



# CITS

CENTER FOR INTERNATIONAL TRADE & SECURITY

THE UNIVERSITY OF GEORGIA

## The International Arms Trade Treaty in the United Nations

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Saksaganskogo str.6 (the House of Cinema)

# Strategic Trade Control for Conventional Arms

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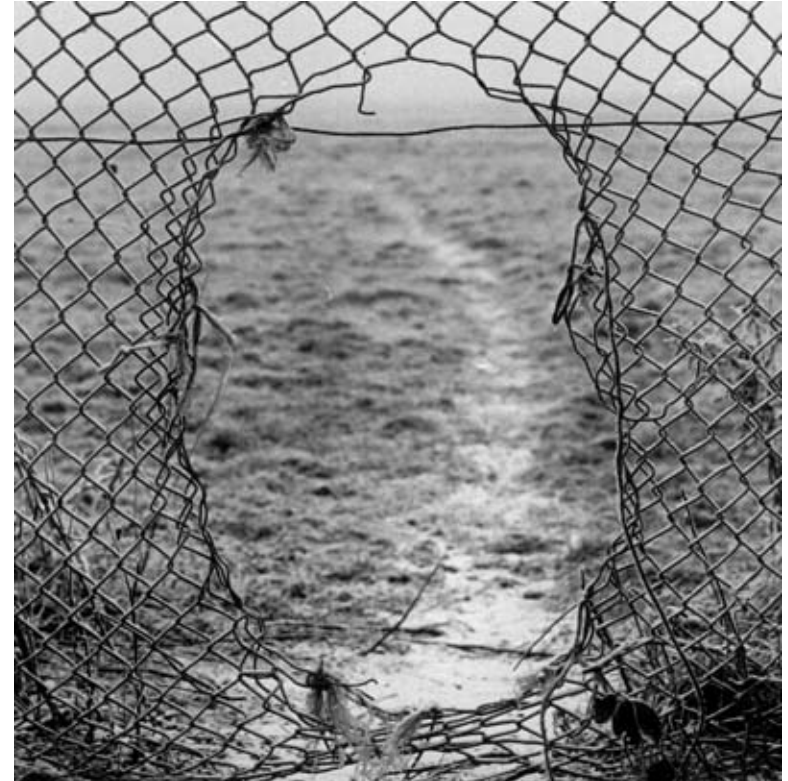
- Often first step in the construction of a national strategic trade control system
- Many states have long-standing and regularly updated legislation preventing arms exports for national security purposes
- A range of regional and multilateral initiatives to control conventional arms exports... but not yet an formalized international treaty
  - United Nations (UN)
  - Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE)
  - The European Union (EU)
  - Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)
  - The Wassenaar Arrangement (WA)

**The Proposed International Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)**

# The International Arms Control Dilemma



- Patchwork of control
- Globalization makes everyone a trader
- Various system confusing and risk for overlap
- No common fence



# The International Arms Trade Treaty – ATT



- In 1995 a Group of Nobel Peace Laureates launch the International Code of Conduct on Arms Transfers Initiative
- Purpose - an international standard for the control of international transfers of conventional arms
- March 2006 the ATT received British Government support
- UK launch the initiative in the UN
- NOT a disarmament issue –
- NOT a ban,
- ... but a call for better regulation!





- On December 6, 2006 the UN adopted its first resolution 61/89 *“Towards and Arms Trade Treaty”*
  - *The resolution called for the UN Secretary-General to seek views from all UN Members States on*
  - “feasibility, scope and parameters for a comprehensive, legally binding instrument establishing common international standards for the import, export, and transfer of conventional arms”
  - Almost 100 states submitted views and comments

# The ATT – the beginning

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- **A Group of Governmental Experts investigated the issue and delivered a concluding report August 8, 2008**
- **December 2008**
  - **UNGA Resolution 63/240,**
  - 147 yes votes – thereby establishing an Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG) to examine the scope, parameters, and feasibility of an ATT in more detail
  - These OEWG met twice in 2009
- **December 2009 the UN General Assembly voted to begin negotiations toward an ATT**
  - **5 weeks of Preparatory Committee meetings starting July 2010,**
  - **Diplomatic Negotiating Conference for the ATT in 2012**
  - **The United States agrees to participate in the discussions**

# ATT Negotiations – the discussion continues

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- **Fall and winter 2010-2011**
- Experiences shared from national and regional initiatives
- Boston Intersessional Meeting
- UNIDIR – EU project
  - Meeting cycle worldwide
  - Nepal, Morocco, Uruguay, Indonesia
- NGO initiatives
  - Washington DC - Dialogue with industry since summer 2010
  - Helsinki January 2011
    - Discussions on reporting
  - Beijing February 2011
    - US-China-EU dialogue on the ATT
  - Geneva April and May 2011
    - Discussions on Scope and Implementation

# ATT Negotiations – the Preparatory Committees

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- **First and Second Preparatory Committee meeting in New York July 2010**
  - **Break out sessions on Scope, Parameters and Implementation**
- **Third Preparatory Committee Meeting February 28 – March 4, 2011**
  - Text is introduced on Scope, Parameters and Technical Assistance & International Cooperation
- **Last substantial Preparatory Committee Meeting July 2011**
  - Text introduced on implementation and finalization of other sections of treaty





- **Problematic areas**
  - **Capacity**
  - **Range**
  - **Political will**
- **Negotiation Conference 2012?**
- **No size fits all**
- **Consider various different legal systems and traditions, industrial profiles, size and geographical location**
- **Using transparency to**
  - **Improve the international system**
  - **Verify implementation**
  - **Identify demand and supply of assistance**



- Pursuing transparency is not an end in itself, but...
  - Increased awareness
  - Easier to compare data
  - Decreased speculation at home and abroad
  - A fundamental part of treaty compliance

193 countries will have a wide range of capacity in reporting

Long experience versus none

Why do we do it?

# Leveling the playing field - spin-off affects from the ATT

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- **The trade argument**
  - **Easier identification**
  - **Confidence building measures**
  - **Decreased risk and vulnerability**
  - **Improved protection**
  - **Being a responsible part of the global trade network**



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# **Thank you for your attention!**

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