



Statement on the ATT Five-Year Strategy to the 12th ATT Conference of States Parties

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We would like to thank the ATT Extended Bureau and the ATT Secretariat for their work so far to develop elements for a five-year ATT strategy.

After a year of productive consultations, Control Arms believes that the latest set of draft elements provides an opportunity to collectively reflect on the Treaty's progress to date and to strengthen efforts over the coming years.

However, the proposed draft elements – as they stand now – appear to capture almost every aspect of the Treaty, from infrastructure and process to implementation by States Parties. Further prioritisation is needed to ensure clear strategic direction. We are concerned that the process now could be a case of crossing items off a long list. We believe a better next step would instead be to set out where we want to be in five years, identifying current implementation gaps based on this vision, and setting out the plan for closing those gaps and reaching our declared goal. Excessive granular focus on specific actions at this stage risks the development of a workplan with a set of tasks, rather than ensuring a strategic course for the next five years of the Treaty.

Within the proposed draft elements, we welcome the focus by many States Parties on Articles 6 and 7. A worthy objective in this regard would be to ensure that States Parties conduct rigorous, standardised, and evidence-based risk assessments for all proposed transfers and refuse to allow transfers of arms where these could be used to commit or facilitate violations of international law.

The Control Arms submission to the ATT Secretariat on the Strategy outlines specific actions that could be incorporated under the objective of advancing Articles 6 and 7. We would be happy to further elaborate on these points as the work to develop and refine the strategy progresses.

We look forward to further engaging in the development and operationalisation of an ATT strategy. With a wealth of experience on ATT implementation and universalisation, civil society has a vital role to play in this area. Then, once a strategy is agreed, we stand ready to promote its uptake at the national and regional levels.

Thank you.