

ARMS TRADE TREATY



Final UN Treaty negotiations begin on July 11.

OVERVIEW

1997. UN Secretary-General submits a report to the General Assembly on the causes and prevention of excessive and destabilizing accumulation and transfer of small arms and light weapons--particularly as they cause or exacerbate conflicts.

2009. The UN adopts a resolution in support of ongoing talks that would culminate in a final accord in 2012. The vote passes 153-1 with 19 abstentions.

July 2, 2012. Under the auspices of the United Nations, the international community begins formal negotiations for an international Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) that would govern the cross-border transfer of all conventional arms, ammunition and related equipment.

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POTENTIAL IMPEDIMENTS TO AN AGREEMENT

The United States is insisting that treaty negotiations are conducted by consensus. This means that any single country could prevent an Arms Trade Treaty from coming into effect. Canada.

Zimbabwe voted in 2009 against proceeding towards an Arms Trade Treaty.

19 countries abstained, including China, Russia, Iran, Syria, India, Pakistan and Cuba.

Canada changed its position in March 2012 and proposed that hunting and sporting weapons be excluded from the ATT. This view undermines the essence of a treaty (and may be rooted in a misunderstanding as the ATT relates solely to international trade and not to domestic arms sales.)

WHY THE ARMS TRADE TREATY MATTERS

(Excerpts from the 1997 UN Report (A/52/298))

Readily available and easy to use, small arms and light weapons have been the primary or sole tools of violence in almost every recent conflict dealt with by the United Nations.

The supply of weapons to regions of tension and conflict is characterized by a lack of transparency that is due to the characteristics of small arms and light weapons which can be easily concealed during transport.

Accumulations of weapons by means of illicit trafficking are facilitated by a lack of coordination and cooperation among the States involved.

TAKE ACTION. SUPPORT AN ARMS TRADE TREATY!

Send a message to your government to let them know that you care deeply about the Arms Trade Treaty and that they must support negotiations that produce a comprehensive treaty.

Your voice matters. The reduction of illegal arms trade can save thousands and thousands of lives in conflict regions.

Sending a message is quick and easy.

[JUST CLICK HERE TO SEND A MESSAGE NOW](#)

or go to www.pragmora.com/ArmsTradeTreaty

Global Military Spending in 2011
\$1.7 trillion

FOR MORE INFORMATION:

About the Arms Trade Treaty www.controlarms.org

About Pragmora www.pragmora.org