



The Norwegian Forum  
for Development  
and Environment



**To: Foreign Minister Børge Brende**  
**Utenriksdepartementet, Boks 8114 Dep.,**  
**0032 Oslo, Norway**

Oslo, August 4th, 2015

Copy: Senior Adviser Ingrid Schøyen, MFA;  
First Secretary Andreas Motzfeldt Kravik,  
Mission of Norway to the UN in New York;  
Senior Partner Gro Nystuen, ILPI

**Attendance at Arms Trade Treaty High-Level meeting at 1<sup>st</sup> CSP, Cancun 24<sup>th</sup> August**

Dear Foreign Minister Børge Brende,

We write to you in relation to the First Conference of States Parties (CSP) to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), to be held in Cancun, Mexico 24-27 August.

The Norwegian Forum for Development and Environment (ForUM), a network of 50 Norwegian NGOs, has followed the negotiations from the start as Steering Board Member of the global non-governmental Control Arms Coalition. The Control Arms Coalition has worked for more than a decade for a strong ATT to bring the arms trade under control, and prevent transfers that fuel human rights abuses, conflict and poverty.

We appreciate the leadership that you have shown by working for a strong treaty and by becoming a State Party to the ATT. We assure you of our support as you implement this important Treaty.

We believe that rigorous implementation is the most important priority for States Parties. It is the quickest way to establish strong new international norms that will establish what is and what is not acceptable in international arms transfers, and the most powerful way in which the ATT can achieve impact. We have seen in other Treaty regimes how the establishment of a new norm has been a powerful tool to influence the behavior of even non-signatories of arms control and disarmament regimes.

With regard to the CSP itself, **we encourage you to attend the High Level segment on 24 August**, to demonstrate your government's support for this important first meeting of States Parties, signatories and civil society.

We also wish to highlight our concerns to you about the trend in preparatory meetings, particularly among some exporters towards proposals to run CSPs with closed meetings, keeping ATT reporting confidential and a limited role for civil society, all of which would severely impact our ability to contribute to the effective monitoring and implementation of the Treaty. In order to achieve a successful outcome for the future working of the ATT we urge you to support the agreement of rules and infrastructure, which will enable effective Treaty implementation for many years to come. These include:

### **1. Rules of Procedure**

- Ensure there is an effective majority-based decision making process established for all procedural and substantive issues, and with no deferral mechanisms.
- Ensure that NGOs, including the Control Arms Coalition, are able to fully participate as Observers with a standing invitation to attend CSPs
- Maintain transparency with open, not closed, plenary and subsidiary meetings

### **2. Reporting**

- Ensure comprehensive, transparent reporting on both arms transfers and treaty implementation.

### **3. ATT Secretariat**

- Establish an independent ATT Secretariat, adequately resourced to enable support for ATT implementation and to effectively fulfil all the functions as determined for it by the States Parties, and with staff appointments based on merit.

### **4. Financial rules**

- Agree on a fundraising mechanism that is sustainable, will allow for effective implementation and is fair for everyone, especially less-resourced States Parties.

### **5. Strong standard:**

- Apply the provisions of the ATT consistently and robustly to prevent human suffering caused by irresponsible arms transfers.

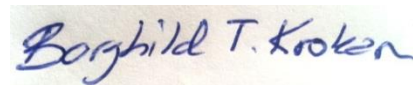
We would sincerely welcome the opportunity to discuss this with you further.

Yours sincerely,



Andrew Preston  
Director

Norwegian Forum for Development  
and Environment



Borghild Tønnessen-Krokan  
Senior Adviser

Norwegian Forum for Development  
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