



Parliamentarians for Global Action
Acción Mundial de Parlamentarios
Action Mondiale des Parlementaires

STATEMENT BY MS. KATJA KEUL, MP, SECRETARY OF COALITION 90/THE GREENS ON THE OCCASION OF THE UNANIMOUS RATIFICATION OF THE ARMS TRADE TREATY BY THE GERMAN PARLIAMENT ON 27 JUNE, 2013

Berlin, 27 June, 2013 - We highly appreciate the unanimous ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) by the German Bundestag and now urge the German Government to deposit the Instrument of Ratification of the ATT with the United Nations as soon as possible. The fast ratification through the German Parliament set an example to other nations and we hope that they will rapidly follow this lead, as 50 countries must ratify the ATT before its entry into force.

The adoption of the treaty by 154 nations in the UN General Assembly was an important step in the recognition of the dangers associated with the uncontrolled proliferation of small and medium weapons. It was especially important that small arms and munitions have been included in the treaty and that human rights are adopted as a criterion for the legitimacy of arms trade. Nevertheless, while the treaty marks a milestone in international arms control, it must not be understood as an end point but rather as a start for stronger cooperation on non-proliferation as 800 people are still victims of firearms every day.