

PAN-AFRICAN PARLIAMENT



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PAN AFRICAN PARLIAMENT

**Pan-African Parliament Joint Committee Session on
the Arms Trade Treaty**

with

Parliamentarians for Global Action (PGA)

with

The Kind Support of the German Federal Foreign Ministry



Pan-African Parliament, Midrand, South Africa

17-18 October, 2013

MIDRAND COMMUNIQUE

18 October 2013

We, Members of the Pan-African Parliament Joint Committees of Cooperation, International Relations and Conflict Resolution, Trade, Customs and Immigration Matters, Justice and Human Rights and Industry, Energy, Science and Technology and Communications and Members of Parliamentarians for Global Action in Africa, meeting on the Arms Trade Treaty at the Pan-African Parliament in Midrand, South Africa from the 17-18 October, 2013:

Mindful of the terrible legacy in loss of human life and suffering in the African Continent and around the world resulting from the inadequate regulation of the international arms trade, in particular small arms and light weapons

Aware of the important and urgent need to take decisive steps to prevent and mitigate this suffering and loss of human life in the future

Strongly welcome the establishment of the Arms Trade Treaty at United Nations Headquarters in New York on 2 April 2013 and its Opening for Signature on 3 June 2013

Take note of the large number of African countries that have already signed the ATT

Recognize the importance of securing the early entry into force of the ATT

Undertake to work within the Pan-African Parliament as well as our national Parliaments to advocate for and actively promote further signatures and early ratification of the ATT by our respective countries

Welcome the launch of the Pan-African Parliament - PGA Group as an entity which will facilitate our ongoing actions and deliberations to secure early entry into force of the ATT and identify optimal means to ensure its robust implementation

Undertake to communicate among ourselves as well as with the PGA Secretariat on a regular basis on the discussions and initiatives we will take to promote early entry into force of the ATT and its robust implementation

Express our appreciation to the Pan-African Parliament for hosting this Joint Committee Session on the Arms Trade Treaty and to PGA for its important support of this Session

Done this 18th day of October, 2013 at the Pan-African Parliament in Midrand, South Africa