



Inter-Parliamentary Union
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Twelfth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
IPU Statement under Agenda Item 7 - Universalization
26 August 2026

Madam President,

The IPU is honoured to participate in the Twelfth Conference of States Parties to the ATT.

As the global organization of national parliaments, the IPU places humanitarian disarmament, international humanitarian law and the protection of civilians at the heart of its peace and security work.

Since the adoption of the ATT, the IPU has consistently supported the universalization and effective implementation of the Treaty through its political work and through direct support to its 183 Member Parliaments. Our objective is not simply to increase the number of States Parties, but to ensure that the Treaty translates into national practice and greater protection for people. We believe universalization and implementation must remain people-centred, with the prevention of human suffering and respect for IHL at its core.

Today, we renew our commitment to mobilizing parliaments worldwide in support of ATT universalization. This commitment was most recently reaffirmed at the 151st IPU Assembly through the Geneva Declaration on *Upholding humanitarian norms and supporting humanitarian action in times of crisis*. In this Declaration, parliamentarians called for stronger oversight to ensure that decisions on arms transfers are evidence-based, consistent with IHL and that they fully consider their humanitarian consequences. We encourage States to bring this Declaration to the attention of their parliaments.

For us, the ATT is part of a wider responsibility to prevent weapons from fuelling conflict, serious violations of international humanitarian and human rights law and violence against civilians. Its relevance must therefore be understood not only in terms of arms control, but also in terms of human security and common security. This is why universalization remains so important. Every country brought within the Treaty strengthens the common framework of responsibility governing the international arms trade.

In this regard, the IPU stands ready to deepen its cooperation with the Presidency, the ATT Secretariat, the States Parties and other relevant partners, to support parliaments in countries considering accession or ratification, and to help sustain parliamentary engagement thereafter.

Many thanks for your attention.

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