REINVIGORATING THE NARRATIVE

THE BROADER BENEFITS OF THE ARMS TRADE TREATY
Reinvigorating the Narrative: The Broader Benefits of the Arms Trade Treaty

We bring together officials and key actors to tackle armed violence prevention, using a ‘whole of government’ approach. The Centre finds donors and provides training, capacity-building, technical expertise and tools to help identify and fill legislative, technical and policy gaps. Our evidence-based research and analysis is made actionable through context-specific policy recommendations determined by consensus. We deliver affordable, sustainable programmes, always in close collaboration with local stakeholders.

With support from the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR), our work has focused on applying global arms control instruments—the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and the United Nations small arms Programme of Action (UNPoA)—predominantly in Southeast Asia, the Pacific and the Caribbean. We provide states with full-scope support to enable them to understand the technical requirements of international arms control instruments, to incorporate their provisions in national policies and legal frameworks and to implement compatible local arms control systems.

CAVR also hosts the Secretariat of the Pacific Small Arms Action Group (PSAAG), a network of civil society organisations in Oceania which acts as regional coordinator for Control Arms and supports linked global systems such as the Arms Trade Treaty-Baseline Assessment Project (ATT-BAP) and the International Small Arms Control Standards (ISACS).

The Centre for Armed Violence Reduction is a charity registered with the Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission (ACNC), ABN 62 161 762 778.

info@armedviolencereduction.org
www.ArmedViolenceReduction.org
Centre for Armed Violence Reduction
@Centre_AVR
PO Box 727 Surry Hills, 2010 Australia

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The Centre for Armed Violence Reduction

The Centre for Armed Violence Reduction (CAVR), an international non-governmental organisation (NGO), provides evidence-based research and services to prevent and reduce armed violence as a necessary precondition for effective and sustainable development. In partnership with governments and civil society we promote public health and safety by analysing, encouraging and contributing to effective regional and national armed violence reduction initiatives. A non-profit entity, the Centre facilitates the implementation of multilateral arms control instruments by adapting their aims to local needs, history and capacity.

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Reinvigorating the Narrative: The Broader Benefits of the Arms Trade Treaty

The vision of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is a noble one. It aims to advance international peace, security and stability, reduce human suffering and promote cooperation and transparency to foster a responsible trade in conventional arms. These objects present no simple task. As the first of its kind, the treaty should set global standards high enough to improve the regulation of international trade in conventional arms and to reduce and prevent their illicit trade and diversion.

Since the adoption of the ATT in 2013, states have demonstrated support by entering the treaty into force in record time. At the time of writing, the ATT has 92 States Parties and 41 additional signatories. This is impressive. However, for the treaty to be effective globally, it must be more widely adopted. Without universalisation, weaknesses in the worldwide arms control system will continue to exist, while vulnerable points become the focus of diversion or irresponsible trade.

When transferred irresponsibly or used illegally, conventional arms can pose a serious threat to peace, security, public health and sustainable development. The Global Burden of Armed Violence estimates that half a million people die violently, in both conflict and non-conflict settings, each year. The annual number of deaths in conflict has increased significantly since 2011, with illicit small arms and light weapons responsible for 90% of those fatalities. The misuse of conventional arms has the effect of forcing civilians from their homes and exacerbating sexual and gender-based violence. Modern light-weight firearms are easily used by children, which promotes the recruitment of child soldiers.

Even more than in armed conflict, the misuse of conventional arms has seen an increase in fatal violence in communities at peace. Firearms are now used in nearly 50% of all homicides—half, that is, of the estimated annual total of 438,000. One-quarter of all the world’s violent deaths take place in 18 countries that represent only 4% of the world’s population. The economic costs of violence are astronomical: up to two trillion US dollars in violence-related economic losses could have been saved between 2000 and 2010 if the homicide rate had been reduced from an average of 7.4 to 3.0 deaths per 100,000 population.

Our Centre works mainly with non-States Parties to the ATT, whose officials invariably ask the same two questions: ‘Why should we join the ATT?’ (What’s in it for us?) and ‘How can we join the ATT if our system is not yet fully complaint with its obligations?’ (Why not wait?). To help officials persuade their leaders that the value of the ATT outweighs its implementation cost, the Centre links the ATT to its wider range of benefits, then engages stakeholders to offer substantial assistance to developing states.

CAVR has partnered with Australia’s Department of Foreign Affairs and Trade to reinvigorate this narrative by gathering the broader benefits of the ATT into a single, readily accessible reference brief and infographic. You have here a practical guide that enables officials, NGOs, academics and participants in the arms trade to weigh the value of the ATT.

We discuss the reasons why so many States Parties have joined the ATT, the concerns of non-States Parties who delay ratification or accession to the treaty, and the strong links between the ATT and other global frameworks such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We address national concerns about international arms regulation and demonstrate the value of the ATT in curbing the illicit and irresponsible trade without encroaching on sovereign rights. But we also tackle the myth that the ATT restricts the lawful possession and use of small arms.

For those who hesitate to adopt the ATT until they fill gaps in their current systems, the reality is that states can ‘come as they are’ to the treaty, then attract capacity-building assistance from within the ATT framework. We hope to inspire states to adopt the ATT and to support them through the process, then to implement the treaty effectively as one means of reducing human suffering at the point of a gun.

Laura Spano, Director of Arms Control
Philip Alpers, Programme Director
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SNAPSHOT
THE BROADER BENEFITS OF THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

HUMAN SECURITY
Enhances Atrocity Prevention
Combats Gender-Based Violence
Promotes International Humanitarian Law
Saves Lives
Reduces Drivers of Refugee Flows

THE SDGs
Creates Stability for Development
Advances Tourism
Advances Education Opportunities
Expands Investment Opportunities
Improves Public Health
Reduces Poverty

NATIONAL SECURITY
Enhances National Defence
Supports National Interests
Combats Unregulated Arms Flows
Complements Other Arms Agreements

MARKET VALUE
Supports Industry and Investor Stability
Creates Reliable Regulatory Standards
Enhances Industry Reputation
Provides Certainty for Importers and Exporters
Weakens Black Market Supply

REGIONAL SECURITY
Creates a Framework for Regional Engagement
Enhances Cross-Border Cooperation

GLOBAL COLLABORATION
Supports Relationship Building
Generates Cooperation and Assistance Opportunities
Provides a Seat at the Table
Enhances Reputation
A FEW QUICK FACTS

A QUARTER OF THE ESTIMATED US$4 BILLION ANNUAL GLOBAL GUN TRADE IS BELIEVED TO BE ILLICIT.¹

46.3% OF WORLDWIDE NON-CONFLICT HOMICIDES WERE COMMITTED WITH FIREARMS.¹

TRADE CAN DROP BETWEEN 12–25% IN THE FIRST YEAR OF A CIVIL CONFLICT.¹

ARMED VIOLENCE IN NON-CONFLICT SETTINGS COSTS UP TO US$163 BILLION ANNUALLY IN LOST PRODUCTIVITY ALONE.²

SMALL ARMS KILL MORE PEOPLE THAN ALL OTHER WEAPON SYSTEMS COMBINED.³

APPROXIMATELY 60% OF HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS HAVE INVOLVED THE USE OF SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS.⁴

IN 2016 THE ECONOMIC COST OF VIOLENCE WORLD-WIDE WAS PUT AT 13% OF GDP.²

OF THE CHILDREN NOT IN PRIMARY SCHOOL, 77% ARE IN COUNTRIES AFFECTED BY FRAGILITY, CONFLICT OR VIOLENCE.¹

EACH YEAR AS MANY AS 500,000 PEOPLE ARE KILLED IN ARMED VIOLENCE, 70,000 OF THEM IN CONFLICT ZONES.²

IT’S EXPECTED THAT BY 2030, 75% OF PEOPLE IN EXTREME POVERTY WILL BE LIVING IN COUNTRIES AT RISK FROM HIGH LEVELS OF VIOLENCE.⁵

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4 Kofi Annan ‘Proliferation of illicit small arms has spawned “culture of violence and impunity”, says Secretary-General, as UN Review Conference opens at headquarters’, Two-week session aims to assess progress against illegal small arms trade since adoption of 2001 Action Programme, 1st & 2nd Meetings (AM & PM), (26 June 2006), DC/3029.
8 Saferworld ‘From the Sustainable Development Goals to the Post-2015 Development Agenda: Building a consensus for peace September’ (September 2014), Saferworld 5.
INFOGRAPHICS

SDG icons have been extracted from the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals website http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/news/communications-material/

Infographic on page 6 shows a quick snapshot of the broader benefits of the ATT

Flowchart on page 28 demonstrates a step-by-step checklist for the Export Risk Assessment
# ACRONYMS

## FREQUENTLY USED ABBREVIATIONS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Acronym</th>
<th>Description</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ACNC</td>
<td>Australian Charities and Not-for-profits Commission</td>
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<td>AFRIPOL</td>
<td>African Mechanism for Police Cooperation</td>
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<tr>
<td>ASD</td>
<td>Aerospace and Defence Industries Association of Europe</td>
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<td>ATT</td>
<td>Arms Trade Treaty</td>
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<tr>
<td>ATT-BAP</td>
<td>Arms Trade Treaty-Baseline Assessment Project</td>
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<tr>
<td>AU</td>
<td>African Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAAFAG</td>
<td>Children associated with armed forces and armed groups</td>
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<tr>
<td>CARICOM</td>
<td>Caribbean Community</td>
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<tr>
<td>CASA</td>
<td>United Nations Coordinating Action on Small Arms</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>CAT</td>
<td>Convention Against Torture</td>
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<tr>
<td>CAVR</td>
<td>Centre for Armed Violence Reduction</td>
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<tr>
<td>CEDAW</td>
<td>Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination Against Women</td>
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<tr>
<td>CERP</td>
<td>Commander’s Emergency Response Program</td>
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<tr>
<td>CRC</td>
<td>Convention on the Rights of the Child</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSO</td>
<td>Civil society organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>CSP</td>
<td>Conference of States Parties</td>
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<tr>
<td>EU</td>
<td>European Union</td>
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<tr>
<td>GDP</td>
<td>Gross Domestic Product</td>
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<tr>
<td>iARMS</td>
<td>Illicit Arms Records and Tracing Management System</td>
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<tr>
<td>IHL</td>
<td>International Humanitarian Law</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>IHRL</td>
<td>International Human Rights Law</td>
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<tr>
<td>IMPACS</td>
<td>CARICOM Coordinating Agency for Crime and Security</td>
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<tr>
<td>INTERPOL</td>
<td>International Police Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>IS</td>
<td>Islamic State</td>
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<tr>
<td>ISACS</td>
<td>International Small Arms Control Standards</td>
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<tr>
<td>ITI</td>
<td>International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons</td>
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<tr>
<td>MANPADS</td>
<td>Man-Portable Air Defence Systems</td>
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<tr>
<td>MDG</td>
<td>Millennium Development Goal</td>
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<tr>
<td>Acronym</td>
<td>Full Form</td>
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<tr>
<td>MSF</td>
<td>Médecins Sans Frontières</td>
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<td>MSG</td>
<td>Melanesian Spearhead Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>NATO</td>
<td>North Atlantic Treaty Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>NEPAD</td>
<td>New Partnership for Africa’s Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>NGO</td>
<td>Non-governmental organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>NPC</td>
<td>National point of contact</td>
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<tr>
<td>OCO</td>
<td>Oceania Customs Organisation</td>
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<tr>
<td>ODA</td>
<td>Official Development Assistance</td>
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<tr>
<td>PIF</td>
<td>Pacific Islands Forum</td>
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<tr>
<td>PILON</td>
<td>Pacific Island Law Officers’ Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>PNG</td>
<td>Papua New Guinea</td>
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<tr>
<td>PoA-ISS</td>
<td>UNPoA Implementation Support System</td>
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<tr>
<td>PSAAG</td>
<td>Pacific Small Arms Action Group</td>
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<tr>
<td>PTCN</td>
<td>Pacific Transnational Crime Network</td>
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<tr>
<td>SALW</td>
<td>Small Arms and Light Weapons</td>
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<tr>
<td>SDG</td>
<td>Sustainable Development Goal</td>
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<tr>
<td>UN</td>
<td>United Nations</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNGA</td>
<td>United Nations General Assembly</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNLIREC</td>
<td>UN Regional Centre for Peace, Disarmament and Development in Latin America and the Caribbean</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNODA</td>
<td>United Nations Office for Disarmament Affairs</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNPoA</td>
<td>UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in all Its Aspects</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNRCPD</td>
<td>UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNREC</td>
<td>UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Africa</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>UNSC</td>
<td>United Nations Security Council</td>
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<tr>
<td>UNSCAR</td>
<td>United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation</td>
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<tr>
<td>USAID</td>
<td>United States Agency for International Development</td>
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<tr>
<td>VTF</td>
<td>Voluntary Trust Fund</td>
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<td>WCO</td>
<td>World Customs Organization</td>
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INTRODUCTION
THE ARMS TRADE TREATY
At the beginning of the 20th century, combatants accounted for 90% of conflict-related casualties. Ninety years later, 90% of casualties in armed conflicts were civilian instead. Conventional arms kill more people than all other weapon systems, and currently approximately 70,000 people are killed in conflict zones each year.

Concern at the use of conventional arms has been raised in UN Resolutions covering 12 different conflicts. Even outside conflict zones, armed violence kills around half a million people each year, with casualties from conventional arms now concentrated in countries that are at peace.

Organised crime, militia and terrorist groups, enabled by high-powered firearms, continually threaten public health and safety while also putting a strain on socio-political and security structures.

The impact of conventional arms is transnational. Porous borders and poor legislative and enforcement frameworks allow conventional arms to be diverted from legal transfers or moved illegally across borders to enter illicit markets; such arms are then used to perpetrate crimes. Several regions have become corridors for illegal activity that are protected by heavily armed criminal and terrorist groups. The lines between armed conflict and profit-driven transnational criminal violence have become increasingly blurred.

The price we pay is both human and financial. The economic cost of violence in 2016 was 13.3% of global gross domestic product (GDP). The humanitarian cost is twofold: the casualties and suffering of people who live day to day amid armed violence and the lost opportunities to improve the livelihoods of whole nations of peoples. One-and-a-half billion people now live in regions affected by state fragility, conflict or violence from large-scale organised crime.

Each year, an estimated 700,000 to 900,000 new small arms and light weapons are added to the global stockpile of 875 million weapons already in circulation. Seventy-four per cent of firearms are not in military stockpiles but in the possession of civilians; developing countries spend 10–15% of their GDP on law enforcement, compared to 5% in developed countries. Changes in weapon technology, dual-use technologies, access to these technologies and the changing nature of conflict and violence place new responsibilities on governments to regulate the arms trade.

Illicit arms trade accounts for 10–20% of the annual value of the legal arms market. Dealers of illicit arms obtain weapons through irresponsible state transfers, corruption and diversion from state stockpiles. To hide illicit transactions from enforcement agencies, transnational criminals organise networks across multiple jurisdictions. This highlights the need for strong and consistent international trade standards aimed at preventing diversion. The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is a timely and appropriate response to our rapidly altering world.
As the many impacts of illicit and irresponsible transfers of conventional arms become clear, states are recognising increasingly that the issue of regulating the conventional arms trade must be dealt with. Adopted in 2013, the ATT entered into force in record time in 2014. The treaty regulates the conventional arms trade in order to prevent the diversion of arms that enable organised criminals, terrorists and end-users to commit crimes of atrocity. It does this by establishing what is considered to be, and what is not considered to be, a legal arms transfer.

The ATT is not a disarmament treaty. Instead, it is a framework within which the international community can cooperate to prevent legitimate arms transfers from being diverted into the illicit market. Becoming a State Party indicates a commitment to collaborating against and preventing irresponsible international trade in arms. The treaty builds confidence among states first by allowing States Parties to communicate mutual interest, then to provide clarity of intent and capability by discussing additional information on arms exports or imports.

The trade in conventional arms touches every state as an exporter, importer and/or a transit location. The ATT is an opportunity for every state to identify the leakage of arms from legal trade to the illicit market. By setting uniform trade standards, the ATT reinforces existing international law. But the treaty does more: by helping states to identify gaps in their own national control system; to establish cross-border collaboration to create regional stability, and to facilitate relationship-building between states.

This brief illustrates and brings together the broader benefits of the ATT. Sections 1, 2 and 3 review the object and purpose of the ATT and outline the meaning of ‘responsible’ trade under the treaty. The brief then examines the value of transparency to all stakeholders, including the arms industry. Sections 4, 5 and 6 demonstrate how the ATT benefits the three pillars of the United Nations—peace and security, sustainable development, and human rights. In doing so, we review how these benefits act not only in isolation but in many ways that are also mutually reinforcing.

Sections 7, 8 and 9 look at the wider benefits of the treaty for the arms industry and for states at both a regional and a global level. Our brief concludes by demonstrating that non-States Parties who wish to join, but who fear that their national systems are non-compliant with the ATT, should ‘come as they are’.

As States Parties, nations can use the developing treaty framework to progress, support and strengthen their own systems. This is the additional benefit of the treaty: the ATT itself is a tool for improving national, regional and global arms trade systems. States come to the table with different systems and capacity strengths. An added value of the treaty is that it encourages the international community to build confidence and oversight collectively in order to prevent illicit flows of arms that currently make possible atrocities, violations of international humanitarian law (IHL) and terrorist activity.
FOREWORD

2. ATT Article 1.
8. HE Karel JG van Oosterom, Permanent Representative of the Kingdom of the Netherlands to the United Nations, Statement at UNSC Debate ‘The human cost of illicit transfer, destabilizing accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons’ (13 May 2015).
9. For example in Angola, the Central African Republic (CAR), the Democratic Republic or the Congo (DRC), Chad and Uganda. See Letter Dated 15 March 2010 from the Permanent Representative of Gabon to the United Nations Addressed to the Secretary-General, UNSC S/2010/143 (17 March 2010); Small Arms and Light Weapons Report of the Secretary-General, UNSC S/2015/289 (27 April 2015).
10. Small Arms and Light Weapons Report of the Secretary-General (note 9); International Coalition for the Responsibility to Protect (ICRtoP), Statement at ‘UN Security Council open debate on small arms and light weapons: Civil society calls for Member States to protect populations from atrocity crimes by preventing the means to commit them’ (6 May 2015).
INTRODUCTION: THE ARMS TRADE TREATY


8 Small Arms and Light Weapons Report of the Secretary-General, UNSC S/2015/289 (27 April 2015) (note 9).


10 World Bank (note 21) 10.


13 World Bank (note 7) 1.


