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United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)



Knotted Gun by Carl Frederik Reutersward gifted to the UN by Luxemburg

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is a multilateral treaty negotiated under the auspices of the United Nations (UN), concerning the regulation of the international trade in conventional weapons. Globally, conventional weapons are the most commonly used type of armament in situations of conflict, and encompass a wide range of equipment including, but not limited to:

- battle tanks;
- armoured combat vehicles;
- large-calibre artillery systems;
- combat helicopters;
- combat aircraft;
- warships;
- missiles and missile launchers;
- small arms and light weapons;
- landmines;
- cluster munitions; and
- ammunition and artillery.

Adopted by majority vote at the UN General Assembly in April 2013, the ATT is the first legally binding agreement to establish international standards for regulating trade in conventional arms, and preventing the illicit trade in weapons. The ATT entered into force, on December 24, 2014, 90 days after the 50th signatory deposited its instrument of ratification to the UN Secretary-General.

The instrument of ratification is a signed official document, usually in the form of a sealed letter, indicating the State's legal obligation to be bound by the terms of the treaty, after enacting its provisions into domestic law.

Signature of a treaty, generally precedes the ratification process, enabling the State to become Party to the treaty. Most treaties must be ratified before entry into force, and must be signed either by the Head of State, Head of Government, the Minister of Foreign Affairs or an official with full powers to sign, validating the instrument of ratification.



This is a victory for the world's people. The ATT [...] will be a powerful new tool in our efforts to prevent grave human rights abuses or violations of international humanitarian law. And it will provide much-needed momentum for other global disarmament and non-proliferation efforts.

Ban Ki-moon
United Nations Secretary General

ARMS TRADE TREATY



Once a State becomes Party to the treaty, all obligations become binding on the State, unless it has made valid reservations to any of the provisions within the treaty. Reservations are exclusions or modifications to the legal effect of certain provisions within the treaty, regarding their application to the reserving State.

Jamaica became signatory to the Arms Trade Treaty on June 3, 2013 and proceeded a year later with its ratification on June 2, 2014. The ATT entered into force for Jamaica on December 24, 2014.

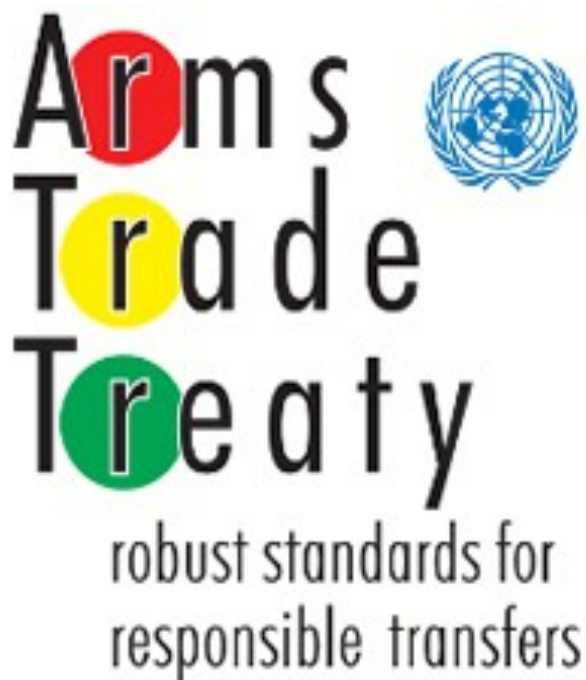
Under Article 2 (2) of the ATT *the activities of international trade comprise export, import, transit, trans-shipment and brokering hereafter referred to as “transfer”.*



The Arms Trade Treaty:

(a) seeks to prohibit irresponsible arms transfers and prevent the shipment of arms to conflict zones, where they are likely to exacerbate violence and contribute to repressions and human rights abuses.

(b) establishes common international standards to be observed by each Party, regarding the regulation of international trade in conventional arms, their components, ammunition and parts thereof, for the purpose of contributing to peace and security, reducing human suffering, promoting cooperation and transparency.



The ATT is among several international arms control instruments developed to address the lack of global norms concerning arms transfers. One such instrument is the UN Register of Conventional Arms, which complements the ATT, and establishes a global registry on arms transfers. Together they promote predictability and transparency in arms transfers, by encouraging States to make the quantity and type of arms transferred more transparent. As such, the ATT carries enormous potential to help prevent conflict, armed violence and human rights abuses that may occur around the world.

Inadequate controls on arms transfers continues to be a global problem, and have led to the widespread availability and misuse of weapons occurring among various groups including State armed and security forces, non-State armed groups and organized criminal groups. The ATT purports better control measures and creates a reporting mechanism that will contribute to States becoming more accountable and responsible regarding arms transfers.

Treaty Obligations

Each State Party to the Arms Trade Treaty:

- will establish a control system to regulate the export of munitions covered under Article 2.1 and their parts and components.
- will establish and maintain a national control list that must be submitted to the Secretariat, and should be made public. The definitions for the weapons should not be less than the UN Register of Conventional Arms.
- will designate one (1) or more national points of contact for the exchanging of information regarding treaty requirements.
- shall not authorize arms which would: violate **UN Security Council (UNSC) Article VII - Action with respect to threats to peace, breaches of peace, and acts of aggression**; break international treaties or arms embargoes; or if the state had knowledge at the time of authorization to be used in crimes against humanity, war crimes, genocide, grave breaches of the 1949 Geneva Convention, or attacks against civilians.
- Shall ensure that all authorizations for the trade in conventional arms as per:
Article 2.1 - Scope
Article 3 - Ammunition/Munitions, and
Article 4 - Parts and Components, are detailed and issued prior to the export. (by the exporting State)
- will also make available information about the authorization in question, upon request, to the importing State Party and to the transit or trans-shipment State Parties, subject to its national laws, practices, or policies. (by the exporting State)



ATT Article 2.1

Battle Tanks;
Armoured combat vehicles;
Large-caliber artillery systems;
Combat aircraft;
Attack helicopters;
Warships;
Missiles and missile launchers;
and
Small arms and light weapons



- shall take measures to ensure that appropriate and relevant information is provided, upon request, pursuant to its national laws, to the exporting State Party. The importing State Party will also take measures to regulate imports under its jurisdiction of conventional arms covered under Article 2.1, which may include the establishment of an import system. (by the importing State)
- shall maintain national records, pursuant to its national laws and regulations of its issuance of export authorization or actual exports of conventional arms under Article 2.1 for a ten year minimum.



Verification and Compliance:

Within the first year of the treaty entering into force, each State Party will submit an initial report to the Secretariat of measures taken to implement the treaty. Thereafter, each State Party will annually submit a report by 31 May of each year for the preceding calendar year concerning authorized or actual exports and imports of conventional arms under article 2.1, which may exclude commercially sensitive or national security information. Each State Party will use national laws and regulations to implement the terms of the treaty.

Implementation Aid

State parties to the ATT "may seek assistance" in implementing the Treaty; which indicates that a voluntary trust fund is to be established by State Parties for that purpose. In anticipation, the United Nations, in close cooperation with a growing number of States, has launched a trust facility to kick-start advocacy, universalisation and implementation of the ATT.

[Learn more about the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation \(UNSCAR\).](#)



UNSCAR
United Nations Trust Facility
Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation

ARMS TRADE TREATY



CUSTOMS & The ATT

Apart from the key mandates of revenue collection and trade facilitation, border protection plays a vital role in Customs Operations

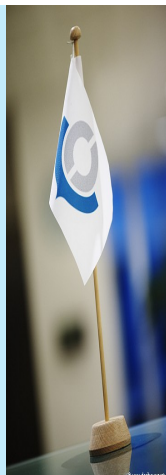
as it relates to security, and specifically the fight against terrorism and violent extremism. It has long been established that improper arms transfers can contribute to the proliferation of conventional weapons in areas of conflict. Therefore, Customs remains vigilant with regard to control and enforcement mechanisms, to ensure that legitimate and responsible arms transfers occurs.

As a Party to the ATT, Jamaica is obligated to implement the agreed provisions of the Treaty. Accountability and transparency regarding documentation, is of prime focus for Customs, and is consistent with the reporting component of the Treaty. A coordinated approach to border management is required for all governmental agencies with security and enforcement mandates, specific to weapons control. Collaborative efforts involve coordination between Jamaica Customs and the Ministry of National Security, specifically the Jamaica Constabulary Force (JCF) and the Jamaica Defence Force (JDF), as well as the Firearms Licensing Authority (FLA). Efficient monitoring by border control agents is required in order to detect illegal arms transfers, as well as to ensure the transfer of legitimate weapons. Implementation of the ATT also requires amendments to the relevant domestic legislation to reflect the provisions of the treaty, including the establishment of punitive measures to deter contraventions.

The International trade and peacekeeping communities continue to be integral in supporting the efforts of individual States in implementing the ATT, and have developed several programmes targeting their efforts.

Due to heightened global security concerns and the adoption of the ATT, the WCO also launched the Small Arms and Light-Weapons (SALW) Project to address the challenges faced by Customs in dealing with weapons of this nature. In addition, the relevance of the use of advance passenger information (API) and Passenger Name Record (PNR) information to target both contraband and high-risk individuals were specifically underlined by the WCO Council as needing further emphasis. - WCO 2015 Council Sessions Secretary-General address.

**Kunio Mikuriya,
Secretary-General WCO**



Firearms Destruction and Training – **UNLIREC assists Jamaica to combat illicit firearms - Jamaica, February 2012.**

In February 2012, United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)'s Regional Centre for Latin America and the Caribbean provided technical expertise and assistance to Jamaica for the destruction of 1,951 seized, obsolete and surplus firearms, as well as 12,000 rounds of ammunition. United Nations Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean (UNLIREC) also assisted Jamaica in building the capacity of 60 Jamaican security personnel in combating illicit firearms through a training course, which received financial support from Canada and the United States of America. The course programme received a "regional best practice" award for firearms control at the meeting "Building a Safer Central America" by the Central American Integration System (SICA), United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID) in November 2010.

Regional Events for the Development of the Arms Trade Treaty

23-24 February, 2015 - the first preparatory meeting towards the First Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty was held in Trinidad. In the meeting, participants discussed the participation in the Conference of State Parties and the financing issue. The meeting also produced a draft procedural report and finalized the remaining preparatory meeting schedule. A new logo was created for the event, represented by a raised hand formed of weapons, symbolizing the Agreement of the signatory States to a responsible trade in arms.

25-26 June, 2015 - Jamaica held the "Inter-parliamentary Conference to Enhance the Arms Trade Treaty and United Nations' Program of Actions Implementation by South-South Parliamentary Exchange and Cooperation" in Kingston, Jamaica. Participants discussed the importance, as well as concerns of island states, and adopted a final declaration. To date three (3) workshops have been held in Jamaica regarding the implementation of the ATT, facilitated by The German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA), and the European Union Implementing Agency for the Arms Trade Treaty Support Programme.

Regional Events held under the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA)

Course on ATT implementation -
Santo Domingo, Dominican Republic,
28-30 January, 2015.

ATT Seminar for Small Island States -
Kingston, Jamaica,
25 -26 June, 2015.



In commemoration of the 70th anniversary of the first UN General Assembly resolution, which established the goal of eliminating nuclear weapons and all weapons of mass destruction, the United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs is pleased to sponsor the UN Poster for Peace Contest.

Join for a world free of nuclear weapons!

Closing date: 24 Jan 2016

www.unposterforpeace.org

Prizes: \$3,000. \$2,000. \$1,000

The contest aims to raise awareness of the need for nuclear disarmament and to inspire citizens across the globe to add their voices, and use their artistic talents, to promote a world free of nuclear weapons.



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Country Above Self



The International and Industry Liaison Unit is committed to raising the level of awareness on topics relating to the Caribbean Community, as well as issues concerning the wider topic of international trade, to both our internal and external stakeholders. Our monthly newsletter seeks to highlight global trade topics and their importance to Customs Administrations worldwide and specifically how they affect the Jamaica Customs Agency. As we realize our vision of becoming a modern Customs administration delivering excellent service, we recognize the importance of knowledge transfer in delivering our objectives and use this forum as our way of contributing to the vision of the JCA. The International Liaison Unit is located at the Myers Wharf head office and our officers are available to respond to your queries and clarify any points of concern.

We're on the Web!
<http://www.jacustoms.gov.jm>

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