



**80th United Nations General Assembly
First Committee on Disarmament and International Security**

Statement on the International Arms Trade
Delivered by Dr. Andrea Edoardo Varisco, Control Arms
Friday 17 October 2025

I am honored to speak today on behalf of Control Arms, a global coalition that works to prevent the human suffering caused by poorly regulated arms transfers.

Since last year's First Committee, conflicts in Gaza, Myanmar, Sudan and Ukraine have continued unabated for most of the year, and new conflicts and tensions started or intensified in other areas of the world. According to the Peace Research Institute Oslo, in 2024 there were 61 active state-based conflicts across 36 countries—the highest number recorded since 1946. In parallel, the world has witnessed a general distrust in and a decreased engagement from multilateral instruments. This brought some States to withdraw—or express the intention to withdraw—selectively from international instruments such as the International Criminal Court, the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention and the Convention on Cluster Munitions.

Civilians are the ones who suffer the most from armed violence and the indiscriminate use of arms and ammunition in conflict. According to the UN Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights, “[i]n 2024, civilian deaths in conflict rose 40%”. Further, OHCHR reports that, “[e]very 12 minutes, a civilian dies in armed conflict”.

Control Arms works to promote the universalization and effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, a Treaty that aims to improve the regulation of the international trade in conventional arms. Articles 6 and 7 of the ATT provide a clear framework for States to prevent transfers of arms, ammunition, and parts and components that could be used in the commission of genocide, crimes against humanity, war crimes, and that can contribute to commit or facilitate serious violations of IHL and human rights.

This August, the ATT Conference of States Parties welcomed a working paper on ‘Strengthening Youth Participation in the ATT’. It encouraged States Parties and other stakeholders to consider youth perspectives in the work of the ATT, and to explore measures to strengthen the meaningful participation, engagement and leadership of young people in ATT-related efforts.

Yet, what response can we provide to these young people who see that atrocities are committed in conflict areas around the world? To the numbers of young people that have taken to the streets to protest against the transfer of weapons to Israel? To those seeing world military expenditure rising to US\$2.7 trillion in 2024, the highest level ever recorded, with increases in all geographical regions of the world?



We believe that rigorous implementation of Articles 6 and 7 of the ATT can provide a response. Only effective implementation and compliance with these Articles can contribute to achieve the object and purpose of the Treaty, help reduce human suffering, and leave to young generations and our children a legacy to be proud of.

Thank you, Chair