

Agenda Item 7. Treaty Universalization

Thank you, Chair.

I would like expressing my sincere appreciation to the Working Group on Treaty Universalization and the Presidency of the CSP12 for their engagement with young people and for supporting youth voices throughout the process, as well as to the south Africa and Panama for their strong support for youth engagement and discussions on the Arms Trade Treaty.

I would also like to thank the Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat, the UNODA in Geneva, Norway, Ireland, the United Kingdom, Mexico, and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights, as well as the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development, the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean, the African Union, Control Arms, the International Action Network on Small Arms, Saferworld, the Centre for Human Rights at the University of Pretoria, Permanent Peace Movement, Youth4Disarmament, Kenya Coalition on Youth, Peace and Security, SEHLAC, and the Austrian Institute for European and Security Policy.

Together with many of these organizations, we worked to develop the first edition of Youth4ATT. I would like to emphasize that this initiative was driven by the voluntary efforts of young people and by their commitment to contributing to the effective implementation of the Treaty.

Youth4ATT is an informal platform to create a space for exchanging challenges and opportunities related to the ATT and the discussions of the CSP12.

We received 306 applications from 51 countries across six regions. Importantly, 42.5 per cent of applicants came from States that have not yet joined the Treaty, while 4.3 per cent came from Signatory States that have not yet become States Parties.

Even more importantly, 68 per cent of applicants had no previous experience with ATT, while 90 per cent had never participated in an CSP or any related process. **Statistics show you how the youth** interested in the Treaty, but who may not yet have access to the knowledge, networks, or spaces necessary to participate. Youth4ATT therefore used education not simply as a tool for awareness, but as a pathway to meaningful participation.

Participants learned about the Treaty and its implementation, engaged with States, experts and international organizations, discussed different regional perspectives, and transformed this knowledge into policy recommendations.

This is directly relevant to universalization. Our regional discussions showed that, in several contexts, including the Middle East and North Africa and Asia-Pacific regions, limited awareness and understanding of the ATT remain important challenges. Participants therefore emphasized the need for stronger education and public awareness, regional workshops, peer learning, and practical capacity-building.

We also encourage more States and organizations to become part of future editions of Youth4ATT. Investing in this initiative, and in youth participation more broadly, is an investment in the future of the Treaty.

I would like to conclude with what my colleagues shared during the side event we organized here in Geneva yesterday:

We came from different countries from States Parties, Signatory States, and States that have not yet joined the Treaty. We face different realities and different challenges, but education and the opportunity to dialogue and learn from one another brought us together. Through Youth4ATT, This shows us that universalization requires collective action. Before asking state to support the Treaty, we need to give them the opportunity to understand it, to see its relevance to their own realities, and to become part of the conversation.

Thank you.