



Statement on International Assistance
12th ATT Conference of States Parties, Agenda Item 11 - International Assistance

Delivered by - Hiba Khan scheduled for morning of Thursday, 27 August 2026

Thank you, Mister Chair

As ATT universalization slows and challenges to Treaty implementation persist, we believe more innovative approaches are needed to the use of funding from the VTF. This year, for example, Control Arms has had the opportunity to work with Latvia to convene diplomats and a limited number of officials from capitals on strengthening women's leadership at the ATT. A second part of that project was working with UNODA to develop an online course on the interpretation and application of Article 7. That course launched this week in Arabic, English, French and Spanish. We hope that this initiative will be the beginning of more innovative and sustained approaches to supporting Treaty implementation in the future.

Mister Chair,

Proponents of multilateralism and restraint are facing significant headwinds. While military expenditures rise sharply, support for humanitarian assistance is declining; according to the OECD, international aid fell by 23.5 per cent last year, representing the single largest drop in the history of official development assistance. It is all too obvious to state that these figures pose real-world ramifications for civilians caught up in conflicts.

Overlapping humanitarian crises, **rearmament** amongst major powers, and the targeted erosion of international norms underscore that **arms control has never been a more critical tool of conflict prevention**. It addresses the drivers of armed violence before they escalate, protecting communities and reducing the humanitarian costs of conflict. The Control Arms Coalition brings a unique perspective to this effort: our members engage directly with national governments and remain closely connected to the realities of communities on the ground. This combination underscores the role civil society plays in ensuring that arms control measures are not only ambitious, but also rooted in lived experience. For these reasons, Control Arms continues to call on States and international organisations to support civil society's role in arms control.

I thank you.