



25 July 2011

## Developing the implementation elements of the Arms Trade Treaty

On 16 July, at the fourth Preparatory Committee meeting (PrepCom) of the UN Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Saferworld launched [\*An Implementation Framework for the Arms Trade Treaty\*](#) at a lunch time side meeting. This *Implementation Framework* was the product of a nine-month seminar process involving government officials and civil society from all over the world.

At the Saferworld side-meeting—held in association with the Governments of Austria and Zambia—Robert Parker, Head of Policy and Advocacy at Saferworld, introduced the document, explaining the process behind its development and outlining its critical elements. These include suggestions for key implementation provisions in relation to reporting, consultations, follow-up (Meetings of States Parties and Review Conferences), national implementation mechanisms, co-operation and assistance, requirements for entry into force and rules governing amendment of the Treaty.

Also on the panel at the side-meeting were: Sheila Mweemba, Director of the Zambia Mine Action Centre at the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Lusaka—who addressed the implementation challenges faced by small developing states; Andrew Wood, Director of Strategic Export Controls, Rolls Royce PLC—who outlined industry's view of the importance of effective ATT implementation provisions; and David Anyanwu, Programme Coordinator, Women's Institute for Alternative Development, Trinidad and Tobago—who presented his region's perspective on the need for effective ATT implementation.

The meeting was attended by around 120 government and civil society representatives and generated a lively and interesting discussion.

Saferworld's *ATT Implementation Framework* is the result of a project that seeks to facilitate discussions between government and civil society stakeholders primarily on international aspects of ATT implementation. The intention is to build a deeper and broader understanding of the critical issues at stake and, in adopting a comprehensive approach to the issue of ATT implementation, Saferworld is seeking to help identify those provisions that will be required to ensure effective implementation of the ATT, and to build support for the inclusion of these aspects in the eventual Treaty.

To this end, over the period November 2010 to May 2011 Saferworld organised three seminars in co-operation with a number of governments. The first, held in Geneva in November 2010, sought to explore and draw upon experience of implementing other international regimes—such as the Chemical Weapons Convention and the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change—in order to draw lessons for the ATT.

A second seminar, held in co-operation with the Government of Finland in Helsinki in February 2011, sought to explore some of the key issues of the ATT implementation debate, including reporting, monitoring, consultations, compliance and follow-up

provisions. A meeting was then held at the Finnish UN Mission in New York in the margins of the February-March 2011 ATT PrepCom so as to inform a broader audience of the work being undertaken and the progress made.

The final seminar, held in Geneva in May 2011, was organised by Saferworld in co-operation with the Governments of New Zealand, Norway and Switzerland. The overall aim of this final seminar was to explore, in detail, some of the key elements of the ATT implementation agenda that had been identified at the previous meetings. It sought to identify and consider in detail those issues that would merit further discussion at the July 2011 UN ATT Preparatory Committee meeting going forward to the 2012 Diplomatic Conference.

In order to stimulate discussion at the third seminar, Saferworld presented a draft *Implementation Framework* for discussion at the meeting. This document was then refined and developed in preparation for its formal launch at the UN.

By hosting this series of in-depth discussions on ATT implementation issues among a range of interested stakeholders, within and outside the UN, Saferworld is seeking to ensure that the prospects for agreement on substantive implementation provisions are enhanced, thereby contributing to an effective ATT. Saferworld will be continuing work in greater detail on particular aspects of ATT implementation with governments, civil society and industry in the period leading up to and including the 2012 ATT Diplomatic Conference.

For further information on Saferworld's ATT implementation project, please contact Liz Kirkham on [Elizabeth@saferworld.org.uk](mailto:Elizabeth@saferworld.org.uk).