

Time for decisive action on the Arms Trade Treaty

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Dying for Action

Decision time for an urgent, effective ATT



Raul Arboleda/AFP/Getty Images

“Only a forceful, unambiguous and verifiable convention can control arms transfers” - Jan Egeland



Counting the human cost

- 2.1 million people have died from armed violence since the UN started discussing the ATT in 2006.
- Plus countless others injured, raped, displaced, with psychological trauma
- This comprehensively impacts on all aspects of development

An effective ATT would prevent an arms transfer where there is substantial risk that it would:

1. Be used in serious violations of human rights, IHL, genocide, or crimes against humanity;
2. Facilitate terrorist attacks, gender-based violence, or violent or organised crime;
3. Violate UN Charter obligations, including arms embargoes, or rules relating to the use of force;

...

An effective ATT would prevent an arms transfer where there is substantial risk that it would:

...

4. Adversely affect regional security;
5. Seriously impair socio-economic development;
6. Involve corrupt practices;
7. Breach other relevant arms control agreements; or
8. Be diverted from its stated recipient.

Prevent Diversion

- Several countries exported arms and ammunition to Chad in 2006 despite clear warnings from UN Panel of Experts in Sudan of the possibility of diversion to armed Sudanese groups.
- Indeed, weapons from Chad did end up in Sudan.



Prevent arms fuelling poverty, conflict, crime, human rights abuses

53 tons (over 2 million rounds) of 7.62mm
small arms ammunition flown into Zimbabwe
in August 2008.

Arms flows into Burundi:
the conflict cost at least
\$5.7bn, 93% live under \$2
per day



Where there's the will – an URGENT treaty

Governments **can** act fast:

- Global financial crisis – 5 months after the crisis peaked, major economies offered 43% of GDP to bail out the financial sector
- Cutting off terrorist funds – 17 days after 9/11, UNSC ordered a freeze of financial assets of those associated with terrorism

Where there's the will – an **EFFECTIVE** treaty

Governments **can** act effectively:

- The 1997 Landmines treaty has cut annual casualties from landmines by more than two-thirds. Virtually no landmines have been sold
- The Montreal Protocol “is working. There is clear evidence of a decrease in the atmospheric burden of ozone-depleting substances”

Decision time is now

- ***It can be done*** – President Obama has radically shifted the landscape on nuclear weapons, other states are seizing the opportunity
- ***It must be done*** - the views of the majority of states are clear
- ***It needs to be done*** – 2000 die every day due to armed violence

Choices in the next week

- The UN Resolution must
 - Agree to start negotiating in 2010
 - Agree to conclude negotiating in 2012
 - Agree enough time to negotiate an effective treaty – more time is required