



Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office



Expectations for the Arms Trade Treaty

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A close-up photograph of a hand moving a bullet on a chessboard. The bullet is being moved from a light square to a dark square. The background is a solid blue color. The text is overlaid on the image.

The UK Prime Minister

"This is a landmark agreement that will save lives and ease the immense human suffering caused by armed conflict around the world."

1) CONTEXT

2) BENEFITS

3) CHALLENGES

Context

- Conventional arms have a vital role in ensuring legitimate defence and security
- But their misuse costs 100,000s of lives, violates human rights, undermines security and development, and fuels conflict, crime and terrorism



Context

Existing controls play valuable roles:

- National and regional controls
- Export Control lists and agreements: Wassenaar and MTCR
- Transparency: UN Arms Register
- Certain types of weapons: CCW, Ottawa & Oslo Conventions
- Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons

Context

But we lacked a set of rules combining:

- all conventional arms
- legally binding
- high standards
- Universal
- Protecting legitimate trade

Benefits

- 1) **Legally binding**
- 2) **Good prospects for achieving universality**
- 3) **Covers all main conventional weapons, ammunition and parts**
- 4) **Sets high standards for exports: prohibited for genocide or war crimes; mandatory refusal if unacceptable risk of undermining peace and security, or violating international humanitarian law or human rights, or facilitating terrorism or crime**
- 5) **Mandatory reporting on export authorisations**

Benefits

- 6) Regulation of arms brokering and where feasible of imports, transit and trans-shipment
- 7) Prevent diversion to illicit trafficking or use
- 8) Encouragement to prevent corruption
- 9) Cooperation and assistance
- 10) Regular Conference of States Parties, small Secretariat

The Arms Trade Treaty would fully recognise States' rights to self-defence and their legitimate interests in producing, exporting and importing weapons. International industrial collaboration in arms production would be promoted through the introduction of common standards

26 MILLION PEOPLE FORCED TO FLEE THEIR HOMES BECAUSE OF ARMED CONFLICT



The Treaty will protect the legitimate arms trade



Violence fuelled by unregulated or illegal weapons diverts resources from:



Education



Health



Critical Infrastructure

It undermines sustainable development, erodes stability and robs millions of their future



THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

A man, woman or child dies **every minute** from armed violence. Two-thirds die in countries not officially in conflict.



Poorly regulated or illegal flows of **weapons** from abroad destabilise societies, states and regions

The Treaty will save lives

\$18, 

Armed violence has cost Africa \$18bn a year, equivalent to the total aid it receives.

The Treaty will promote development



1 PERSON DIES EVERY MINUTE FROM ARMED VIOLENCE. IN THAT SAME MINUTE, **15 NEW ARMS** ARE MANUFACTURED.

"A safer future is within our grasp. We will not rest until we have secured it"



When terrorists benefit from the unfettered proliferation of weapons, they threaten the security of not only the countries where they base themselves but also their neighbours and the rest of the world.

The Treaty will combat terrorism and crime



Up to three-quarters of grave human rights abuse involves misuse of weapons.

The Treaty would require governments not to authorise arms exports if there was an unacceptable risk they could be used to violate human rights or international humanitarian law

The Treaty will reduce human suffering



Benefits

What difference will the ATT make?

- **Save lives – poorly regulated and illegal arms flows kill**
- **Promote development – violence costs resources and stability**
- **Combat terrorism and crime**
- **Reduce human suffering – most human rights abused by arms**
- **Protect legitimate arms trade – recognises right to self-defence. International industrial collaboration will be promoted through common standards.**

Challenges

1) **ACHIEVING ENTRY INTO FORCE**

- 50 ratifications - expected this year
- UK and several EU partners aiming to ratify soon
- UK: amendments to regulations on brokering and to Criteria
- Expect to apply Articles 6 and 7 provisionally
- Looking ahead now to Provisional Secretariat and the first Conference of States Parties

Challenges

2) SUPPORTING IMPLEMENTATION

- UNSCAR fund - UK \$150,000 this financial year
- EU projects - €5m
- Bilateral projects – UK \$350,000
- Efforts need to be sustained

Challenges

3) PROMOTING COMPLIANCE

- Decisions will remain national
- Mandatory reporting will promote transparency
- Mechanisms to raise and to resolve concerns
- Promotes international co-operation and assistance
- Over time, standards will be ratcheted up

Challenges

4) UNIVERSALITY: CONVINCING STATES WITH CONCERNS

- **Domestic weapons?** Sovereign decision for States alone
- **Non-State Actors?** Strong provisions on terrorism, crime and diversion without obstructing company-to-company transfers
- **Importers interests; security of supply?** Legitimate trade is protected; licensing will be more predictable and transparent; dispute mechanism; regular Conferences; some exporters eg EU already apply higher tests
- **Defence Co-operation Agreements?** Included, be consistent with ATT
- **Adoption without consensus?** Only 3 delegations blocked consensus
- **Scope too narrow, standards too low?** ATT sets minimum, states are encouraged to go further, many (including UK) already do
- **Burden on industry?** Industry supports ATT. Higher global standards will level the playing field; increase predictability and confidence for global supply chains; support development of national production capacity



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TO SUM-UP:

1) CONTEXT

2) BENEFITS

3) CHALLENGES

- Thank You
- Any Questions?

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