



## THE WORLD IS WATCHING, IT'S TIME FOR AN ARMS TRADE TREATY

Friday 8 August 2008 – A UN Group of Governmental Experts (GGE), examining an Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), finished its work today in New York. The group met three times this year and was mandated to examine the “feasibility, scope and parameters” of a treaty to establish common international standards for the transfers of conventional weapons.

The group, chaired by an expert from Argentina, was composed of experts from a range of countries<sup>1</sup> including Brazil, China, Egypt, France, Indonesia, Mexico, Russia, South Africa, and the UK. The US, which was the only state to oppose a 2006 UN vote in favor of working towards a treaty, also had an expert at the discussions.

The Control Arms Campaign, which has mobilized worldwide support for a strong global treaty since 2003, closely followed the GGE process and eagerly awaits its final agreed report. It is likely to be made public in a few weeks, and will be presented by the UN Secretary General to the General Assembly later this year.

UN GGE reports are normally agreed by consensus, and it is expected that this report will be a descriptive analysis of the issues the GGE has discussed as well as recommendations for further discussion. The kinds of issues discussed included the types of conventional weapons that should be covered by a future treaty, the types of transfers and transactions which might be included in a treaty, and the aspects of international law which apply to arms transfer decisions.

Control Arms Campaign activists around the world have called for tough action by the international community to bring the dangerous trade in weapons under strict control consistent with international law that will prevent arms transfers that violate human rights and fuel conflicts and poverty around the world.

An effective global Arms Trade Treaty, which establishes common standards based on international human rights law, international humanitarian law, and principles of sustainable development is urgently needed to address the widespread suffering and devastation caused by irresponsible arms transfers.

We will continue to mobilize civil society in support of an effective Arms Trade Treaty and call on governments to agree to quickly start negotiations at the UN.

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<sup>1</sup> Algeria, Argentina, Australia, Brazil, China, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Egypt, Finland, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Kenya, Mexico, Nigeria, Pakistan, Romania, Russian Federation, South Africa, Spain, Switzerland, Ukraine, United Kingdom, USA.