

Arms Trade Treaty Diplomatic Conference 2 - 27 July 2012 Summary Report: Plenary Session: Afternoon - 12 July 2012

The afternoon session of July 12th started with a video statement of **Ellen Johnson Sirleaf**, President of **Liberia**. She first said that the ATT was of “immense importance to her and her country”, and highlighted the disastrous socio-economic consequences of current irresponsible arms transfers, which fuel violence and wars, especially in African countries. President Sirleaf particularly mentioned the need to include in the scope of the treaty bullets and ammunitions, “which actually kill people.”

The delegations of **Mongolia, Botswana, the United States, Cameroon, the United Kingdom on behalf of the permanent 5, Lesotho, Kenya, the Holy See, the East African Community, Nigeria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Ghana, and Togo** then took the floor. A statement was also delivered by a representative of the UN Office of the Coordinator for Humanitarian Affairs (OCHA).

The delegations of **Botswana, Cameroon, Lesotho, Kenya, the East African Community, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Mali, Ghana, and Togo** joined **Nigeria's** statement delivered on behalf of the African Group. They all welcomed the video statement delivered by President of Liberia Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, and supported her view that it is essential that the scope of the future ATT covers small arms and light weapons as well as ammunition. Some of these delegations added more specific comments:

Botswana proposed that international cooperation and assistance be developed through benchmarking exercises, capacity building, information exchange, and technology. The delegation also expressed the view that objective criteria for international arms transfers should be based on UN Security Council embargoes and sanctions.

Cameroon favored a broad scope regarding categories of arms, which should cover small arms and light weapons, ammunition, related technologies, and “all elements that could be used in their manufacture and repair.” The delegation also expressed its support for a strong and comprehensive ATT, which is now “more than ever a humanitarian necessity.” **Lesotho** specifically said that “including small arms and light weapons cannot be overemphasized, because they are the real weapons of mass destruction.” It highlighted the necessity for the ATT to be relevant for all states, whether exporting or importing, by establishing a balance of rights.

The delegation of the **East African Community** called attention to the importance for the future treaty to establish sufficient safeguards to respect sovereignty and territorial integrity.

The **Democratic Republic of Congo** recommended to “have a dialogue with representatives of manufacturers of arms.”

The **United States** specifically explained that a key benefit of the creation of high international standards for controlling the transfer of arms will be to reduce illicit arms trafficking, which fuel “repressive regimes, criminal syndicates, insurgent groups, and terrorist organizations, and weakens legitimate governments and the rule of law.

The **United Kingdom**, on behalf of the Permanent 5, made collective suggestions to better structure and clarify the provisions in the implementation section of the ATT.

The Holy See delegate restated that an ATT “would help the promotion of a world more respectful of human lives.” It was further stated that the objective of such an instrument should be, above all, the disarming of the international illicit market of weapons, and human persons should be placed at the center of the ATT.

A statement was also delivered by a representative of OCHA, who, after giving specific numbers about people suffering the consequences of armed violence, called for a highly comprehensive ATT covering all conventional weapons and all types of transfers.

The second part of the plenary was dedicated to reporting by the chairs on the work of the two subsidiary bodies or Committees. Both Chairs (respectively from Morocco and Netherlands) took the floor and gave their impressions concerning the advancement of the work within their committee. The Chair of Committee 1 highlighted the “constructive spirit and attitude of all delegations and their valuable contributions.” He was of the view that the general exchange of views undertaken was really important, however positions were still apart and divergence persisted. Some delegations

were contributing some language and the fact of having these contributions in a paper gave a material to work with. The delegations were now ready for negotiations.

The Chairman of Committee 2 also mentioned a “good spirit and atmosphere”, however the various parties had not been able to bridge the gaps on some issues as yet and therefore it is necessary to move into a higher gear.” He mentioned that he will prepare documents on the topics covered by MC2 to “reflect the different views, condense them, and see if there are some convergences.” Both Chairmen agreed that the conference is ready to move forward and start real negotiations, and indicated that they have already received many delegations’ proposals in the form of treaty language.

After the two Chairs presented their separate views, Chairman Moritán reiterated that an “encouraging spirit prevailed” throughout the discussions, however delegations appeared to “not have obtained the necessary dynamism and compromise needed.” He highlighted the need for flexibility in order to accomplish a successful ATT. The Chairman further emphasized that “The future of an ATT does not lay far in advance, but here and now.”

In response to Chairman Moritán and the two Chairs reports and comments, several states made comments, including **Algeria, Iran, the Democratic People’s Republic of Korea, Indonesia, Egypt, Syria, Kenya (on behalf of Kenya and Nigeria), Cuba, India, Nigeria, and Pakistan.** Views were expressed that the absence of a rolling text was hindering the negotiating process and should be submitted as early as possible, and by some preferably by Friday, July 13, 2012.

Algeria stated that it believed the “rolling text should be produced from the work of the committees rather than any work parallel to the two committees.” **Iran, Syria,** and the **Democratic People’s Republic of Korea** agreed with **Algeria’s** statement. Chairman Moritán then stated that there was room for concern because procedures are not proceeding as rapidly as previously thought.

Syria then noted the need to “define a single negotiation mechanism proceeding from now” and urged the adoption of the same procedure by the two committees. Finally, Chairman Moritán ended discussion by restating that “the objective of our meeting here is to see how we can accommodate our differences.”