

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 8 *Transparency and reporting*, 21 August 2024, 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 promoting transparency and reporting, based on parliamentary recommendations identified in the project/policy publication.

Secretary General Karin Olofsson

- Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honor to greet you today on behalf of 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.
- I would like to express heartfelt gratitude to the President of the Tenth Conference of States Parties, His Excellency Ambassador Răzvan Rusu for considering this statement. Our condolences for the tragic passing of Mr. Stefan Ott.
- On the present historical 10th Anniversary of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), we must acknowledge that given the current global challenges and ongoing conflicts, continuous actions to stop the diversion of Small Arms and Light Weapons have been, and continue to be vital. Events such as CSP10 are crucial for advancing our efforts. The prevention and reduction of SALW-related violence through the implementation and universalisation of the ATT is a collective effort, which involve all stakeholders, including parliamentarians.
- The Forum is the only membership-based organisation gathering parliamentarians globally across party-political lines, to specifically prevent and reduce Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW)-related violence. The organisation gathers more than 350 parliamentarians from approximately 100 countries globally.
- Members of Parliament play a central role in preventing illicit trade and diversion of SALW in view of their legislative, oversight and awareness-raising roles, but are often overlooked as actors in regards to the universalisation and implementation of relevant international instruments, such as the ATT.
- In light of this, actively including parliamentarians enable more democratic policy discussion and inclusive and transparent decision-making processes, contributing to more peaceful and sustainably developed societies. We encourage all States to consider parliamentary involvement in their work related to the ATT, including in requests for international assistance to enhance ATT implementation, as well as synergies with other relevant SALW control instruments.
- Thank you.

Hon. Elias Hankach

- Your Excellencies, ladies and gentlemen, it is an honor to greet you all. My name is Elias Hankach, and I am a Member of Parliament in Lebanon and Board member of the Forum.
- Insecurity and armed conflict globally, and in the Middle East region, in particular in Gaza and the Israel-Lebanon border, are exacerbated by the widespread and uncontrolled availability of Small Arms and Light Weapons. As parliamentarians, we play a vital role through our legislative, oversight and awareness raising functions, by bridging the gap between international instruments relevant for SALW control, such as the ATT, at national and regional implementation levels. In Lebanon, in order to regulate arms, parliamentarians have voted in favor of the ATT, and the Treaty was ratified in 2019. Together with Palestine, Lebanon is only one of two countries in the MENA region that have joined the ATT.
- Hence, in MENA specifically, the situation calls for effective and concise steps to promote the universalisation and implementation of the ATT including promoting transparency. In a regional Parliamentary Action Plan adopted by parliamentary Members of the Forum in June 2024, at a regional seminar organised together with the Swedish Embassy in Amman, in a project funded by the Ministry for Foreign Affairs of Canada; important recommendations were identified to promote the ATT, including calls for the further development of National Action Plans and SALW-Commissions, with a focus on illicit SALW, the ATT, and the Women, Peace & Security Agenda. At global level, key recommendation on transparency included promoting the use of parliamentary control tools and establish regional interparliamentary commissions to improve the implementation of the ATT and encourage the adoption of related gender responsive public policies and strategies, as well as monitoring trade regional trade in SALW. Welcome to learn more at a side event arranged by the Forum and the Government of Canada in room F at 13.30 hrs today.
- Thank you for your attention.