



**GLOBAL COOPERATION NEWSLETTER**  
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The sculpture on the left was presented on 30 September 1988 by the Government of Luxembourg. The sculpture of an outsized revolver with its barrel tied in a knot, greets visitors to the United Nations Headquarters in New York. The artist Carl Fredrik Reuterswärd, a native of Sweden, named the gift "Non-violence".

Photo Credit:

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<http://www.sudhakaran.net/>

Two years ago ICSW prepared a report on the proliferation of small arms. We concluded the issue of small arms proliferation is an increasing problem for developing countries and is a major challenge facing the world in the 21<sup>st</sup> century. Every year thousands of people die of small arms inflicted violence and countless others are maimed or suffer permanent injuries. In addition to the fatal and non-fatal injuries caused by small arms, there are indirect and devastating implications, which have become a major societal burden in Sub-Saharan Africa. Key social services such as healthcare have the added burden of avoidable traumatic injuries caused by small arms. The implications on health systems are exacerbated by the parallel high levels of disease and inadequate resources. The widespread availability of small arms adds to the rate and impact of

violent crime and increases the possibility of armed conflict. If the issue of small arms is not addressed it will continue to have devastating social and humanitarian consequences.

The UN has made some if inadequate steps to redress this blight on humanity. The cautious approach of some countries is inexcusable and callous.

The third United Nations Preparatory Committee meeting (PrepCom) on the creation of a legally binding international Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) took place at UN headquarters in New York from 11-15 July 2011.

With no legally binding agreement on the transfer of small arms and light weapons (SALW) in place, the international community is labouring to find a solution to the issue of these weapons as they are moved easily across the world, often finding their way into regions of conflict. Until the effective monitoring of transfers of conventional weapons is achieved, international humanitarian law and universal human rights will continue to be undermined in some regions.

### **General Overview of the PrepCom**

The Chair of the ATT process, Ambassador Roberto Garcia Moritan (Argentina), presented Member States with an "ambitious" draft paper that included small arms and light weapons, technology, parts and components, ammunition, victim assistance and international cooperation.

Some delegations pushed for a robust treaty that is comprehensive and rigorous and which can make a difference in the incidence of armed violence, development, human rights and international peace and security.

Other delegations sought a more "self-implementable" ATT that would more simply specify that transfers should only occur with official authorization. They argue that issues like brokering, transshipment and re-export are too complicated for an ATT to address.

### **Differing views of civil society attending the conference**

Civil society representatives were present in the discussions. Their positions, however, differed greatly from one to another.

Many NGOs, such as ControlArms, International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) and Parliamentarians for Global Action, were clear on their wishes for the ATT to be a robust system, in the hopes of stopping the illicit trade of arms, which they argue fuel and sustain conflict, devastate lives and hinder development efforts.

On the other hand, NGOs such as the US National Rifle Association (NRA) and the World Forum on the Future of Sports Shooting Activities, were keen on expressing their opinions on the right to bear arms and that civilian and sporting firearms should not be included in the treaty. They also emphasized the difficulties and near impossibility of marking and tracing of ammunition, "warning" that any attempts to do so would make it impossible for the ATT to be ratified in the US Senate.

### **Including Gender in the ATT**

During the third PrepCom, the issue of gender was brought up by many Member States as well as NGOs such as International Physicians for the Prevention of Nuclear War (IPPNW), IANSA and the International Committee of the Red Cross (ICRC). Yet many participants expressed the view that women and gender are being largely ignored in the process towards the ATT. The major achievement of the week in relation to gender in the ATT was the mention of gender-based violence in the preamble of the new draft paper released by the Chair, where he stated:

*"Recognising* the absence of commonly agreed international standards for the transfer of conventional arms and their diversion to the illicit market are contributory factors to armed conflict, serious violations of international human rights law and international humanitarian law, **gender-**

**based violence**, the displacement of people, transnational organized crime, terrorism and the illicit trade in narcotics, thereby undermining peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable social and economic development ... ."

Civil society has repeatedly drawn attention to the fact that women are not only victims of conventional armed violence, they are also survivors. They suffer the effect of the lack of control on the billion dollar trade and bear the burden of the emotional and socio-economic consequences of gun violence. Women are also particularly at risk of certain crimes because of their sex - including violence in the home, on the streets and in the battlefield.

However, many Member States, like Trinidad & Tobago, Mali, Spain, Nigeria, Norway and Australia, as well as international NGOs, argue that women are a key part of the solution. For example, they can help raise awareness of the treaty; actively lobby for the creation and adoption of national laws, regulations and administrative procedures that will be required to implement the treaty's provisions; look for and solicit both technical and financial assistance from the international community; monitor compliance to the parameters and principles; participate in the formulation of dispute settlement procedures and in the actual settlement of intractable disputes. Furthermore, women can actively participate in disarmament, demobilization and reintegration (DDR) processes, particularly in weapons collection. They often care for victims of armed violence and take initiatives to create a more protective environment for them. They could also help apply the principles of the treaty by helping to build peaceful communities by mediating conflicts and teaching non-violent conflict resolution skills to family and community members.

Women are calling on Member States to:

- a) Adopt an ATT with the highest possible legally binding standard for the international transfer of conventional arms, covering both small arms and ammunition as well;
- b) Not authorize the transfer of arms if there is substantial risk that they will be used to perpetuate or facilitate high levels of gender based violence;
- c) Not authorize transfer of arms firearms related to homicides or serious injury.

### **Looking ahead: 2012**

With the provocative language presented in the last two PrepCom Working Papers, it is likely that more refined and consensual language will be found in the draft treaty text presented at the 2012 Conference. The major concern revolves around the negotiation rules, since the resolution explicitly conveys the final product will be undertaken on the "basis of consensus," raising the question of whether the negotiations of the vast majority will be put off by the objections of a few States, or maybe even one.

The goal must be to reconcile the differing perspectives on the main objective of the treaty, and this will guide the way to negotiating the treaty's content. Some ask for a robust treaty that could be designed to avert the risk of violations of international humanitarian law, human rights or socio-economic development. Others would rather see the ATT as a way of smoothing the process of arms transfers and reducing the risk of such arms falling into the wrong hands.

### **UNICEF new policy briefing, *Child Outlook***

UNICEF has released a new policy briefing, *Child Outlook*.

[http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/files/Child\\_Outlook\\_29\\_July\\_2011\\_1.pdf](http://www.unicef.org/socialpolicy/files/Child_Outlook_29_July_2011_1.pdf) 2.57MB *Child Outlook* is intended to bring attention to major global trends affecting children. Faster, deeper and more equitable gains for the children will require a sound understanding of the critical global drivers of and threats to economic and social progress in the 21st century, and a willingness to support children's rights in the reality of a rapidly changing world. In this first issue, UNICEF has addressed the following topics: *Leader: The changing world; World economy: A partial and fragile recovery; Geopolitics: After the Arab Spring; Development assistance: The ebb and flow of aid; Commodities: Costlier food; Public finance: From stimulus to austerity; Economic focus: The rise of middle-income countries; Employment: Minding the youth employment gap; Environment: Climate change hits the poorest hardest; The equity horizon: The ever increasing circles of equity*

## **UNRISD Green Economy and Sustainable Development: Bringing Back the Social Dimension**

Registration is now open for the UNRISD conference "Green Economy and Sustainable Development: Bringing Back the Social Dimension". This conference will be held in Geneva on 10-11 October 2011, and aims to position the social dimensions centrally in debates around green economy and sustainable development in the lead up to Rio+20.

Registration is online only, and is open from 1 August to 1 September 2011.

For more information and to register please go to [www.unrisd.org/events/greeneconomy](http://www.unrisd.org/events/greeneconomy)

## **The Millennium Development Goals Report 2011**

Some of the world's poorest countries have made impressive gains in the fight against poverty. But the least developed countries still lag in efforts to improve living standards, the United Nations said today in a report by the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA). The report shows significant overall progress towards achieving the global targets against extreme poverty. Read the 2011 MDGs Report. [http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/11\\_MDG%20Report\\_EN.pdf](http://www.un.org/millenniumgoals/11_MDG%20Report_EN.pdf)  
4.4MB 72pages

## **Call for abstracts - 2012 Joint World Conference of Social Work and Social Development: Action and Impact**

In July 2012 Stockholm will be the venue for the second joint world conference of the International Association of Schools of Social Work ICSW and the International Federation of Social Workers. It follows the amazing success of the first joint conference where 2,500 people from 100 countries met in Hong Kong in 2010.

The organisers have made the first call for abstracts. **Deadline – 30<sup>th</sup> November 2011.**

The conference will take place in Stockholm, Sweden, between the 8<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> of July in 2012. The conference will be the meeting point for policymakers, social workers, scholars and students to exchange experience and development in social work practice, social research and education and social policy to develop a sustainable welfare system for the future.

Visit the conference website to obtain information about the conference and the call for abstracts. Information is available in English, French, Spanish and Swedish: [www.swsd-stockholm-2012.org](http://www.swsd-stockholm-2012.org)

For questions regarding registration, hotel booking, social events, abstract handling, exhibition management and general information please contact Congrex at [socialwork2012@congrex.com](mailto:socialwork2012@congrex.com)

Regarding the scientific programme you are welcome to contact the Conference Secretariat that opened on 15<sup>th</sup> August. The conference administrator is Jöran Lindeberg [jlindeberg@icsw.org](mailto:jlindeberg@icsw.org)

Visit the conference on Facebook: *Stockholm 2012 – Social Work Social Development*

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Newsletter Editor: Denys Correll, Executive Director  
ICSW, Plot 4, Berkeley Lane  
Off Lugard Avenue,  
Entebbe, Uganda  
Phone: +256 414 32 11 50  
Website [www.icsw.org](http://www.icsw.org) Email: [icsw@icsw.org](mailto:icsw@icsw.org)

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