



ATT MONITOR

Civil society perspectives on the
Third Conference of States Parties
to the Arms Trade Treaty
11-15 September 2017



Reaching Critical Will

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The *ATT Monitor* is produced by the Reaching Critical Will programme of the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF) daily during all ATT meetings.

Editor: Ray Acheson
www.reachingcriticalwill.org
info@reachingcriticalwill.org

The views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those of WILPF or Reaching Critical Will.

BRINGING THE ARMS FAIR TO THE ARMS TREATY

Ray Acheson | *Reaching Critical Will of WILPF*

By this past Sunday afternoon in London, over 100 people had been arrested blockading the set-up of the world's largest arms fair. For seven days, activists blocked traffic with their bodies in order to prevent trucks with weapons from reaching the ExCeL centre in the Docklands. On Monday, artists opened an art fair featuring scathing critiques of the war profiteering to be on display this week at the Defence and Security Equipment arms fair.

Inside the fair, which opened on Tuesday, representatives of some of the most egregious human rights abusers in the world are perusing the latest technologies of violence. Many of these representatives, invited by

the UK government to attend the fair, are from countries on the UK government's own watch list for human rights violations.

Meanwhile, over in Geneva, states are gathered for the Third Conference of States Parties (CSP3) to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). Some of the governments speaking here likely have representatives over at the arms fair. The UK certainly does. Five UK ministers were due to speak at the arms fair. But not one UK minister was present at the opening of CSP3. A few years ago, the UK government was considered a major "champion" of the Treaty. Today, it apparently prefers to promote arms sales rather than regulate them. Britain's own arms companies are



Image part of the Art the Arms Fair in protest of DSEI arms fair in London

Editorial, continued

racking in billions of pounds from conflicts worldwide. And they are not alone.

“People are not stupid,” said Farah Karimi, Executive Director Oxfam Novib, during Tuesday afternoon’s discussion about the links between the ATT and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). “They see that words do not match states’ actions.” But at this year’s CSP, states aren’t even offering words. After two days of discussions, not a single state party or signatory has mentioned the arms fair. A group of Latin American states appealed to states to stop arms transfers to Venezuela in the midst of ongoing violence, but there has not yet been any acknowledgement of this appeal by the relevant exporters (or anyone else). There has also not been any similar calls made by for the cessation of transfers to the parties to the conflicts in Yemen, Syria, South Sudan, Ukraine, Iraq, or any other loci of armed violence. Costa Rica was the only state to mention the conflict in Yemen by name. All other references to reality and appeals to uphold either law or conscience were left to civil society organisations and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC).

During the SDG discussion, Mexico asked how our community can go beyond the ATT to reduce violence and arms flows. With the shocking and flagrant violation of the Treaty’s rules and norms, which are met with no credible or visible consequences, it’s hard to imagine even utilising the ATT effectively let alone going beyond it.

But thinking beyond the ATT may be the only thing we are left with to actually reduce human suffering, save lives, protect cities and societies, prevent gender-based violence, impede criminal networks, and foster sustainable development. Mozambique mentioned that is hosting a meeting in Maputo in December to think about actions states can take to end the use of explosive weapons in populated areas. Elaborating new standards, political and legal, on the use of weapons and tying those standards to arms transfers could be an effective way to make real change in this landscape.

At the end of the day, however, the problem with the ATT, the use of explosive weapons, and many other issues related to armed violence and conflict, is that states are not respecting the rules or standards they set or sign on to. Claiming that international humanitarian law is sufficient whilst transferring weapons that are used to bomb cities and kill civilians en masse is an egregious affront to that law and undermines any possibility of holding others to account for their actions.

Right now, profits are being protected above people. The ATT was supposed to give us a tool to change that, but until states parties decide to confront those violating it, the Treaty will remain vastly insufficient to counter the death and destruction currently raging throughout the world. •

The Permanent Missions of Sweden and Ireland, and Control Arms invite you a side event on:

Gender Based Violence and the ATT

Thursday, 14 September 2017

13.15 – 14.45

Room 6, CICG

This side event will explore practical guidance for ATT States Parties on key elements of an assessment for risks relating to serious acts of GBV, and explore elements such as: what GBV obligations does the ATT place on States Parties; what information should licensing officials gather and review in order to inform their transfer decisions; and what are the key elements necessary for a practical and straightforward framework of indicators that directly relate to the risk that weapons could be used to commit or facilitate acts of gender-based violence and acts of violence against women and children?

The event will be chaired by Ms. Cynthia Ebbs – Senior Policy Adviser, Control Arms.

Panelists include:

- H.E. Ambassador Paul Beijer, Permanent Mission of Sweden to the UN in Geneva.
- H.E. Ambassador Michael Gaffey, Permanent Mission of Ireland to the UN in Geneva
- Ms. Sarah Boukhary, Programme Associate, Crisis Response, WILPF

Sandwiches will be provided

**Third Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
Geneva, Switzerland – 11-15 September 2017**



NEWS IN BRIEF

Allison Pytlak | *Reaching Critical Will of Women's International League for Peace and Freedom (WILPF)*

The news in brief is not a comprehensive report on all statements but provides brief highlights on a range of themes and positions.

Implementation

Working group (WG): status, terms of reference (TOR), and priority areas of work

- Sierra Leone proposed that the WG focus on assisting states with incorporating Treaty obligations into national law.
- Bulgaria, Belgium, Switzerland, UK, Republic of Korea, and Brazil agreed with the recommendations from the WG to become a standing body with the proposed terms of reference (TOR). Sweden expressed support for the TOR.
- New Zealand asked that it be made clear that CSPs can review the status of the WG, and others, at any point in order to keep them relevant and useful. New ones could also be created. Sweden agreed with this suggestion, emphasising that standing does not mean permanent.
- Bulgaria, Switzerland, and UK felt the WG should prioritise issues relating to article 5, such as the establishment of control systems and national points of contact for ATT implementation. Bulgaria and Switzerland stated that prohibitions and diversion are also very important. Switzerland expressed that the WG should be able to cover articles 2-11, and article 14, suggesting a focus on articles 6, 7, and 11. Several other states supported a focus on those three articles in particular.
- South Africa supported the list of proposed priorities, especially for matters related to establishment of national bodies and mechanisms.
- New Zealand suggested deleting the reference to the Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) from the TOR.
- Bulgaria and Mexico support linking the WG's discussion with work of the VTF in order to better tailor assistance.
- Belgium urged incoming co-chairs to structure the WG's work in a focused way. It said that developing a proposed work plan is one way to do so and that the work plan should be sequenced.
- Netherlands supported the suggestion to have a planned schedule for meetings and improved translation of key documents.
- Costa Rica urged giving attention to the concerns of "intermediary" or transit countries.
- France urged wide participation in the WG, given differences in national experiences and positions. It also encouraged the participation of arms control experts and civil society. Belgium, Sweden, and South Africa agreed on a need to include more expertise and diversity. Belgium suggested that the facilitation of the working group could include an expert.

- New Zealand expressed concern about states not party being unable to join working groups. The current drafting of paragraph 7 indicates closure of meetings is possible at the mere request of a state party, without explanation or notice. New Zealand proposed a new sentence to amend this proposal, which would give a four-week notice period to a declined state, and urged that the TORs of the other working groups be made the same as this. It urged clarification about the ability of signatories to attend closed meetings.
- Costa Rica and Mexico called for WG meetings to be public and open.
- New Zealand asked to include in paragraph 10 language requiring the early circulation and submission of documents. This was supported by Sweden.
- Sweden pointed out that the initial ATT reports provide a rich basis for discussion on almost every subject considered by this WG.
- Switzerland is developing a proposal on risk mitigation measures relevant to article 7. It will be shared with the new chairs of the WG when it is ready.
- Mexico stated that the quality of debate within the WG must rely on capacity to organise its priorities and establish clear working methods and a plan.
- European Union said that the CSPs are a venue to review implementation of the Treaty and consider recommendations from the working groups. Mexico stated that CSPs are the mechanism to develop norms and principles, while WGs are to guide instrumentalisation and must provide clear recommendations.
- France noted that the three WGs strengthen one another.

National control systems

- EU, Bulgaria, and others noted that developing control systems, including lists, is a new experience for many states, requiring information sharing and support.
- Peru is planning to elaborate a national work plan for establishing control systems.
- Sweden outlined key questions that should be considered by countries working on establishing national control systems.
- Brazil is working toward ratification but stated that it already has in place an export control system that largely lives up to ATT standards.
- Burkina Faso stated that it has started to develop transfer control systems and the preparation of preliminary draft laws.

National updates

- El Salvador explained that its law on firearms, ammunition, and related material is the main way by which Treaty obligations are being transposed at the national level. It intends to strengthen or



News in brief, continued

amend laws as needed, and will constitute an inter-institutional commission to support ATT implementation.

- France described its export control.
- Peru will establish a national control system and has established a national border control commission to exchange intelligence and address border issues, such as diversion and trafficking.
- Paraguay participated in an Arias Foundation-funded workshop in Asuncion focused on implementation challenges.
- Republic of Korea has amended laws related to transit and transshipment licenses in order to meet ATT requirements.
- Costa Rica announced that it has recently amended its ATT-relevant legislation, determining that a more inclusive and transparent working method needs to be established. An executive decree is being developed that will go beyond administrative measures and include a list of assessment criteria that will align with articles 7 and 8 of the ATT.

Cooperation and assistance

- EU announced a new outreach programme that will provide tailor-made assistance to parties for capacity building and information exchange.
- El Salvador described the training workshops organised by UNLIREC as helpful for implementation. It will receive a VTF grant to assist with arms control initiatives and convene workshops for civil servants.
- Peru has participated in trainings organized by the Arias Foundation and Germany and worked with UNLIREC to destroy weapons.
- Germany noted that information sharing is vital to implementation. It has contributed half million euro to the VTF and co-funded significant EU-ATT outreach measures, many of which were implemented by its Federal Office of Economics and Export Control (BAFA). It will share experiences from this programme later in the conference.

Diversion and illicit trafficking

- EU urged information exchange to prevent diversion and illicit arms flows, and announced a new project in this regard.
- Costa Rica participated in a training in March to improve national capacities to tackle diversion in all its parts.
- Peru stressed the necessity that national control systems reduce diversion.

Other instruments

- Sierra Leone is making progress on implementing the ECOWAS Convention. It urged expansion of the Convention to account for other conventional weapons.

- Costa Rica urged greater synergy with the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons, and highlighted the need for a legally binding instrument on tracing.
- EU described the principles of its 2008 Common Position and noted that non-EU countries align themselves with that criteria.
- Argentina updated on a meeting of a MERCOSUR working group on firearms and ammunition held earlier in the year.

Thematic session on the ATT and sustainable development

During the afternoon, the CSP moved into a special thematic session about linkages between the ATT and sustainable development. This was undertaken at the request of states parties during preparatory meetings held earlier in the year. The format of the session was an expert panel and informal and interactive discussion chaired by Ambassador Yvette Stevens of Sierra Leone, who delivered a keynote address. She was followed by presentations from Farah Karini, director of Oxfam-Novib, and Simonetta Grassi with the UN Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC).

Ms. Karini presented examples from Central Africa Republic (CAR), South Sudan, and Yemen to demonstrate the very real effect of the arms trade on development. She stated that in CAR, more than 60,000 cases of gender-based violence have been recorded. There are 3.6 million displaced people in South Sudan, and the international community has spent over \$4 billion USD in aid—but arms still reach South Sudan and the conflict thrives. In Yemen, 14 million people are food insecure and half of that face famine. In all three countries, armed conflict has dashed the prospects of achieving development objectives in education, health, and gender equality, among others.

Ms. Grassi took an in-depth look at the precise linkages between the ATT and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). With respect to SDG Target 16(4), she illustrated precise ways in which fulfilling ATT obligations can serve to help achieve that goal, as well as reduce transnational organised crime. Record-keeping and reporting under the ATT, as well those required by other instruments such as the UN Programme of Action and the International Tracing Instrument, can be utilised to gather data and assess progress on 16(4). The collection of data on arms transfer denials would be particularly helpful, as would being better able to distinguish a weapon's country of origin. UNODC has integrated a five-pillar work plan with countries especially in Africa and Latin America to strengthen the criminal justice response and monitor illicit arms flows.

News in brief, continued

Following the presentations, states were encouraged to deliver responses and ask questions, rather than deliver prepared statements. It was not clear which remarks were formal and which were informal, but some highlights included:

- Australia presented an overview from the side event it had just hosted on illicit arms flows, prevention, and the SDGs. It said that there was a lot of discussion about the importance of cooperation and assistance, as well as about mapping opportunities for linkages and maintaining gender issues as a priority.
- Belgium asked how the discussion on this subject can continue beyond CSP3. South Africa agreed there was a need for this, and that it could take place in any of the working groups.
- Ireland drew attention to the working paper that it has prepared for CSP3 to ensure more is done about implementing ATT article 7(4) on gender-based violence, noting that doing so can go a long way to achieving SDG5 on gender equality. The paper contains recommendations for further discussion and action.
- The EU stated that gender equality is at the core of EU values to achieve sustainable development.
- Germany asked if data will be collected from non-state actors.
- Many states that spoke acknowledged that the link between the SDGs and the ATT goes beyond Target 16(4).
- Brazil stressed the intersectionality between international crime and illicit arms flows. Guatemala spoke about the fear that many in their country experience as a result of armed criminal groups.
- Control Arms and Oxfam have released a new paper on this subject, *Goals not Guns*. •

INCENTIVES TO JOIN THE ATT

Philip Alpers | Centre for Armed Violence Reduction

The rate at which states have adopted the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) surprised even its sponsors. Yet the Treaty is often misunderstood and misrepresented—and by some, mistrusted.

To be globally effective, the Treaty must be widely adopted. Yet many states hold back, perhaps wondering, “How can we join the ATT if our systems aren’t ready?” In reality, non-states parties are welcome, and indeed encouraged to “come as you are”. Accession and ratification are open to all, and once inside the ATT framework a new state party becomes eligible for capacity building assistance. In coming years, every government will feel the impact of this global instrument. Only by taking a seat at the table can states influence its future direction.

To reinvigorate the ATT narrative, the Centre for Armed Violence Reduction and the government of Australia now offer the publication *Reinvigorating the Narrative: The Broader Benefits of the Arms Trade Treaty*. The report will be presented at a side event on Wednesday, 13 September. It covers six areas of potential benefit that the ATT can bring: human security, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), national security, market value, regional security, and global collaboration.

Facts and answers can be found in a wide variety of sources, but until now the Treaty lacked a compendium. The full breadth of advantages offered by the ATT, plus an accessible description of how it works had not been assembled in a single, thoroughly referenced source. The report will be available online at <http://www.armedviolencereduction.org/bbb>. •



Side event panel to launch OHCHR report on “The impact of arms transfers on the enjoyment of human rights”

WILPF STATEMENT TO CSP3: PROTECT HUMAN RIGHTS OVER PROFIT MARGINS

This statement was delivered by Ms. Ray Acheson, Director of WILPF's disarmament programme Reaching Critical Will, to the Third Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty on 12 September 2017.

Yemen. Syria. Iraq. South Sudan. Ukraine. One only needs to look at news reports on these countries to understand that civilians are dying and cities are being destroyed.

The statistics of the dead and the displaced, however, do not account for the personal horror experienced by each individual trapped in these war zones, watching their loved ones and their cities die.

The statistics also do not necessarily account for the experiences of women or girls during and after armed conflict, which usually include vastly increased rates of sexual violence, trafficking, forced marriage, abuse, and harassment.

Many—and sometimes most—of the weapons being used in these conflicts have been made and sold by ATT states parties and signatories. In particular, the United Kingdom, France, and the United States are making billions of dollars off of the total destruction of Yemen.

Yesterday, the President of the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC) warned states parties against treating weapons like any other commercial good. Yet the level of war profiteering still going on three years after the Treaty's entry into force suggest that some countries do believe that profits from weapons sales should override the human suffering they inflict around the world.

The President of this meeting has asked that we focus on the things that unite us rather than divide us. We are not here to call out Treaty violations in order to divide the conference. Should we not all be united behind making sure this Treaty achieves its objectives—key amongst which is to reduce human suffering? Should we not all be united to make sure that the gap between the law and respect for the law that the ICRC described is eliminated? Should we not all be united to ensure that human rights are protected over profit margins?

Right now in London, the UK government is hosting the world's largest arms fair. The weapons on display there today will be used in conflicts tomorrow. Activists have blockaded the fair and been arrested for their efforts on behalf of humanity. The least we can do in this room is signal that the international community is taking implementation of this treaty seriously.

States parties must get serious about following the rules, and holding others to account for breaking them. We welcome statements from states or groups of states to cease arms transfers to particular zones of conflict. The statement Mexico read out yesterday should be matched by those appealing to states against transferring weapons to Saudi Arabia and to South Sudan, for example.

We also welcome the Irish working paper on gender-based violence, and highlight our own resources on this issue. In particular, WILPF has produced a briefing paper for this conference, based on earlier research, that provides clear guidance to states about how to assess an arms transfer for the risk of GBV. We encourage states parties to discuss and implement the recommendations contained in these papers.

We also encourage states parties to discuss how the use of explosive weapons in populated areas, which is resulting in human rights and humanitarian law violations in many countries, can be addressed in ATT risk assessment processes.

There needs to be better integration between the ATT and the UN's human rights and disarmament mechanisms and processes. The High Representative for Disarmament Affairs yesterday highlighted the UN Secretary-General's vision of disarmament that saves lives. The ATT could, and should, be an integral part of that vision, but much more serious implementation work is needed to reach that goal. •



Photo © Fred Lubang



SIDE EVENT: IMPACT OF ARMS TRANSFERS ON ENJOYMENT OF HUMAN RIGHTS

Katrin Geyer | *Women's International League for Peace and Freedom*

On the margins of the Human Rights Council's (HRC) 36th regular session and the third Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), WILPF co-organised a side event with the Permanent Missions of Peru, Costa Rica, Guatemala, and Uruguay, Amnesty International UK, and the University of Geneva, Faculty of Law to discuss synergies between the work of the HRC, the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR), and the ATT.

The event's point of origin was the presentation and analysis of the UN Office for the High Commissioner of Human Rights (OHCHR) report "Impact of arms transfers on the enjoyment of human rights," which was requested by HRC resolution 32/12 and published in May 2017. The report highlights the many ways in which arms, and the arms trade, contribute to violations of international humanitarian law (IHL), international human rights law, and specifically gender-based violence.

In their discussions, the diverse expert panel went beyond the report and offered insights into opportunities to connect across perceived silos among the human rights, development, and the arms control community.

The side event kicked off with brief introductory words from co-moderators Carlos Sibille Rivera from the Permanent Mission of Peru and Allison Pytlak of WILPF. After a few welcoming remarks by Minister Maria Antonia Masana, Alternate Permanent Representative of Peru, Ambassador Sabrina Dallafior, Permanent Representative of Switzerland to the Conference of Disarmament, opened the discussion by highlighting the need to enhance cooperation and exchange between the ATT community and the human rights and development communities, so as to capitalise on the opportunity of all relevant stakeholders concentrated in Geneva.

Peggy Hicks, Director of the Thematic Engagement, Special Procedures and Right to Development Division, OHCHR, shared the report's key issues, outlining how arms transfers impact civil, political, economic, social, and cultural rights, including on gender-based violence. She focused on a series of elements human rights risk assessment processes under the ATT should include. Ms. Hicks emphasised the need to work across silos, as assessments require specialised knowledge and expertise from both the field of human rights and the arms trade. She concluded that the "inclusion of human rights law in the ATT is significant and an immensely welcome step in the right direction." Complementing Ms. Hicks' outline of human rights impact assessment criteria when exporting weapons, Rasha Abdul Rahim, Adviser on Arms Control, Secu-

rity, Trade and Human Rights at Amnesty International, highlighted additional criteria member states should use when considering the approval of export licences. Based on Amnesty's interpretation of the Treaty, Ms. Abdul-Rahim walked participants through the steps of a risk assessment.

Marco Sassóli, Professor of International Law at the University of Geneva, provided an account of states parties' obligations that go beyond the ATT, such as those under Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions, which have been strengthened by the International Criminal Court's Commentary and the International Law Commission. These obligations mean states are not to export arms when there is a reasonable and credible proof that it could facilitate or be used for human rights violations.

Oluwafisan Bankale, small arms division in the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS), shared best practices and experiences from the ECOWAS Convention on small arms, which came into force in 2009. Its independent mechanism reviews every arms transfer request and transfers are evaluated against the risk of potential violations of human rights and humanitarian law. He welcomed the ATT to complement the ECOWAS Convention, so to ensure universalisation and tighter global regulations.

WILPF has consistently drawn attention to human rights violations connected to arms transfers, and has made recommendations to HRC mechanisms, various ATT meetings, and CEDAW reviews (Convention on the Discrimination Against Women). This panel gave participants an opportunity to offer a plethora of complementary strategies that can be used to ensure increased accountability and coordination and synergies between human rights bodies and experts and arms trade experts. Suggested measures included awareness raising and information sharing among the general public and parliamentarians about the existence of the ATT and its scope, including the impact on human rights; systematic engagement with human rights bodies, such as the CEDAW review or the Universal Periodic Review, so to ensure visibility of synergies and hold states to account; outreach to military and industry experts so to clarify what legitimate transparency concerns there are, and to determine the maximum possible degree of transparency; and advocacy for an independent mechanism for potential amendments to the ATT in 2020. •



JOINT CIVIL SOCIETY STATEMENT ON US-LED DRONE EXPORT INITIATIVE

In October 2016 the United States published a political declaration subsequently endorsed by 53 countries, on 'the Export and Subsequent Use of Armed or Strike-Enabled Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)' (available at: <https://2009-2017.state.gov/r/pa/prs/ps/2016/10/262811.htm>). This initiative had a number of problematic aspects, including the weakness and vagueness of the principles it articulated.

Work is now being taken forward by a group of states led by the US to draft more detailed politically binding international standards, building on the declaration. This group may be consulting state representatives on these standards in the margins of this year's CSP. In this context, a group of civil society organisations have set out in an open statement reproduced below a range of concerns about the limitations of this initiative - given the harm caused by and risks around drone technology - and made a set of recommendations for the process.

The development of international standards on the export and subsequent use of 'armed or strike-enabled UAVs'

The use of 'Unmanned' Aerial Vehicles (UAVs), or drones, to conduct airstrikes has caused harm in communities, including significant casualties; raised serious legal and ethical concerns; and endangered international peace, security and human rights and rule of law by lowering political, practical, and technological impediments to the use of force. States must be aware that the specific features of these technologies risk facilitating a global expansion of the use of lethal force. Accordingly, states must not disregard the long-standing rules of international law governing the use of force. The use, deployment, and increased proliferation of drones are therefore key challenges that need to be addressed.

Concerningly, there has so far been little concerted attention paid by states at the international level to the emergence of these systems. There is now an effort by states to develop international standards on the export and subsequent use of 'armed or strike-enabled UAVs.'¹ However, we are concerned that this initiative risks setting standards that are too low, and will not adequately address the full range of risks and harm associated with the use of drones. In this context, we make the following recommendations:

We call on the states developing these standards to undertake a process that, at all stages, and at a minimum:

- is inclusive of and open to all countries, as the issues raised by the developing role of drones in the

- use of force are global and pertinent to all; and
- involves meaningful consultation with a range of experts, industry, and civil society, including affected communities, who have been instrumental in bringing concerns around drones to international attention.

We also recommend to states that the standards drafted should, at a minimum:

- recognise from the outset that military force, whether using drones or otherwise, may only be deployed in accordance with well-established rules of international law, and that technological developments do not vary those standards;
- include clear expression of states' commitment to uphold specific and applicable international human rights and humanitarian law;
- include clear commitments (and not just principles) for endorsing states, as well as a process to the review the implementation of those commitments;
- supplement existing law and standards, and not include any commitments that are weaker than or that could weaken existing national, regional, or international obligations, standards, or policies.
- in articulating commitments on responsible export:
 - o include robust and independent human rights assessments of the importing state;
 - o be in line with the standards agreed upon in the Arms Trade Treaty;
 - o ensure strong implementation and verification mechanisms;
 - o involve information exchange between signatories on use; and
 - o include an annual review process to ensure that the export control list is updated with technological developments in the field of drones;
- uphold principles of transparency, accountability, and oversight at both the domestic and international levels. These include, at a minimum, legal and policy transparency, and openness about actual use, harm caused, decision-making, and accountability and oversight processes. Robust and independent casualty recording, with the collection and dissemination of sex- and age-disaggregated data, as well as judicial review and meaningful legislative and other oversight of the use of armed or strike-enabled drones, must be ensured; and
- include a commitment by states to set out in detail their own international-law compliant national policies on the role of drones.

If the concept of 'responsible use' is to be part of this framework, specific work must also be undertaken to reach a common understanding of what this means, and which at least meets existing law and standards as discussed above.



Joint civil society statement, continued

Engagement by the international community

States should voice their positions and/or concerns on the issues pertaining to this process in all relevant multilateral forums to strengthen the international debate.

However, while it is important to address issues of trade, proliferation and the practice of new users, we note that this initiative does not address the full range of concerns around drones. Use by current possessors and producers continues to be problematic from a legal and humanitarian perspective. Unacceptable practices, including those that undermine international law and the rule of law, must be rejected – and cannot be neglected by the international community.

International action and agreement on standards around armed drones, as well as state compliance with international law, will be key to preventing and mitigating current and future harm caused by these systems. While the standards under development could represent an important step forward for states, the goals for international agreement that appear to be being set are modest in comparison to the range of issues of concern surrounding drones and other extraterritorial use of force by states, which the international community must also continue to address. •

Endorsed by:

All Party Parliamentary Group on Drones
 Amnesty International
 Article 36
 Center for Civilians in Conflict
 Coalition for Peace Action
 Drone Wars UK
 European Center for Constitutional and Human Rights
 Human Rights Clinic (Columbia Law School)
 Interfaith Network on Drone Warfare
 International Commission of Jurists
 National Religious Campaign Against Torture
 Nonviolence International Southeast Asia
 Omega Research Foundation
 PAX
 Rete Italiana per il Disarmo
 Rights Watch UK
 SEHLAC Network – Red para la Seguridad Humana en Latinoamérica y el Caribe
 Women's International League for Peace and Freedom

Notes

1. Building on the US-led 'Joint Declaration for the Export and Subsequent Use of Armed or Strike-Enabled Unmanned Aerial Vehicles (UAVs)', published in October 2016 with 53 endorsing states.



*"Civilian Drone Strike"
 by Banksy*

Photo © Yui Mok/PA

This original Banksy image is part of the Art the Arms Fair exhibition on now in London, organised by activists and artists to protest the world's largest arms fair, DSEI. See www.stopthearmsfair.org.uk and www.artthearmsfair.com for details. Follow #StopDSEI and @StopTheArmsFair! on Twitter.

ATT Side-event

GENEVA
DISARMAMENT
PLATFORM



Mansplaining Gender and Disarmament

Thursday, 14 September 2017, 13:00 -15:00

CICG, Room 3

Is gender really a serious issue in disarmament? Do gender issues really have a place in debating weapons use and determining international security policy? Our highly-qualified mansplainer will answer these questions definitively, based on an inflated ego and essentially zero knowledge. Fortunately, our panel of genuine gender and security specialists will bring in their expert knowledge and tactfully set the mansplainer straight. Join us for this unique discussion of women's representation in disarmament forums, the link between masculinity and militarism, and the differential impact of weapons proliferation and use on women. It will also be an opportunity to reflect on what we can do concretely to integrate a gender perspective into our daily disarmament work.

Featuring:

Mr. Rory Logan, Advisor Strategic Management, GICHD as 'The Mansplainer'

Ms. Ray Acheson, Director, Reaching Critical Will

Mr. Callum Watson, Project Officer Gender and Security, DCAF

Ms. Marion Provencher, Junior Programme Officer, GMAP

A sandwich lunch will be served outside the room