



Small Arms Survey

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CSP12 Agenda Item 7, Universalization

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Thank you madame chair. As many already know, the Small Arms Survey's Canadian-funded ATTUNE project aims to lower barriers towards ATT universalization within the Indo-Pacific region. As part of this project, we recently released a blog on how a collective effort involving parliamentarians, government agencies and civil society led to the Philippines joining the ATT in 2022.

In addition, last week, the Survey and MAG co-organised a workshop in Bangkok bringing together national IHL experts from across the region entitled "Strengthening National Approaches to Responsible Arms Governance and Reducing Humanitarian Harm". While we acknowledge that every effort needs to be tailored to the vastly different contexts of each Indo-Pacific state, several general observations emerged:

- First, that limited interagency bandwidth fuels compliance hesitancy, and relevant agencies often aren't aware of the international assistance available.
- Second, when political processes stall, investing in civil society and parliamentarians can help rebuild momentum toward ratification.
- And finally, with no natural 'home' for ATT discussions in the region, showing the relevance of the treaty to regional security concerns can provide useful entry points in other fora.

Universalization is a two-way process: we need to continue promoting the ATT with non-states parties while also reflecting on how to ensure that the treaty remains relevant to the interests and needs of these states. We have noted that administrative burdens still discourage some Pacific Small Island Developing States from ratifying the ATT. In this regard, we would like to welcome the working paper by Australia on building synergies and improving transparency and reporting outcomes across conventional arms control instruments as one example of how these administrative barriers can be overcome.

Thank you.