide food-for-thought on *what* the discussion among ATT stakeholders could explore and *where* such a discussion could lead. It begins with a short description of what the SDGs are and which SDGs may be of most relevance to the ATT, followed by a brief overview of some of the synergies between the two instruments, including some questions and elements that may guide the thematic discussion.

**Background to the SDGs**

2. During the United Nations summit for the adoption of the post-2015 development agenda in September 2015, UN Member States adopted an outcome document titled: [Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). The document includes 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and 169 targets that seek to build on the Millennium Development Goals and complete what they did not achieve.
3. Among the SDGs and of direct relevance to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) process is Goal 16 – the promotion of peaceful and inclusive societies – and one of its associated Targets, 16.4 – a significant reduction in illicit arms flows by 2030. The full text of Goal 16 and Target 16.4 are included in Box 1.
4. In addition, the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on SDG Indicators (IAEG-SDGs) developed the global indicator framework, establishing ‘indicators’ by which the Targets identified will be measured, including Indicator 16.4.2, which seeks to measure the reduction in illicit arms flows. The full text of Indicator 16.4.2 is included in Box 1.


**Box 1. Text of SDG 16, Target 16.4, and Indicator 16.4.2<sup>1</sup>**

<b>SDG 16</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</li> </ul>
<b>Target 16.4</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•By 2030, <b>significantly reduce illicit</b> financial and <b>arms flows</b>, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime</li> </ul>
<b>Indicator 16.4.2</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>•Proportion of seized, found or surrendered arms whose illicit origin or context has been traced or established by a competent authority in line with international instruments</li> </ul>

<sup>1</sup> This version of the indicator was refined and agreed upon by the IAEG-SDGs at the 48th session of the United Nations Statistical Commission held in March 2017, and recommended for adoption by the Economic and Social Council.

5. Another SDG that resonates with the ATT objectives is Goal 5 – achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls – and one of its associated Targets, 5.2 – eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls. The full text of Goal 5 and Target 5.2 are included in Box 2.

#### Box 2. Text of SDG 5 and Target 5.2

 SDG 5 Target 5.2	•Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls
	•Eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres, including trafficking and sexual and other types of exploitation

#### ***Synergies between the SDGs and the ATT***

6. ATT stakeholders have noted that there are links and synergies between the ATT and the SDG processes, and have suggested that these links and synergies be further explored to ensure complementarity and mutual support between the processes. This leads to the question: ***What role does or could the Arms Trade Treaty have in helping achieve the SDGs?***
7. Some of the synergies between the instruments that could be explored in a preliminary exchange of views on this question during the thematic discussion include:
- The role of TRANSPARENCY in reducing illicit arms flows
  - The role of DIVERSION PREVENTION in reducing illicit arms flows
  - The role of RESPONSIBLE TRANSFERS in reducing illicit arms flows and preventing conflict
  - The links between illicit arms flows and irresponsible transfers and VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN, particularly *armed* violence against women
  - The SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT BENEFITS associated with joining the ATT and how this feeds into the broad concept of sustainable development
8. Based on the outcome of the preliminary exchange of views on the topic, ATT stakeholders could consider whether it would be useful and desirable to include the SDG theme as a thread in the work of the ATT process in order to reinforce the links between the instruments/processes and ensure continuity of effort. In practical terms, this could include considering whether and how the relevant SDGs might help shape some of the work of the Working Groups.

#### ***Conclusion***

9. A thematic discussion on the relationship between the SDGs and the ATT has been included in the agenda of the Second CSP3 Informal Preparatory Meeting on 7 April 2017 in response to the call for further exploration of the issue, and in an effort to begin the process of identifying practical measures to link the two processes.
10. The thematic discussion provides an opportunity for ATT stakeholders to explore – in an open and informal setting – the relationship between the two processes and to map some practical measures to ensure their future alignment and to avoid the duplication of efforts.