



RESOLUTION ON AN ARMS TRADE TREATY

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Every year 740.000 people – most of them children and youth – die by small weapons which makes it the fourth deadly reason to die for people between the age of 14 and 44 years, a recent report by the French Institut de Hautes Etudes et de Développement reported in Geneva. There are at least 640 million firearms in the world today. That's one for every ten people on the planet. Between one third and three quarters of all grave human rights violations reported by Amnesty International involve the use of small arms and light weapons. Between 10 and 14 billion units of military small arms ammunition are produced every year – that's roughly two bullets for every man, woman and child on the planet. Every year, at least 1 million firearms are lost or stolen worldwide. Nearly 60% of the world's firearms are in the hands of private individuals.

(<http://www.controlarms.org/en/documents%20and%20files/killer-facts2>)

Despite the suffering and poverty fuelled by irresponsible arms transfers, there is still no comprehensive, binding international treaty on the control of trade in conventional arms. Whereas the global family succeeded to overcome a huge number of diseases like pest and cholera this illness is far from being cured.

Since October 2003 the Control Arms Campaign (jointly run by Amnesty International, IANSA and Oxfam) has been calling for a strong and effective Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), a legally binding international instrument, which will draw together and consolidate states' current obligations under international law. If properly implemented, such an ATT would reduce the human cost associated with the proliferation of conventional arms. It would prevent unscrupulous arms suppliers finding the weakest point in the supply chain, and ensure that all arms exporters and importers are abiding by the same high standards regarding the use, management and transfer of arms, leading to a more secure world.

The idea of a global ATT was inspired by Nobel Peace Laureates and developed by lawyers, human rights organisations, and humanitarian NGOs. It now enjoys the support of a growing number of governments, as well as more than 800 civil society organisations and over one million people worldwide.

In December 2006, 153 governments voted in favour of a global Arms Trade Treaty in the UN General Assembly. This work has started now.

The European Youth Forum:

Expresses its deep concern that every day, over one thousand people most of them youth under age of 21 die as a consequence of armed violence while thousands more are victims of severe human rights violations;

Underlines the importance of an Arms Trade Treaty to strictly control the global arms trade in order to protect everyone's rights and lives;

Urges governments to support the Arms Trade Treaty process at the UN, and ensure it moves swiftly to a negotiation phase and is brought to a successful conclusion;

Requests to reduce radically the production of small weapons and put them under international control and effectively sanction illegal weapons transfer into conflict zones;

Asks for a global Arms Trade Treaty based on the following "5 Golden Rules" not allowing States to authorise international transfers of conventional arms or ammunition where they will:

- (i) be used or are likely to be used for gross violations of international human rights law or serious violations of international human rights law.
- (ii) have an impact that would clearly undermine sustainable development or involve corrupt practices;
- (iii) provoke or exacerbate armed conflict in violation of their obligations under the UN Charter and existing treaties.
- (iv) contribute to an existing pattern of violent crime.
- (v) risk being diverted for one of the above outcomes or for acts of terrorism.