

Towards an Arms Trade Treaty – Next Step
(Non-Paper)

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for the 2012 UN Conference on ATT
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For more than three years an ATT has been in focus. Given complexity and multi-faceted nature of issues related to arms circulation there was agreed to pursue consistent, step-by-step approach. This course of actions remains of relevance now, when we enter a new phase of formal negotiations.

There is no plenty of time left before 2012 Conference. Still, much needs to be done. To make it right within available time-limit we need to know exactly where we are and what to do next in terms of substance.

As of today there's no unified approach to an ATT. Instead, we face a variety of opinions. Some see a reason to start with a structure of a document while others propose to commence either with the scope or with preamble as the least controversial element. Due to diversity of views any of them hardly enjoys consensus.

What we suggest is to look for an element that is objective, simple and clear to understand by all and at the same time relevant to a key aspect of an ATT – its feasibility. By all means **goals and objectives of a potential document fall under that category.**

In this regard nobody, at least in the past, disputed dangers related to illicit trade in arms and its implications. The threat posed by uncontrolled proliferation of weapons is real, global in nature cutting through nations, regions and continents and affects every nation of the world. Not only GGE report but both regional and final seminars sponsored by EC and UNIDIR identified illegal arms traffic as a major challenge and efforts to combat it as a priority for ATT. We share the

assessment and believe that "countering illicit arms traffic" should be reflected in a document as its **primary goal**.

To ensure success we should be crystal clear about specific aspects of the illegal weapons' trade to be dealt with through a potential ATT. In our view, root causes of the issue need to be addressed. In this context what we can and must do together is to **prevent diversion from legal trade to illegal markets**.

In general diversion may happen at every stage of a "life cycle" of a weapon starting with illicit manufacturing or unauthorized export and re-exports up to improper disposal. It is critically important to ensure security of arms in circulation at all phases to prevent weapons from falling into wrong hands. The task is difficult, but we are sure that it can be implemented through concerted efforts both at national and global levels.

At national level introducing or strengthening strict controls on domestic arms circulation must be an equal responsibility for both exporting and importing nations. The main question is whether the practical job on legislation and law-enforcement can be done by respective governments or we do need an ATT for that. In Russia such a work is being done on a daily basis.

At global level steps aimed at "preventing illicit arms trafficking" include regulating some aspects of legal arms trade that are particularly sensitive with regard to a risk of diversion to illicit markets. More than once we have indicated these aspects or areas of activities. As mentioned in GGE report, weapons in the illicit market frequently come from **unlicensed production and transfers, unlawful re-export and illegal brokering**. Those issues are to be dealt with seriously.

Goals and objectives of a document, its scope and parameters are closely interrelated. The first aspect is essential for the latter two. If objectives are precisely defined, parameters and scope will be easier defined and embodied in a text.

We hope that the Preparatory Committee in its available time will focus on approaches based on logics and the interest of the States in a substantial and results-oriented dialogue.