



Arms Trade Treaty Preparatory Committee 13-17 February 2012 Side Event 13 February 2012

'Import and Transit Considerations for an Arms Trade Treaty'

The Side event, "Import and Transit Considerations for an Arms Trade Treaty" was hosted by **Trinidad and Tobago** and **Control Arms** for the purpose of identifying existing mechanisms that effectively control the import and transit of arms, as well as gaps and inadequacies in existing practices. The side event focused on three country case studies as a basis for recommendations on how an ATT can address transit and import considerations for all states. The three cases, **Barbados**, **Estonia**, and **Namibia**, were chosen for their geographical diversity, varied capabilities and range of issues confronting them.

The panel gave recommendations on how lessons learned from the case studies could benefit an ATT: States should reduce overlap in legislation and close loopholes in national legislation and regulation; States should adopt brokering regulation and seek high and enforceable import standards; States should address transit and transshipment control and improve reporting, information exchange and transparency at the domestic and international level.

At the national level, states can improve regulation of transfers by conducting national audits, passing legislation (as required), establishing national entities responsible for implementation, and meeting multilateral and international obligations.

The ATT can provide an international platform requiring legislation at the **national level** and assistance and guidance for implementation and enforcement of treaty obligations.

Following questions and comments, the Chair ended the session by stressing the need for clarity in language and the further definition of all transfers as well as the need for an ATT to cover the broadest range of transfers possible.