

# **Tenth Conference of States Parties (CSP10) to the Arms Trade Treaty** **(ATT)**

## **1. The Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons (PFSALW) statement at CSP10 - Session 10: International assistance – August 22 – 10:00-13:00**

Joint statement by Secretary General Karin Olofsson and Hon. Elias Hankach the topic of the role of parliamentarians in contributing to the universalisation and implementation of the ATT, including international assistance, based on parliamentary recommendations identified in the project/policy publication.

### **Secretary General Karin Olofsson**

- Your Excellencies, it is an honor to greet you again on behalf the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons (the Forum). My name is Karin Olofsson and I am the Secretary General of the Forum.
- The Forum is the only membership-based organisation gathering parliamentarians globally across party-political lines, with specific focus to prevent Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)-related violence. The organisation gathers more than 350 parliamentarians from approximately 100 countries globally.
- Conclusions from the Forum's recent capacity-developing regional seminars in Asia, MENA, and Latin America and the Caribbean reveal that key obstacles to ATT universalisation and implementation include a lack of technical expertise, need for further capacity development, resources, and institutional capacity to fully enforce the treaty's provisions.
- In response to the identified obstacles, recommendation on parliamentary action has reflected the importance of requests for international assistance to enhance ATT implementation.
- Thank you.

### **Hon. Elias Hankach**

- Your Excellencies, my name is Elias Hankach and I am a Member of Parliament in Lebanon and Board member of the Forum.
- From recent global Forum-activities, several key recommendations on parliamentary action, related to our legislative, oversight and awareness-raising functions have highlighted the importance of strengthened international assistance:
- Recommendations of enhanced engagement with a variety of stakeholders, such as civil society, agencies and the Government, confirms the importance of interagency cooperation related to the drafting process of new legislation or amendments on SALW-related processes and the WPS Agenda.
- Moreover, the recommendations include forming regional interparliamentary commissions with the objective of monitoring regional trade in SALW and harmonisation of national legislations.

- Lastly, the conclusions emphasise the need for further regional and inter-regional parliamentary exchange, based on international cooperation, to enhance the universalisation and implementation of the ATT.
- Thank you.