

## **Arms Trade Treaty Diplomatic Conference 2 - 27 July 2012 Summary Report: Plenary Session: Afternoon - 3 July 2012**

The conference was delayed once again but a few points were touched upon and some States expressed their views. The provisional rules of procedure and the provisional agenda were agreed upon, including members of the Bureau who will constitute the Committee of the Diplomatic Conference. These are **Kenya, Nigeria and Egypt** from the African group, **Mexico and Saint Vincent and Grenadines** from Latin America and the Caribbean, **Ukraine, Belarus and Azerbaijan** from the East Europe group, **Australia, Netherlands, and Switzerland** from Western states and **Japan, Republic of Korea and Iran** from the Asia group.

Roberto Garcia Moritan also confirmed the appointment of Daniel Prins as the Secretary General of the conference. In addition, the Credential Committee will include **Italy, Maldives, China, Costa Rica, Egypt, Panama, Senegal, the Russian Federation and the USA.**

**The Holy See** requested the floor and raised the issue of its participation in the conference. It recalled that in previous international conferences especially disarmament conferences such as the UN PoA conference, the International Tracing Instrument conference and others, it had been enjoying the full participant status. It complained that the present arrangement, as an observer violated its participation in the Conference and could create a disturbing precedent which was not acceptable. It requested that its delegation be given full participation and that the present arrangements should not constitute a precedent.

Three member states took the floor: **Norway, Japan and Australia.**

**Norway** underlined the negative humanitarian consequences that occur due to unregulated arms transfers. A strong and comprehensive treaty must therefore include security and development aspects. The two elements of scope and criteria are considered to be the core focus of the negotiations. Within a broad scope, the inclusion of all conventional weapons (particularly small arms and light weapons and ammunition) is essential, regardless of their military or non-military status. Concerning criteria, authorisation by states parties should not occur if there is a substantial risk towards the violation of international law, particularly international humanitarian law or human rights law. Finally, a gender specific perspective should be reflected in the criteria of the treaty due to the suffering of women caused by armed violence.

**Japan** reaffirmed that states shall not authorise a transfer of conventional arms that go against any international legal obligations. According to **Japan**, strong criteria are necessary and will contribute to adequate authorisation and accountability of each State for its national arms transactions. **Japan** is also in favour of the broadest possible scope of arms. In addition to the seven categories of the UN Register and small arms and light weapons and ammunition, it proposes to include parts or components and technology and equipment. The scope of activities should include export, import, transit, trans-shipment and brokering. **Japan** reaffirmed that the Treaty should be implemented at the national level and that the reporting mechanism should play a key role in enhancing transparency, the submission of national reports should be mandatory and their content made public. Finally, **Japan** restated the importance of international cooperation and assistance. Clarity, objectivity, strength and transparency summarise **Japan's** basic views on the elements of a comprehensive ATT.

For **Australia**, every State has a stake in the outcome of the ATT negotiations. **Australia** stated that this is why it has sponsored workshops in three regions where an ATT would make a difference, specifically in the Pacific, Caribbean and Africa. It recognises that the treaty will present implementation challenges for many countries, and affirmed that this must not be an obstacle to a strong outcome. In this sense, technical assistance and capacity building are essential. **Australia** will provide \$1 million to initiate a multilateral assistance fund for developing countries. Finally, the Australian delegation said it is not interested in a further process of negotiation since "any delay means more lives lost" and "is a chronic cause of profound human suffering".

At the end of the meeting the Chair announced the distribution of a "Discussion Paper" expressing his thoughts and impressions of the current situation. He noted that these were exclusively his own views and were in no way to be perceived as "a basis of anything". The aim of this paper is to "re-establish work, the direction of where delegations are heading, and the spirit of negotiations."