

First Conference of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
High level segment 24 August 2015
Statement by Norway

As delivered

Thank you. Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, dear friends.

Let me (along with many others) take this opportunity to thank the government of Mexico for inviting us to sunny Cancun, and for providing leadership of the ATT. Let me thank you personally Ambassador Lomonaco, for your hard work and dedication to the provisional secretariat, and for the close cooperation my delegation has had with you in the process leading up to this Conference.

The adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty by the UN General Assembly two years ago was a great achievement. After many years of deliberations, we succeeded in adopting a legally binding instrument that has the potential to reduce international illicit and irresponsible arms trade – to fulfil its purpose of contributing to international and regional peace, security and stability, and reducing human suffering. The treaty is not perfect - but it provides us with a solid point of departure. We have made important strides, the Treaty has entered into force and we are about to start implementing it.

Norway attaches great importance to the humanitarian dimension of the Treaty. The Arms Trade Treaty regulates more than just trade – it is also a humanitarian instrument. This Treaty has the potential to reduce human suffering in the world, and to reduce armed violence in general.

All states parties share a responsibility to fulfil the humanitarian potential of the treaty. At this conference we must secure robust mechanisms and procedures that will enable the effective realization of the Treaty.

To this end, we should apply the Treaty's provisions to the broadest range of conventional arms. In our view, the provisions on prohibitions and on export assessment apply widely, including in non-international armed conflicts. The treaty should be implemented in such a way that leaves no room for arms exports that could lead to violations of international human rights or international humanitarian law.

Mr President,

Norway will continue its efforts to make the Treaty a dynamic and living instrument, open for practice and interpretations that will ensure that the humanitarian goals of the treaty are reached. Our success – the ATT's success – will be measured against whether the treaty actually reduces armed violence and suffering, whether we actually save lives.

Norway will continue to work for the universal acceptance of the norms of this treaty. We welcome each new state party, and we urge states to speed up their ratification processes.

Finally, I would like to pay tribute to civil society for their valuable contributions during the whole ATT process. We encourage non-governmental organisations to monitor

implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty and to use their regional networks to create further support for the Treaty.

Thank you.