

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

FACT SHEET

AI index: ACT 30/015/2013
4 March 2013

Overview of Arms Trade Treaty Global Campaign

Background

The UN process to establish an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) began in 2007 after Amnesty International and its partners in the Control Arms campaign managed to convince 153 governments to vote in December 2006 for a consultation. Amnesty International had initiated the idea of an ATT in the early 1990s with a small group of NGOs and then from 1995 with a number of Nobel Peace Laureates led by Dr Oscar Arias. In 2007, a record number of governments sent proposals, in 2008-9 specialist UN bodies considered them, and in 2010 formal deliberations began. These led to the UN ATT Conference in July 2012 to decide the Treaty text, and will culminate in the "Final UN Conference on the ATT" in March 2013.

For further information, please see: *Timeline of Arms Trade Treaty campaign landmarks*.

Campaign objective

The purpose of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Global Campaign is to mobilize international political opinion to put pressure on governments and convince them to agree strong common rules and definitions in the Treaty that will help protect human rights.

- Amnesty International's central demand is that the Arms Trade Treaty must include a *Golden Rule* that no arms transfers can be approved if there is a substantial risk that the arms will be used to commit or facilitate serious violations of human rights, war crimes or unlawful armed violence.

We also want a treaty:

- that regulates all types of conventional arms, including weapons, munitions and other equipment used in both military and law enforcement operations;
- that covers all aspects of the international arms trade, including gifts, arms brokering, transporting and financing;
- and that has mechanisms to prevent the diversion of arms transfers to unauthorized end users, public annual reporting and criminalization of illicit trafficking.

For further information, please see: *Amnesty International Briefing Paper, February 2012*.

March ATT negotiating conference

The United Nations has invited all states to a Final UN Conference in New York to complete the negotiation of the text of a global Arms Trade Treaty, which is scheduled to run from 18 to 28 March this year.

Level of support

An Arms Trade Treaty with human rights and humanitarian law criteria for transfers and wide scope is supported by most European Union and Latin American countries. We also have support from a large majority of African and Caribbean States, plus a few Asia Pacific countries including Australia,

Japan, and New Zealand. Amnesty International's *Golden Rule* was included in the UN Chair's draft paper of July 2012. However, China, Russia and most Arab countries plus Iran, Syria, Egypt, Pakistan, Cuba, Bolivia, Venezuela and a few others continue to work against a strong Arms Trade Treaty with rules for human rights protection.

For further information, please see: *Media briefing: The big six in Arms Trade Treaty negotiations*.

/ENDS