

Chairman's Draft Principles
14 July 2010
PM Meeting

Guided by the purposes and principles enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations, and reaffirming its respect for and commitment to international law;

Recognising that arms control, disarmament and non-proliferation are essential for the maintenance of international peace and security;

Reaffirming the inherent right of all States to individual or collective self-defence in accordance with Article 51 of the United Nations Charter;

Reiterating the general prohibition against the use of force and the principles of the peaceful settlement of disputes and non-interference in the internal affairs of States, as embodied by Article 2 of the United Nations Charter;

Recalling the commitment to the principles of political independence, sovereign equality, self-determination and territorial integrity of all States, and acknowledging that peace and security, development and human rights are the foundations for collective security;

Acknowledging the right of all States to manufacture, import, export, transfer and retain conventional arms for self defence and security needs and in order to participate in peace support operations;

Recognising the right of States to regulate internal transfers of arms and national ownership, including through national constitutional protections on private ownership, exclusively within their territory;

Recalling the obligations of all States to fully comply with United Nations Security Council arms embargoes and other decisions in accordance with the United Nations Charter;

Reaffirming their respect for international law, including international human rights law and international humanitarian law, and the rights and responsibilities of every State under the United Nations Charter;

Taking note of relevant initiatives, undertaken at the international, regional and sub-regional levels between States, including those of the United Nations;

Acknowledging the growing international support across all regions for concluding a legally-binding instrument negotiated on a non-discriminatory, transparent and multilateral basis, to establish the highest possible common international standards for the import, export and transfer of conventional arms;

Recognising that 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, the displacement of people, organized crime and terrorism, thereby undermining peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable social and economic development;

Mindful of the need to prevent the diversion of conventional arms from the legal into the illicit market;

Reaffirming the need to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade of conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons;

Recognising the need to incorporate and codify existing best practices and to encourage States to adopt the highest possible national standards on the import, export, and transfer of conventional arms;

Emphasising that the ATT should serve as a confidence building measure that enhances transparency in the conventional arms trade, and should not negatively impact regional stability and security or work to prevent or hinder legitimate economic or commercial interests;

Recognising the primary responsibility of States in trade and transfer of conventional arms and the respective responsibilities of exporters and importers;

Reaffirming that the transfer of conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons, must be expressly authorized by competent government authorities as well as a clear prohibition of transfers to unauthorized non-State actors;

Recognising that the implementation of the ATT is primarily a matter of national responsibility;