



EUROPEAN UNION



UNITED NATIONS INSTITUTE
FOR DISARMAMENT RESEARCH

Promoting Discussion on an Arms Trade Treaty

Key messages and recommendations

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Unregulated trade in conventional arms is an international problem that needs to be addressed internationally.

Parameters

- States' inherent right to produce and transfer conventional arms
- Based on states' existing obligations and commitments
- Aiming at "simple and easy"
- IHL, sustainable development, human rights, human security, NSAs, terrorism, self-determination and right of self-defence

No uniform check-lists but objective and universal criteria.

Scope

weapons and transactions

- “7 + 1 (+ 1)” and beyond
- Taking examples from existing instruments, avoiding complicated and detailed definitions and listings
- Export, import, transit, trans-shipment and re-transfer
- But also technology transfers, production, brokering, etc.
- No domestic regulation of arms and civilian possession
- Limited to international transfers

“ATT - a common language on arms transfers”

Small Arms and Light Weapons

- SALW a category of special importance
 - organized crime
 - conflicts
 - armed violence
 - trafficking
- Importance of UN PoA and other related instruments
- Inclusion of SALW should not be done at the expense of other conventional weapons categories

Transparency

Why transparency?

- Lack of transparency obstructs informed debate and would be an obstacle to implementing a treaty

- Monitoring through national reporting
- Primary responsibility with states

Links with other instruments, and wider issues (corruption, good governance, accountability)

Cooperation and assistance

- Mechanism of technical capacity-building and assistance necessary because of limited financial resources and expertise in some areas and countries / regions
- Both in lead-up to an ATT and in its implementation

Actors – States, regions, civil society

- Main responsibilities lie with states – exporters and importers
- Inclusiveness
- Indiscrimination
- Specificities
- Building on and learning from regional instruments
- Involvement of regional organizations, industry and civil society

Next steps

- Continued discussion and dialogue
- Widening the participation base
- Learning from each other and from the past
- Staying open and creative: research
- Move towards concretism and practical action

1. Introduction and executive summary

2. Towards an Arms Trade Treaty

3. EU-UNIDIR project on ATT – implementation and outcomes of the project

4. Thematic messages from the seminars – ideas and recommendations

Aiming at a global treaty that is based on globally accepted parameters

Calls for comprehensive, yet practical and implementable scope

More transparency in conventional arms transfers

Human security considerations

Cooperation and assistance

Building on regional –level action and instruments

Main responsibility with states, both importers and exporters

Challenges

Next steps

5. Conclusions

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<http://www.unidir.org>

→ Activities

→ ATT