

# AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

## RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE G20 ON ARMS TRANSFERS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

**The G20 Summit, which this year focuses on ‘Shaping an Interconnected World’, is an important opportunity for G20 countries – which together constitute almost two-thirds of the global population, more than 80 per cent of global GDP and three-quarters of worldwide trade - to affirm their collective commitment to ensuring that human rights are a fundamental part of the framework of interconnectivity that is developing and envisaged, thus setting an important example to the rest of the world.**

Amnesty International welcomes the focus on making progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda during the summit. Implementation of the Agenda should ensure universal respect for human rights and human dignity and recognize that in our increasingly interconnected world, economic policy and development must be developed and targeted in ways to reduce inequalities and ensure that no one is left behind whilst promoting effective accountability for all stakeholders. In this respect, we urge all members of the G20 to pay particular attention to Goals 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls); 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries); and 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels).

### ARMS TRANSFERS AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Peace, justice, and effective, accountable and inclusive institutions are at the core of sustainable development. Goal 16.1 aims to “significantly reduce all forms of violence and related death rates everywhere” and includes among its indicators the proportion of conflict-related deaths.

Amnesty International has documented an extensive body of cases in which serious human rights violations have been committed and/or facilitated using conventional weapons transferred by exporting states. The transfer of conventional arms, including less lethal weapons and other law enforcement equipment, can have a serious adverse impact on the enjoyment of the full spectrum of human rights. These include in particular the right to life, the right to liberty and security of the person, the right to freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly, protection against enforced disappearance, and freedom from torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment. Arms transfers to conflict zones can lead to the destruction of civilian infrastructure and the breakdown of basic services, including health and education. Millions of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and refugees fleeing conflict currently live without adequate access to health, education, medical facilities, and water and sanitation. Conventional weapons have also been used to directly target civilian infrastructure, such as hospitals and schools.

Amnesty International has also raised serious concerns about the way in which remotely piloted aircraft or unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs), mostly commonly known as drones, have been used increasingly in recent years. The organization calls for the use and transfer of armed drones to be brought in line with international law and standards.

**As part of the implementation of Goal 16.1 of the SDGs, Amnesty International urges all member states of the G20 to:**

- **Ensure that the final communiqué emphasizes that states must not authorize the transfer of conventional arms where they have knowledge at the time of authorization that the arms or items would be used in the commission of genocide, crimes against humanity, or war crimes or if there is an overriding risk that an export could facilitate a serious violation of international human rights law or international humanitarian law;**

- Encourage states who have not done so to ratify/accede to and implement the Arms Trade Treaty;
- Support efforts to end the trade in equipment that has no practical use in law enforcement other than for the purpose of torture and other cruel, inhuman or degrading treatment or punishment or capital punishment – such as body-worn electric shock equipment;
- Ensure that G20 countries strictly regulate the transfer of equipment that could be easily misused for torture or other ill-treatment – e.g. truncheons and batons; or electric shock projectiles;
- Reiterate that the use or facilitation of lethal drone strikes must comply with international law;
- Publicly disclose targeted killing standards and criteria;
- Ensure that there are effective investigations and appropriate remedies where there are reasonable grounds to believe that drone strikes resulted in unlawful killings.