



**UNA-UK**

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Alistair Burt MP  
Minister of State  
Foreign & Commonwealth Office  
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1 May 2013

Dear Minister,

Thank you for your letter of 22 April on the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

First of all I would like to thank you, your team and the UK delegation led by Ambassador Jo Adamson for their support and partnership in the campaign for a strong ATT in the run-up to and during the negotiations in March 2013.

It is this strong partnership between civil society and progressive governments that facilitated the creation of an Arms Trade Treaty at the UN General Assembly (UNGA) on 2 April. While the Treaty does not incorporate all the elements that UNA-UK has been campaigning for, it is none the less an historic achievement that will provide an important first step towards the objective of reducing armed violence, conflict and human rights abuses worldwide.

It is also an important success for the United Nations, and an extremely positive precedent that the treaty was adopted at the UNGA. This allowed the weight of the vast majority of supportive states to be felt, in contrast to those formats that allow a minority of obstructive states to block progress.

We are delighted to hear that the UK is keen to sign and ratify the Treaty as soon as possible and is encouraging others to follow suit. We hope that as many Heads of Government and Foreign Ministers as possible will attend the signing ceremony on 3 June, helping to raise the political profile of the Treaty and give it the media attention it deserves.

One way that the Arms Trade Treaty can start life as a strong instrument is for the first 50 ratifying states to ensure that they implement the Treaty to a very high level, thereby pushing international customary law as high as possible.

Specifically, UNA-UK believes that, by implementing a strong interpretation of the ATT, the UK and other progressive countries can lead by example and continue to champion a Treaty that will deliver maximum impact in terms of peace and security. We think that this could be addressed in the following ways:

1. Broaden the scope of the treaty by widening the UK's national control list to include all conventional weapons, including unmanned combat aerial vehicles (UCAVs).

2. Make public the UK's annual report to the Secretariat, and include in that report ammunition, munitions, parts and components as outlined in Articles 3 and 4.
3. Include the risk of diversion of ammunition, munitions, parts and components as outlined in Articles 3 and 4 as part of the export assessment criteria.
4. Apply the terms of the Treaty to all forms of international transfer including gifts and loans.
5. Clarify that all 'defence corporation agreements' (including pre-existing international agreements) will be consistent with the terms of the Treaty.

Once the Treaty has entered into force, the UK could play an important role in building support for having this interpretation enshrined into an amended version of the Treaty, thereby raising the global bar of arms control above the important but first-stage baseline set by the original Treaty.

Thanks once again for all you and your team have done on this issue thus far. UNA-UK and its members look forward to continuing our productive partnership with the FCO in support of a safer, fairer and more sustainable world.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Jeremy Greenstock". The signature is written in a cursive style with a horizontal line above the first letter of the first name.

Sir Jeremy Greenstock  
Chairman, UNA-UK