



PARLIAMENTARY FORUM  
ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS

**Inter-parliamentary Conference**  
**22-23 May, Lomé, Togo**  
**National Assembly of Togo**

**“Enhance ATT and UNPoA Implementation  
by South-South Parliamentary Exchange and Cooperation”**

**FINAL DECLARATION**

Parliamentarians from 15 African states; Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Cote d’Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gabon, Guinea-Bissau, Guinea, Liberia, Mali, São Tomé and Príncipe, Seychelles, Sierra Leone, Tanzania, Togo and Zimbabwe, with presence also from colleagues from Central America and the Caribbean, meeting at the “Inter-parliamentary Conference to Enhance the Arms Trade Treaty and United Nations’ Programme of Actions Implementation by South-South Parliamentary Exchange and Cooperation”, in Lomé, Togo, May 22-23 2014, recognizing the important role that African states played in shaping the Arms Trade Treaty to reflect their concerns, in particular to ensure that small arms and ammunition were included in the scope of the treaty.

Control of international transfers of small arms and light weapons (SALW), are at the centre of the global agenda for combating the proliferation of such arms. The nature of SALW, their characteristics, as well as the sheer number or global stock, and the range of actors that undertake commercial activities with them, makes it particularly difficult to control the movement of SALW not only within States, but also between them. Weak institutions and border-controls, as well as social unrest and illicit exploitation of natural resources, usually add to the difficulty.

The participants see the consequences of this on a daily basis in a variety of African contexts, with criminal activities and terrorist acts in Cameroon, Central African Republic, DR Congo, Mali and Nigeria highlighted at the Conference. They strongly condemn all violence against civilians, in particular the

frequent use of sexual and gender-based violence, and express their solidarity with the victims and their families.

Participants express their concern that the speed of the ratification process among African states does not reflect the importance and urgency of the problem which the ATT would help to address. African states must take a responsibility to ensure the 50 ratifications required for the ATT to enter into force and further ensure that there will be a strong presence of African states at the first Conference of States Parties.

It should be further noted that even with a strong ATT, the UN Programme of Action on Small Arms (PoA) remains essential in relation to addressing the illicit trade in small arms. The entry into force of the ATT will complement and reinforce the PoA.

After its formal adoption, parliamentarians still have a significant role to play to ensure that the Arms Trade Treaty effectively prevents and reduces armed violence, and in particular SALW-related violence. The obvious next step is to ensure the broadest possible ratification.

At the benefit of their authority to ratify international treaties, parliamentarians' concerns should be heard by their governments. It falls to supportive parliamentarians, through outreach and cooperation across political parties and with government, to speed the ratification process within their national contexts.

Parliamentarians will be able to contribute to ensure that the necessary national implementation mechanisms are in place, to oversee and politically interpret the implementation of the ATT to ensure the strongest possible application of the Treaty. This would be facilitated by improved capacity and knowledge among parliamentarians.

The Conference urges parliamentarians worldwide to take action and engage themselves for the Arms Trade Treaty.