



British Group
Inter-Parliamentary Union

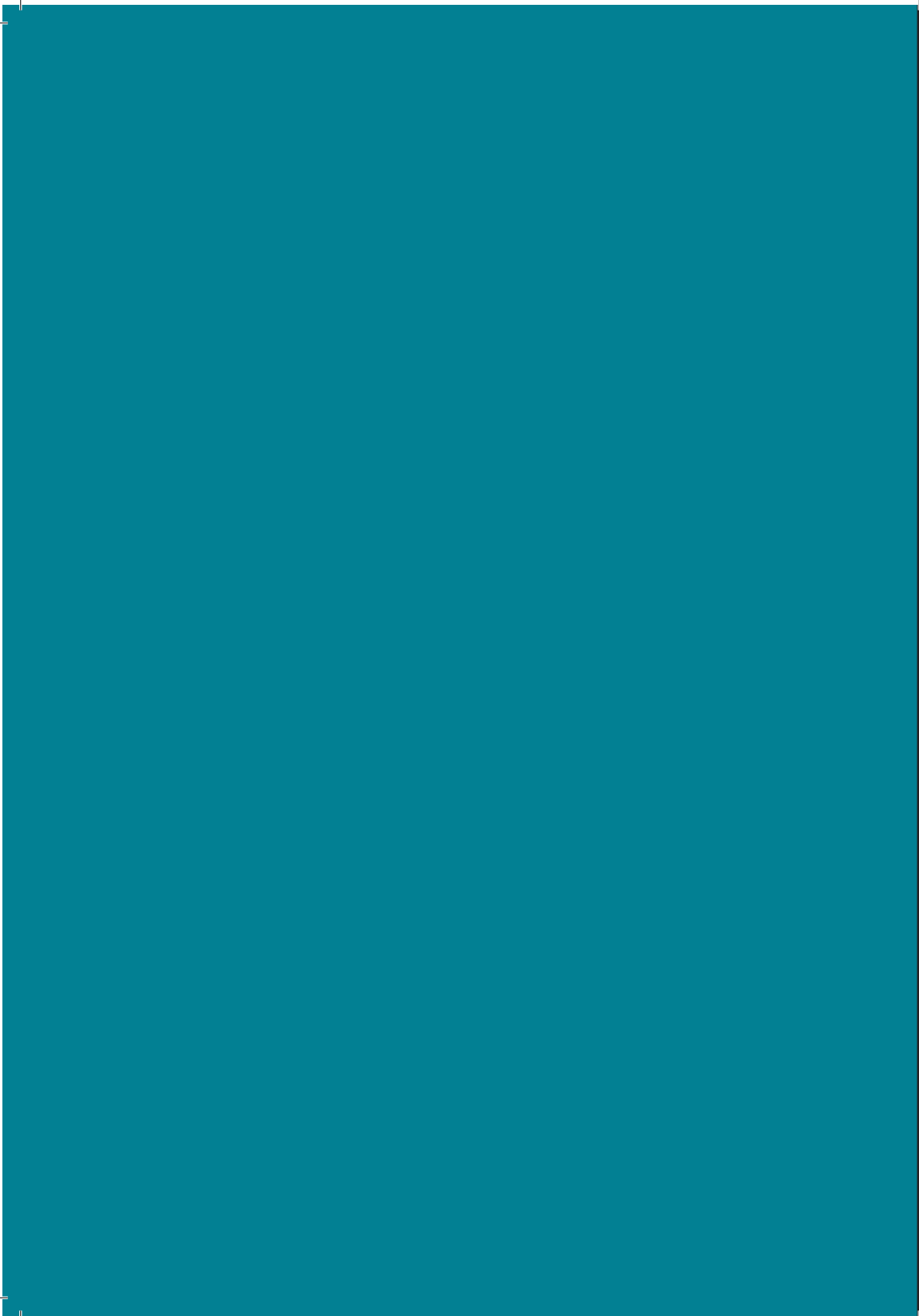
Arms Trade Treaty



PROGRAMME

INTERNATIONAL PARLIAMENTARY
SEMINAR

3–5 November 2014



Dear Delegates,

On behalf of the Chair of the British Group Inter-Parliamentary Union, Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP and the Executive Committee of the BGIPU, I am very pleased to welcome you to London for the International Parliamentary Seminar on the Arms Trade Treaty.

The Arms Trade Treaty has been the result of a lengthy process of global negotiation which has drawn strength from the commitment of many key contributors. It is both a mark of success and a source of considerable pride for the international community that this landmark Treaty has recently reached the number of ratifications required for entry into force in December this year. This makes the convening of the Seminar under the auspices of the BGIPU particularly timely in highlighting the efforts of those who have brought about the Treaty and in looking ahead to the next steps, particularly from a parliamentary perspective. This journey is reflected in the words of one key contributor, the BGIPU Chair, Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP, spoken at the time he signed the Treaty on behalf of the United Kingdom on June 3 2013, in his then capacity as Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, which have been reproduced on the next page of this booklet.

Through bringing together parliamentarians from around the globe, we hope to build through our discussions at this Seminar upon the existing momentum behind the Treaty as entry into force nears, and increase the knowledge base at parliamentary level ahead of the first Conference of States Parties. We hope you find the programme we have arranged to be both interesting and thought-provoking.

We also hope you enjoy and benefit from the contacts you will also make during the social components of the programme, with a welcome reception from the Speaker of the House of Commons on Monday evening and the government reception in Lancaster House, hosted by Parliamentary Under Secretary of State for the Foreign and Commonwealth Office, Tobias Ellwood MP, which will include an impactful and moving photographic exhibition by Giles Duley.

In this booklet, and in your delegate folder, you will find useful information regarding the programme, seminar participants and guest speaker biographies. This booklet also contains details of the BGIPU staff who are available to answer any questions you might have regarding the seminar or your stay in London. We wish you an enjoyable visit to London and we look forward to a very productive and interesting few days of discussion.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Rick Nimmo', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Rick Nimmo
Director, BGIPU

“I sign the Arms Trade Treaty for lives needlessly lost”

Remarks by Mr Alistair Burt, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, upon signing the Arms Trade Treaty.

Delivered on: 3 June 2013 (Transcript of the speech, exactly as it was delivered)

Today is a great success for the United Nations. After 10 years of campaigning and 7 years of negotiation the Arms Trade Treaty has opened for signature and the international community has queued up to sign it. That is because we recognise how important this Treaty is, and the potential it has to make the world a safer place.

I am very proud to be here representing Foreign Secretary William Hague, to sign on behalf of the United Kingdom. As one of the original Co-Authors, who first introduced the initial Resolution in 2006, I sign with a parental flourish, but I am also proud to sign on behalf of all those who ever wrote a letter, or signed a card to their Member of Parliament and wondered if it truly made a difference. To sign on behalf of all those who joined groups in their villages or towns, who join NGOs and charities, and those who lead them and who cry with despair at injustice and wonder if anything will ever become of their campaigns. And I sign on behalf of successive UK governments and their incredibly committed diplomats and officials, who by their efforts have displayed strength of leadership to help bring about today. For the United Kingdom, the ATT has been a real joint effort with government, industry and civil society all working together for the delivery of a Treaty that is strong, responsible and implementable.

The Arms Trade Treaty matters because, as soon as it is brought into force:

- It will save lives.
- It will promote sustainable development by enabling resources to reach schools, healthcare services, and critical infrastructure rather than being wasted on conflict.
- It will reduce human suffering by preventing arms being used in serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law.
- And it will help to combat terrorism and crime by steadily reducing the unfettered proliferation of weapons which threaten the security of not only the countries where terrorists base themselves, but also their neighbours and the rest of the world.

At the same time, the Treaty will protect the legitimate arms trade, allowing states to access and acquire weaponry to lawfully defend themselves, but it will also ensure that this process is not circumvented, abused or exploited by the unscrupulous who care little for the pain and suffering they inflict.

The Treaty is now the international blueprint for the regulation of conventional arms and it is a fresh starting point for international cooperation. We will encourage States to rigorously implement the Treaty, to be transparent in their implementation and to go further than the minimum standards of regulation required by the Treaty.

We urge all States to make this a priority. The world has already waited too long and we should not and will not lose the momentum gained. Our goal is early Entry into Force and universal application.

The United Kingdom will play its part. We will aim to ratify within the year and we will spare no effort to ensure this Treaty makes a real difference to the people that need it most, for finally I have signed for the innocent, caught up in conflict instigated by the wickedness of others, I sign for lives needlessly lost, in the hope that by making it more difficult for illicit arms to cause misery, an extra chance may be allowed for peaceful resolution of conflict, so that the world of my children and granddaughter will be that bit more bearable.

Thank you.

PROGRAMME

MONDAY 3 NOVEMBER 2014

13.00

Transfers for Delegates from Seminar Hotel to Palace of Westminster

Registration of Delegates, Attlee Suite, Palace of Westminster

14.00 – 15.30

Opening Plenary Session: The journey of the ATT to date and looking ahead

Welcome Remarks and Objectives of the Seminar

Chair: Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP, Chair of the BGIPU

The Journey of the ATT: The need for an Arms Trade Treaty and the UN Process

Keynote Speaker: Mr Erkki Tuomioja, Minister of Foreign Affairs of Finland

The Humanitarian Potential of the ATT

Speaker: Mr Francois Bugnion, Vice-President of the International Committee of the Red Cross

Looking ahead: Entry into Force and the First Conference of State Parties

Speaker: Ms Virginia Gamba, Director and Deputy to the High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, United Nations Office of Disarmament Affairs

15.30 – 17.00

Plenary Session: The role of parliamentarians?

Chair: Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP

What scope for parliamentarians in oversight of arms control regimes?

Speaker: Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP, Chair of the BGIPU

Prerogatives at the disposal of MPs to promote ATT signature, ratification and implementation

Speaker: Hon Naveed Qamar MP, Parliament of Pakistan & Convenor of Parliamentarians for Global Action's Peace & Democracy Programme

Lomé, London and Lima; How parliamentarians can share knowledge and experience on arms control issues through international fora
Speaker: Betty Amongi MP, Parliament of Uganda & Board Member of the Parliamentary Forum on Small Arms and Light Weapons

17.00 – 17.30

Group Photo, Westminster Hall

17.30 – 18.30

Tour of the Houses of Parliament for Participants

Guided tour of the Palace of Westminster and opportunity to visit the House of Commons Chamber to observe debate proceedings

18.30 – 20.00

Welcome Reception for Seminar Participants

Hosted by the **Rt Hon John Bercow MP**, Speaker of the House of Commons
Reception for Delegates, Diplomatic Corps and Invited Guests
Speaker's House, Houses of Parliament

TUESDAY 4 NOVEMBER 2014

09.30 – 11.00

Panel Discussion: Promoting Common Understanding of the Treaty

Chair: TBC

Wording and Nuance within the Treaty

What areas of ambiguity are there within the Treaty? How did these come about during the negotiation process and what positions did states take on these areas? E.g. Trades and Loans, National Law and National Security, definitions of “overriding risks” etc.

Speaker: Namdi Payne, Second Secretary & Legal Advisor, Australian Permanent Mission to the UN Geneva

The Humanitarian Dimension of the Arms Trade Treaty

Articles 6 & 7 are considered to be at the heart of the Treaty; how might States interpret these provisions and the role of parliamentarians in encouraging them to do so?

Speaker: Dr Gilles Giacca, Legal Adviser in the Arms Unit of the Legal Division at the ICRC

Achieving the highest Level of interpretation of the Treaty

How national positions on the meaning and scope of the Treaty differ, and how can an international best practise standard be reached that will achieve the highest possible level of arms control

Speaker: Anna Macdonald, Director, Control Arms

11.00 – 11.30

Coffee Break

11.30 – 12.45

Breakout sessions: Key Articles & principles within the Treaty

Delegates will split into groups to examine key elements of the Treaty, the role parliaments and parliamentarians can play in ensuring these principles are upheld, particularly focusing on areas where there is some ambiguity within the Treaty

Breakout Session 1: Achieving a broad understanding of the wider impact of arms controls and the regulatory environment

N.B Interpretation provided in Spanish

What are the wider obligations of State and Parliaments regarding arms controls; How can parliamentarians better understand and play an active role in upholding international commitments, including understanding the synergies between ATT and other international instruments such as the UN Register, the Firearms Protocol, UN PoA and ITI. How can experiences inform parliamentarians with regard to implementing and reporting on the ATT?

Moderator: Dr Paul Holtam, Head of Peace, Reconciliation and Security Team, Centre for Peace and Social Relations, University of Coventry

Breakout Session: Parliamentary role and perspectives on risk assessments of arms export decisions

N.B Interpretation provided in French

Parliamentarians have an important role to play in ensuring that States meet their obligations. Should States report to relevant parliamentary Committees detailing their license decision processes? What role do parliaments have as advocates and legislators to encourage governments to reassess authorisations where new information emerges both in terms of bringing such information to light and ensuring that appropriate action might be taken?

Moderator: Dr Silvia Cattaneo, Coordinator, The Geneva Forum

12:45 – 14.00

Working Lunch, IPU & Jubilee rooms

Civil Society Information Fair and networking lunch

14.15 – 15.30

Panel Discussion: Differing parliamentary approaches to arms control mechanisms.

Examining the different approaches to oversight practices and mechanisms relating to arms transfers in various parliaments. Where has parliamentary scrutiny demonstrably held a government to account

and what lessons can be taken and applied by parliamentarians holding governments to account?

Chair: Lord McConnell of Glenscorrodale, Member of the House of Lords

Case Study 1: United Kingdom, **Mike Gapes MP**, Member of the Committees on Arms Export Controls

Case Study 2: Sweden, **Christer Winbäck**

Report Back: Dr Paul Holtam, Head of Peace, Reconciliation and Security Team, Centre for Peace and Social Relations, University of Coventry

15.30 – 15.45

Coffee Break

15.45 – 17.30

Panel Discussion: Parliamentary role in Reporting and Monitoring of the Treaty

What resources are available to parliamentarians to enhance expertise in this area in order to build the capacity of parliamentary systems, such as Select Committees, to carry out effective oversight? What constitutes useful transparency and how can a reporting mechanism be considered useful for parliamentary scrutiny – answerable to questioning on human rights, questions on risk of use for internal repression etc?

Chair: Ann McKechin MP

Speaker: Dr Sibylle Bauer, Director, Dual-use and Arms Trade Control Programme, Stockholm International Peace Research Institute

Speaker: Parliamentarian Delegate TBC

Report Back: Dr Silvia Cattaneo, Coordinator, The Geneva Forum

17.45

Transfer from the Attlee Suite to Lancaster House

18.00 – 20.00

Evening Reception; Official Reception for Delegates and Civil Society Representatives

Photographic Exhibition by Giles Duley

Hosted by Foreign Office Minister, **Tobias Ellwood MP**, Lancaster House

WEDNESDAY 5 NOVEMBER 2014

09.30 – 11.00

Panel Discussion: Interaction and cooperation between Parliaments and Civil Society

Understanding the vital contributions made by civil society to the UN ATT process and how parliamentarians and Civil Society can work together going beyond Entry Into Force and in order to ensure that, in the long term, the Treaty is implemented to the highest standards

Chair: The Lord Palmer of Childs Hill OBE, Member of the House of Lords

Speaker: Elizabeth Kirkham, Small Arms and Transfer Controls Advisor, Saferworld

Speaker: Parliamentarian Delegate TBC

Speaker: Elli Kytömäki, Associate Fellow, Chatham House

11.00 – 11.15

Coffee Break

11.15 – 12.15

Panel Discussion: The Defence Industry: Self-regulation and accountability under the ATT

Understanding the valuable contributions made by industry to the UN ATT process and how the role of industry will be important to the implementation and universalisation of the ATT, through promoting good practice, ensuring thorough policies which meet the obligations of the ATT, and working with governments' reporting of the ATT through aligning their practices with national list requirements

Chair: Rt Hon James Arbuthnot MP

Speaker:

Speaker: Paul Everitt, Chief Executive, ADS Group

12:15 – 13.30

Lunch – Attlee Suite Ante-Room

13.45 – 15.15

Closing Session: Preparations for the Conference of State Parties

Plenary Discussion on findings, recommendations and conclusions

Chair: Sir Jeremy Greenstock, Chairman of the UN Association in the UK

Speaker: Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP, Chair of the BGIPU

Speaker: Senator Rojas Hernandez, Parliament of Mexico

Speaker: Ambassador Alejandro Estivill, Deputy Head of Mission, Embassy of Mexico in the UK

15.15 – 15.45

Closing Plenary: **Closing Remarks and Summary**

Chair: Rt Hon Alistair Burt MP

16.00

Closure of Seminar and Departure of Delegates

GENERAL INFORMATION

SECURITY PASSES AND NAME BADGES

For security reasons and to facilitate introductions, delegates are asked to wear their security passes and name badges at all times during the official Conference

FUNDING

Nominating parliaments/delegates will be responsible for:

- Booking and paying for accommodation
- Travel to and from the UK
- Transport to and from the UK point of arrival and their London hotel
- All subsistence costs outside the official programme
- All Personal expenses during the Conference period (laundry, telephone, room service, bar bills etc.)

ACCOUNTS

Delegates are asked to settle their personal accounts at the hotel before departure.

HOSPITALITY

Note that food provided within the Seminar Programme will be Halal

TRANSPORT IN LONDON

Transport will be provided where necessary to and from official engagements as shown in the programme.

SHOPPING AND BANKING HOURS

Shops in the West End of London are usually open from 0900 – 1800. On Wednesdays and Thursdays some remain open until 2000. Most banks are open from 0930 – 1630, Monday to Friday. Some banks have branches open on Saturdays from 1000-1200.

PHOTOGRAPHY WITHIN THE PALACE OF WESTMINSTER

Photography is prohibited within the Palace of Westminster with the exception of the Attlee Suite, the IPU Room, the Jubilee Room and Westminster Hall.

Official photographs will be taken by Paul Milson (Milsom Photography) throughout the <http://ow.ly/D1xTk>.

USEFUL ADDRESSES AND CONTACT DETAILS

Parliamentary staff who are supporting the conference can be identified by their accreditation passes which are bright orange imprinted with "Conference Staff".

Key members of the conference team are available to answer any queries relating to the event:

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Dominique Rees: +44 (0) 7764 581958

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