

Subject line: You've done it: governments vote to start work on an ATT

After three weeks of campaigning in New York and three years of campaigning around the world, the Control Arms campaign achieved a massive victory yesterday, 26 October, when the UN General Assembly's First Committee passed a resolution to start work on an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

In a highly significant display of support for establishing common standards on the international arms trade, 116 governments from around the world had officially endorsed the resolution entitled "Towards an Arms Trade Treaty" before it was voted on.

The resolution subsequently received resounding support with 139 governments out of the 164 that voted, voting in favour. Governments now have an opportunity to create a treaty that will help make a real difference to the hundreds of thousands of people whose lives are devastated by armed violence every year.

Specifically, the resolution commits the UN to set up a Group of Governmental Experts to establish the basis for "a comprehensive, legally-binding instrument establishing common standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms"- an Arms Trade Treaty. There is still a long way to go until the treaty comes into effect, but this is an enormously important first step and progress on this resolution has been very quick in UN terms.

We would not have reached this point without the support of the more than 1 million people who have joined the Million Faces, and the thousands of dedicated and creative campaigners who have worked so hard on the campaign.

Congratulations!

For more information on the resolution and Control Arms activities at the UN look at the website: <http://www.controlarms.org/>