

PRESS RELEASE

UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament
In Asia and the Pacific supports Kazakhstan in promoting the universalization of the ATT

Nur-Sultan, 2 July 2019 – The United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) and the Government of Kazakhstan will hold an Arms Trade Treaty Universalization and Implementation Workshop for Central Asia and Mongolia, in Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan, from 3-4 July 2019.

Maintaining international peace and security is a sovereign right and commitment of national Governments. To this end, they are committed to undertake effective collective measures for the prevention and removal of threats to peace. As one of such measures, the universal participation in the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) is crucial. Governments remain central providers of security and this is their responsibility to perform in conformity with the rule of law. To effectively execute these tasks, their armed and security forces legitimately employ a range of weaponry, which they acquire through national production or import. Exporters and importers need to ensure those weapons are transferred and stored safely, and do not end up in the wrong hands. In addition, Governments have a responsibility to ensure public safety and have a vested interest in providing human security and development to their citizens.

The ATT entered into force on 24 December 2014, regulating the international trade in conventional arms. Currently, the Treaty has 104 State Parties and 33 signatories that are not yet State Parties. However, participation of countries from the Asia and the Pacific region in the Treaty is low, with only 12 State Parties and 14 other signatories.

Against this background, the focus of the workshop is to promote the universalization and implementation of the Treaty and to strengthen its operation through expanding the membership in Central Asia and Mongolia. The workshop will provide a forum for discussion of the benefits of being parties to the ATT and effects on other commitments of the States, as well as contribute to building institutional capacity of the participating States for the future implementation of the Treaty. To achieve this, the regional workshop will involve government officials from relevant ministries, such as Foreign Affairs, Defence, Economy, Justice and export control agencies, together with experts from the ATT Secretariat, UNRCPD and NGOs.

Through this workshop, the Governments of Central Asian States and Mongolia will receive detailed information on the ATT and their capacity to move towards the accession or ratification to the Treaty will be enhanced.

The workshop is made possible with financial support from the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund.

For further information, please contact Mr. Yuriy Kryvonos, Director of the United Nations Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific, at info@unrcpd.org.