Arms Trade

The United Nations, in its work to assist people all over the world, is confronted every day with the negative impact of lax controls on the arms trade. In all parts of the world, the ready availability of weapons and ammunition has led to human suffering, political repression, crime and terror among civilian populations. Irresponsible arms transfers can destabilize security in a region, enable the violation of Security Council arms embargoes and contribute to human rights abuses. Importantly, investment is discouraged and development disrupted in countries experiencing conflict and high levels of violence, which also affect their ability to attain the Sustainable Development Goals.

https://disarmament.unoda.org/convarms/ArmsTrade/

UN Treaties


Background Information

- Following lengthy process which began in the 1990s, General Assembly today passes Arms Trade Treaty (2 April 2013): https://disarmament.unoda.org/update/20130402/

UN Entities

- United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR)
  - Supporting the Arms Trade Treaty Negotiations through Regional Discussions and Expertise Sharing (This research project was carried out July 2010 - August 2012): https://unidir.org/projects/supporting-arms-trade-treaty-negotiations-through-regional-discussions-and-expertise-2
  - Promoting Discussion on an Arms Trade Treaty (This research project was carried out February 2009 - August 2010): https://unidir.org/projects/promoting-discussion-arms-trade-treaty-2
  - Analysis of States’ Views on an Arms Trade Treaty (This research project was carried out June 2007 - January 2008): https://unidir.org/publication/analysis-states-views-arms-trade-treaty
Selected UN documents and publications

- Further UN documents on “Arms Trade” – [click here](#)

Research & Documentation


Selected Statements and Speeches by UN Officials

• Secretary-General, in Message to Caribbean Community Summit, hails region’s advocacy for Small Island States, role in talks on Arms Trade Treaty (SG/SM/15154, 5 July 2013): http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/sgsm15154.doc.htm
• As Arms Trade Treaty opens for signature, Secretary-General says it will deter destabilizing arms flows, particularly in conflict-prone regions (SG/SM/15075-DC/3435-L/T/4429, 3 June 2013): http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/sgsm15075.doc.htm
• Arms Trade Treaty will generate ‘much-needed momentum’ for other global disarmament, non-proliferation efforts, Secretary-General says (SG/SM/14919-DC/3426, 2 April 2013): http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/sgsm14919.doc.htm
• Secretary-General, ‘deeply disappointed’ over failure to agree arms trade treaty, hopes continuing efforts will bring it into existence (SG/SM/14914-DC/3424, 28 March 2013): http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/sgsm14914.doc.htm
• Ahead of UN Conference, Secretary-General says robust arms treaty ‘only path’ to more accountability, transparency in global conventional weapons trade (SG/SM/14870-DC/3418, 14 March 2013): http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2013/sgsm14870.doc.htm
• Secretary-General disappointed at inability of Conference on Arms Trade Treaty to agree on text, but says ‘considerable common ground’ on which to build (SG/SM/14436-DC/3373, 30 July 2012): http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2012/sgsm14436.doc.htm
• Secretary-General concerned by limited progress in Arms Trade Treaty Negotiations; calls on delegations to show flexibility, work in good faith to bridge differences (SG/SM/14433-DC/3372, 26 July 2012): http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2012/sgsm14433.doc.htm
• Secretary-General, in remarks to Conference on Arms Trade Treaty, calls absence of global instrument dealing with conventional weapons ‘a disgrace’ (SG/SM/14394-DC/3363, 3 July 2012): http://www.un.org/News/Press/docs/2012/sgsm14394.doc.htm