

control arms



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18 September 2009

The Honourable Lawrence Cannon
Minister of Foreign Affairs
125 Sussex Drive
Ottawa, ON
K1A 0G2

RE: Arms Trade Treaty resolution at the First Committee of the UN 64th General Assembly

Dear Minister Cannon,

We are writing to express our appreciation for the excellent work of the Canadian delegation at the July 2009 meeting of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Open-Ended Working Group (OEWG), held at the UN in New York. Canada's declared commitment to an effective Arms Trade Treaty, and the efforts of your delegation to achieve a useful OEWG draft report, proved vital to moving the OEWG towards a strong consensual position on the need for international regulation of the international arms trade.

In particular, we wish to commend Canada for its interventions during the OEWG meeting in support of a comprehensive, legally binding ATT based on the existing responsibilities of states under international law. Importantly, Canada called for a global treaty built on the principles and parameters of existing regional and multi-lateral instruments and on relevant international obligations, including commitments under international human rights law and international humanitarian law.

UN Member States now have an opportunity to build on the positive outcome from the OEWG and mandate a move to negotiations of an ATT. The negotiation of a global instrument to control the international transfer of conventional arms will demand considerable effort, and no doubt some states will be working to weaken the positive impact that an ATT could have. Concerted action by other states, such as Canada, is needed to ensure the urgent development of an effective ATT based on preventing arms transfers that destroy lives and livelihoods.

In particular, we sincerely hope that Canada will do all it can to promote and support a UN First Committee resolution in October that leads immediately to adequately funded and mandated negotiations. The resolution should commit the UN to conclude these negotiations by 2012 at the latest, and place issues such as international human rights law, international humanitarian law and sustainable development at the heart of the Treaty.

As you know, Project Ploughshares, Amnesty International Canada, Oxfam-Québec and Oxfam Canada are part of a global civil society movement working for an effective ATT. We and our colleagues around the world would like to assure you of our best intentions to work with you as the process moves forward to

achieve an ATT of which we can all be justly proud. To this end, we will be in further contact with your officials in the coming weeks and months.

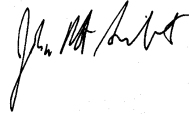
Once again, our sincere thanks for Canada's recent efforts in support of a strong ATT.

Yours sincerely,



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With the support of the international ATT NGO Steering Committee (ATTSC). The ATTSC comprises the following organisations: Africa Peace Forum, Amnesty International, Asociación para Políticas Publicas, Caritas Internationalis, IANSA (the International Action Network on Small Arms), Instituto Sou da Paz, Nonviolence International, Project Ploughshares, Oxfam International, the Schweitzer Institute, Saferworld, Swedish Fellowship of Reconciliation (SweFOR), Viva Rio, and the Women's Institute for Alternative Development (WINAD).