



**Statement on the Report of the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation
(WGETI)**

Frank Slijper, PAX, on behalf of Control Arms
10th Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

Mr. Chairman,

Control Arms places the utmost importance on the implementation of and compliance with Articles 6 and 7 of the ATT by States Parties in their arms transfer activities. While useful, technical discussions on national legislation, policy, and guidance tools should not be treated as ends in themselves. For the deliberations of the Working Groups, in particular the WGETI, to be impactful, they must be driven by a collective commitment from all States Parties to enhance international and regional peace, security and stability; prevent human suffering; and promote responsible conduct in the international trade in conventional arms. If ATT States Parties do not set and commit to upholding the highest standards, then who will?

Given the centrality of Articles 6 and 7 to the Treaty's core objective, consideration of the application of these provisions should not be merely "encouraged" or left to "ad hoc discussions" as currently proposed in the WGETI Report's recommendations. Instead, they should be institutionalized, and focused on real world arms transfers such as to Israel, Myanmar, the Russian Federation, Sudan, Yemen, or any other destination where ATT obligations are under threat.

The ATT process took a significant step forward during this year's WGETI sub-working group on current and emerging implementation issues when, despite the anxieties of a number of States Parties, there was a discussion on arms transfers to Israel. Of course there are lessons to be learned about how to organise such discussions, but it is certainly the case that the Treaty has survived and could even thrive on the back of a conversation about actual arms transfers.

As Control Arms stated at the Preparatory Committee meeting in May, we strongly support continuation of the discussions on gender, as well as on the arms industry. Interest in these two issues remains strong, as demonstrated by the substantive side events being held on these topics this week. Arms manufacturing and trading companies face significant risks of being implicated in serious violations of international law and the resulting human suffering if they rely solely on government guidance. During the Working Groups in February, experts highlighted several key points on how the industry's distinct due diligence responsibilities in human rights and international humanitarian law can complement government decision-making and contribute to strengthening compliance with the ATT. We appreciate that some of these points have been set out in the WGETI Report, including the role that internal compliance programmes and transaction screening can play in assisting companies to fulfill their distinct responsibilities.



Thank you.