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General and complete disarmament: The Arms Trade Treaty

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The Arms Trade Treaty

The General Assembly,

Recalling its resolutions [61/89](#) of 6 December 2006, [63/240](#) of 24 December 2008, [64/48](#) of 2 December 2009, [67/234 A](#) of 24 December 2012, [67/234 B](#) of 2 April 2013, [68/31](#) of 5 December 2013, [69/49](#) of 2 December 2014, [70/58](#) of 7 December 2015, [71/50](#) of 5 December 2016, [72/44](#) of 4 December 2017, [73/36](#) of 5 December 2018 and [74/49](#) of 12 December 2019 and its decision 66/518 of 2 December 2011,

Recognizing that disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation are essential for the maintenance of international peace and security,

Recognizing also the security, social, economic and humanitarian consequences of the illicit and unregulated trade in conventional arms,

Recognizing further the legitimate political, security, economic and commercial interests of States in the international trade in conventional arms,

Underlining the urgent need to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons, and to prevent their diversion to the illicit market, or for unauthorized end use or end users, including through improvements to stockpile management, thereby preventing the exacerbation of armed violence, the commission of terrorist acts and the violation of international humanitarian law and international human rights law,



Emphasizing the responsibility of all States, in accordance with their respective international and regional obligations and commitments, to effectively regulate the international trade in conventional arms,

Recalling the contribution made by the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,¹ as well as the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime,² and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons,³

Highlighting the relevance of the Arms Trade Treaty,⁴ including its links and synergies with other relevant instruments on conventional arms, to efforts to meet Sustainable Development Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development,⁵ and specifically target 16.4, which aims at significantly reducing illicit arms flows by 2030,

Recalling the Secretary-General's disarmament agenda, *Securing Our Common Future: An Agenda for Disarmament*, in particular the section of the agenda entitled "Disarmament that saves lives",

Recognizing the negative impact of the illicit and unregulated trade in conventional arms and related ammunition on the lives of women, men, girls and boys, and that the Arms Trade Treaty was the first international agreement to identify and call upon States to address the link between conventional arms transfers and the risk of serious acts of gender-based violence and serious acts of violence against women and children,

Recognizing also the important role that civil society organizations, including non-governmental organizations, and industry play, by raising awareness, in efforts to prevent and eradicate the illicit and unregulated trade in conventional arms, including in preventing their diversion, and in supporting the implementation of the Treaty,

Recalling the adoption by the General Assembly and the entry into force of the Treaty on 2 April 2013 and 24 December 2014, respectively, and noting that the Treaty remains open for accession by any State that has not signed it,

Welcoming the latest ratifications, acceptances and approvals of and accessions to the Treaty by Afghanistan, China, Sao Tome and Principe and Niue, bearing in mind that the universalization of the Treaty is essential to achieving its object and purpose,

Noting the efforts by the States parties to the Treaty to continue to explore ways and means to enhance national implementation of the Treaty through the working group on effective treaty implementation and the voluntary trust fund for the implementation of the Treaty,

Noting with concern the devastating global effect of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, including on the full and effective implementation of the Treaty,

¹ *Report of the United Nations Conference on the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects*, New York, 9–20 July 2001 (A/CONF.192/15), chap. IV, para. 24.

² United Nations, *Treaty Series*, vol. 2326, No. 39574.

³ See decision 60/519 and A/60/88 and A/60/88/Corr.2, annex.

⁴ See resolution 67/234 B.

⁵ Resolution 70/1.

1. *Welcomes* the decisions taken by the Sixth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, held by written procedure from 17 to 21 August 2020, and notes that the Seventh Conference of States Parties will be held in Geneva from 30 August to 3 September 2021;
2. *Also welcomes* the ongoing progress by the standing working groups on effective treaty implementation, on transparency and reporting, and on universalization in advancing the object and purpose of the Arms Trade Treaty;⁴
3. *Recognizes* that the consolidation of the institutional structure of the Treaty provides a framework for supporting further work under the Treaty, in particular its effective implementation, in this regard expresses concern about the unpaid assessed contributions of States and the potential adverse implications that this has for the Treaty processes, and calls upon States that have not yet done so to address their financial obligations under the Treaty in a prompt and timely manner;
4. *Calls upon* all States that have not yet done so to ratify, accept, approve or accede to the Treaty, in accordance with their respective constitutional processes, in order to achieve its universalization;
5. *Calls upon* all States parties to submit and encourages them to make available, in a timely manner, and to update, as appropriate, their initial reports, as well as their annual reports for the preceding calendar year, as required under article 13 of the Treaty, thereby enhancing confidence, transparency, trust and accountability, and welcomes the ongoing efforts of the working group on transparency and reporting to facilitate compliance by States parties with their reporting obligations;
6. *Calls upon* those States parties in a position to do so to provide assistance, including legal or legislative assistance, institutional capacity-building and technical, material or financial assistance, to requesting States in order to promote the implementation and universalization of the Treaty;
7. *Stresses* the vital importance of the full and effective implementation of and compliance with all provisions of the Treaty by States parties, and urges States parties to meet their obligations under the Treaty, thereby contributing to international and regional peace, security and stability, to the reduction of human suffering and to the promotion of cooperation, transparency and responsible action;
8. *Recognizes* the complementarity among all relevant international instruments on conventional arms and the Treaty, and to this end urges all States to implement effective national measures to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit and unregulated trade in conventional arms and ammunition in fulfilment of their respective international obligations and commitments;
9. *Urges* States parties and signatory States to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons, as set out in articles 6 and 7 of the Treaty, and to prevent diversion and unauthorized end use or end users of conventional arms, inter alia through efforts to improve efficient stockpile management;
10. *Recognizes* the added value of the adoption in June 2018 of the report of the third United Nations Conference to Review Progress Made in the Implementation of the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects,⁶ including the outcome document annexed thereto, and acknowledges synergies between the Programme of Action and the Treaty;

⁶ [A/CONF.192/2018/RC/3](#).

11. *Encourages* further steps to enable States to increasingly prevent and tackle the diversion of conventional arms and ammunition to unauthorized end uses or end users during the entire life cycle of the items, and recognizes that enhancing reporting rates, transparency and information-sharing, in line with Treaty obligations, is fundamental to achieving this goal;

12. *Welcomes* the establishment of the Diversion Information Exchange Forum by the Sixth Conference of States Parties to allow, on a voluntary basis, States parties and signatory States to share concrete and operational information about cases of suspected or detected diversion, and acknowledges that this is a step towards tackling diversion by enhancing information-sharing and a tool to improve practical implementation of the Treaty;

13. *Recalls* the adoption of action-oriented decisions on gender and gender-based violence by the Fifth Conference of States Parties and the fact that States parties agreed to review progress on these two aspects on an ongoing basis, and in that respect encourages States parties and signatory States to ensure the full and equal participation of women and men in pursuing the object and purpose of the Treaty;

14. *Welcomes* the continued support through the voluntary trust fund for the implementation of the Treaty, encourages eligible States to make best use of the voluntary trust fund, and encourages all States parties in a position to do so to contribute to the voluntary trust fund;

15. *Encourages* States parties and signatory States in a position to do so to provide funding to the Treaty sponsorship programme to support participation in meetings under the Treaty for those States that would otherwise be unable to attend;

16. *Encourages* States parties to strengthen their cooperation with civil society, including non-governmental organizations, industry and relevant international organizations and to work with other States parties at the national and regional levels, and invites those stakeholders, in particular those that are underrepresented in Treaty processes, to engage further with States parties with the aim of ensuring the effective implementation and universalization of the Treaty;

17. *Decides* to include in the provisional agenda of its seventy-sixth session, under the item entitled “General and complete disarmament”, the sub-item entitled “The Arms Trade Treaty”, and to review the implementation of the present resolution at that session.