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UN: 24 hours left to pass potentially lifesaving Arms Trade Treaty

World leaders have just 24 hours to adopt the final text of an Arms Trade Treaty in what would be a major step towards ending the devastating human rights and humanitarian impact of the global trade in conventional weapons and munitions, Amnesty International said today from the United Nations in New York.

The [final draft of the treaty – circulated on Wednesday morning at the UN](#) – is expected to be adopted by all Member States tomorrow barring significant objections.

“While there are still deficiencies in this final draft, this treaty has the potential to provide significant human rights protection and curb armed conflict and violence if all governments demonstrate the political will to implement it properly and develop it in the future,” said Brian Wood, Head of Arms Control and Human Rights at Amnesty International.

“After nearly two decades of campaigning by Amnesty International members worldwide, we are tantalizingly close to seeing the passage of a treaty which includes strong prohibitions on arms transfers that fuel genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity – giving states no wiggle room to continue sending arms to fuel atrocities.

“It’s also encouraging that the final draft forces states to assess the overriding risk of serious human rights violations – including summary killings, torture and enforced disappearances – before allowing arms transfers to go ahead. We expect all states to ratify the treaty promptly after it is adopted and implement this provision in good faith.

“We’re disappointed that, despite widespread concerns by many governments, the scope of the treaty remains short of what types of arms should be covered – we urge all states to apply the spirit of the treaty to the broadest possible range of arms. And it’s troubling that the rule on defence cooperation agreements is unclear and might be exploited to circumvent the terms of the treaty.”