



Parliamentarians for Global Action

PRESS RELEASE

THIRD ATT PREPCOM STARTS WITH STRONG PARLIAMENTARY SUPPORT

PGA LEGISLATORS FROM COLOMBIA, INDIA, PAKISTAN, SRI LANKA, SURINAME, URUGUAY AND SWEDEN AFFIRM STRONG ROLE OF LEGISLATORS IN ATT

New York (July 11, 2011) The Third Preparatory Committee for the negotiation of a global Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) begins at UN Headquarters in New York today.

Every ten minutes, 14 people are killed by arms around the world. While one person one moment is ordering a slice of pizza or downloading a favorite tune online, another is experiencing a tragic, painful and violent death. Together with its partners in the Control Arms Coalition and thousands of others worldwide, deeply concerned by this horrific state of affairs, PGA strongly supports the ongoing negotiation of a robust arms trade treaty which must seek to address head on this terrible indictment of humanity.

Co-hosted by the Mission of Finland and with high-level participation of the UN Department of Disarmament Affairs and key NGOs such as Oxfam, PGA will organize a side event on July 12th on the role legislators will undertake towards a legally-binding Arms Trade Treaty.

PGA further calls upon all UN Member State ATT PrepCom Delegations to engage in far-reaching and meaningful deliberations so that the outcome of the week's meetings will represent genuine progress in moving forward the process of making the ATT a meaningful reality. In particular, and in its capacity as a Steering Board Member of the Control Arms Coalition, PGA calls upon all Member State Delegations at the ATT PrepCom to ensure that the concerns of all stakeholders are reflected in any revised documents emanating from these deliberations. While PGA strongly welcomes the efforts made thus far in the PrepCom, we believe civil society can provide vital input and suggestions to strengthen existing draft papers under consideration by the Member State Delegations to the ATT PrepCom.

PGA believes that Legislators, in advocating for the ATT, and in their essential lawmaking capacities as future drafters of ATT implementing legislation, play a unique, bridging, catalytic and oversight role in this entire process. For this reason, and following similar participation by PGA Legislators in the first and second ATT PrepComs, we are pleased and honored to bring a high level Delegation of Legislators to New York for the Third ATT PrepCom, in which many of these legislators will participate as integral members of their national delegations. Participating in the ATT PrepCom and PGA Side Event will serve to increase the awareness and understanding by these Members of Parliament of the many different issues under consideration at the ATT PrepCom, thereby facilitating the effectiveness of their respective contributions to the ATT process, both in the short and long term.

For further information on PGA's pro-ATT advocacy efforts, contact Mr. Peter Barcroft, Senior Programme Officer, PGA at peter.barcroft@pgaction.org or Ms. Leyla Nikjou, Programme Associate, PGA at leyla.nikjou@pgaction.org

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