



The Ploughshares Monitor

Summer 2009, volume 30, no. 2

Project Ploughshares to manage UK funding to support international ATT work

In April Project Ploughshares announced that it will manage a one-year program on behalf of the Arms Trade Treaty Steering Committee to support international civil society efforts to achieve an Arms Trade Treaty. The Foreign and Commonwealth Office of the United Kingdom is contributing £323,000 from its Strategic Programme Fund, with an option to renew the funding for a second year.

The overwhelming majority of UN member states agree that an ATT is needed to control the trade in conventional arms. The United Kingdom has taken a leading role among states in the campaign to secure an ATT through the UN. This financial support is an acknowledgement of the key role that civil society has played and will play in advancing the UN process.

Project Ploughshares is a founding member of the ATTSC, which was formed in 2000 to secure resolutions at the UN that would initiate negotiations leading to an ATT. Ploughshares will manage the UK funds with guidance from ATTSC members. The funds will support training for NGOs and will allow them to participate directly in activities at the UN in New York and at ATT-related meetings of states in the Middle East (July 2009) and in Southeast Asia (September 2009) sponsored by the European Union. Support will also be available for civil society efforts in India.