

9 September 2015

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Control Arms
c/o Shelagh Daley
Saferworld
28 Charles Square
London
N1 6HT



Foreign &
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Office

King Charles Street
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Dear Sir Madam,

Thank you for your letter of 5 August to the Foreign Secretary about the First Conference of States Parties (CSP1) to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). I am replying as Minister responsible for Defence and International Security.

Unfortunately, the Foreign Secretary was unable to attend the Conference. However, I provided a video message of support on behalf of the UK that was shown during the High Level Segment of CSP1.

I wish to stress that this should not be taken to indicate a lack of commitment to, or support for, the ATT. This Conference is an historic moment for a Treaty that the UK has championed from the outset. I acknowledge and appreciate the role of civil society as tireless advocates for the Treaty. The UK believes, as you do, that the ATT represents a truly international convergence of views and shows global determination to do something practical to help curtail the irresponsible spread of weaponry that fuels conflict, terrorism and criminality and causes so much destruction and human suffering.

I wish to address in turn each of the five points you raised in your letter.

Firstly, the UK is committed to a decision making process that enables robust Treaty implementation. We note your views on civil society participation. The Treaty must remain inclusive to build a strong international reputation so appropriate participation and involvement of States yet to accede, civil society and industry is absolutely crucial. Each has a vital role to play in implementing and universalising the Treaty.

Regarding subsidiary bodies, the UK noted at the final preparatory committee in Geneva in July, that the precedent is for such bodies to remain closed with an option to invite expertise where appropriate. On the other hand, plenary meetings should be open unless the Conference decides otherwise for national security reasons. Provision for closed sessions is vital for the ATT to be a truly flexible and responsive instrument.

Secondly, the UK agrees that clear and transparent reporting will be crucial to the success of the Treaty. It will be important to agree workable, user-friendly formats

that States feel able to complete and that can expand over time as confidence grows in disclosing more detailed information.

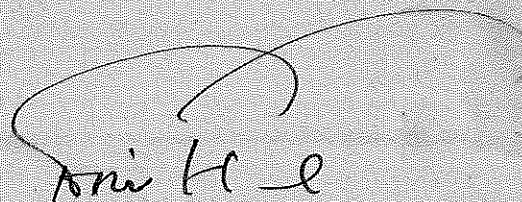
Thirdly, the Secretariat must be impartial, autonomous, efficient and cost-effective. The UK supports a 'minimised' Secretariat as specified in the Treaty itself. Staff appointments should be based on merit. The UK explicitly rejects unduly politicised appointments.

Fourthly, the UK supports a predictable, affordable funding model for the Treaty.

Finally, the UK is working hard to achieve robust administrative arrangements for the Treaty and remains firmly committed to its universalisation, e.g. the UK continues to lobby States to accede to the Treaty. The UK has offered technical and financial assistance to support States' implementation of the Treaty, in three ways: (i) nationally, (ii) via multi donor arrangements (e.g. UNSCAR) and (iii) via the EU. There is no "one size fits all approach" and each State needs to develop legislation and mechanisms that it can implement effectively.

The UK wants CSP1 to set high standards of governance and accountability to give the Treaty a strong start. My officials in the Arms Export Policy Department are fully engaged in leading the UK's policy on, and contribution to, the development of the Treaty and will continue to engage with you and other interested parties on these issues as they progress.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read 'Tobias Ellwood', with a large, sweeping flourish above the name.

TOBIAS ELLWOOD MP
Parliamentary Under Secretary of State