



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE ARMS TRADE TREATY
SECOND SESSION

CONSIDERATIONS OF THE CRITERIA AND PARAMETERS OF THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

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Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Liechtenstein is pleased to hear so many constructive statements at this second meeting of the preparatory committee for the UN Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty. We hope that this spirit will continue to prevail in our discussions, in order for us to seriously negotiate the substance of an arms trade treaty.

As my delegation did not take the floor yesterday, I will start my intervention with a short note on the scope of the future treaty. Liechtenstein supports an ATT that covers the whole range of conventional weapons as well as their components. This includes small arms, light weapons and ammunition for all conventional weapons. We also support an ATT that covers a broad range of transactions, including brokering, technology transfer and technical assistance.

I will now talk about the criteria that should govern arms trade, which will be the legal and moral cornerstone of the treaty. Recent and ongoing conflicts in many parts of the world and in particular recent events in Northern Africa and South Asia reflect a sad reality: conventional

weapons are often used to purposefully and systematically threaten, injure and kill civilians. This unacceptable behavior is the very reason why we need an ATT. It is of course the primary responsibility of the belligerents themselves not to turn their weapons against civilians. But where they manifestly fail in that responsibility, the responsibility of those providing weapons arises.

The future states parties to an ATT should therefore commit themselves to prohibiting the supply of weapons to states that violate applicable international humanitarian law and international human rights law in a gross or systematic manner. As the ICRC and several states pointed out yesterday, the ATT has a role to play in the promotion and implementation of international humanitarian law. Compliance with international humanitarian law and international human rights law must therefore be included as a criterion to assess arms transactions.

Finally, I would like to underline that Liechtenstein supports the manner in which these negotiations are being held, namely in an inclusive, open-ended and transparent manner. Each Member State should be allowed to express its opinion. We trust that this process will ultimately lead to the adoption of a treaty that will by its very nature be a compromise, though we would also like to highlight that no single Member State will have a right to veto. Rather, we look forward to developing a genuine political consensus under your leadership.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.