



Statement on Treaty Universalization

Thursday 22 February 2024

Universalization and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty remains the top priority for Control Arms. Universalising the ATT in all regions will be critical to realizing its objectives.

In 2023, Control Arms held discussions on ATT universalization in Africa, the Middle East and the Pacific. These were in partnership with a range of actors, including Australia, Japan, New Zealand, the ICRC, Inter-Parliamentary Union and you, Ambassador Rusu.

Turning to the questions set out in the Working Paper on implementing the CSP9 on universalisation, while there is much work to be done in Africa and the Asia-Pacific regions, it is important to continue to explore opportunities for promoting universalization in all regions and to grow the community of potential regional champions.

An important recommendation adopted at CSP9 was on the need to coordinate on Treaty universalization. This could take the form of an informal meeting of all States Parties and stakeholders engaged in ATT universalization to share information and discuss which non-States Parties are realistic prospects. Such an informal exchange could be a useful first step in pooling our collective knowledge, insights and identifying States “ready to join the Treaty within a short time”.

Work on universalization is not an exact science and therefore, we need to make use of all actors, including CSP Presidents, Vice-Presidents, officeholders, States Parties and stakeholders to use their influence at all levels of a government to encourage non-States Parties to join the Treaty.

We welcome the initiative to invite one or two States Parties to future Working Groups to explain their ratification processes. What could be useful is to understand what were the key factors in motivating States to join the Treaty and what if any outside support was critical in this endeavor.

Finally, we note with concern the very slow pace at which the ATT base of States Parties has grown in recent years and therefore urge all States Parties and other stakeholders to use the opportunity provided by 10th Conference of States Parties and to build momentum by stepping up initiatives to help signatory and other states to join the ATT.

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