



Action Sécurité Éthique Républicaines

First Statement – The ATT states parties conference

Objet de l'intervention : general debate

Paris, 17/08/2020

Mr. President. Ladies and gentlemen, delegates, we hope you are all well.

Mr. President, Action Sécurité Éthique Républicaines would like to congratulate you on the organization of this conference in view of the exceptional circumstances that led you to this singular format. We would also like to take this opportunity to congratulate the Secretariat for making it possible.

Mr. President, the Covid19 crisis that we are going through has suddenly revealed to the world, in a rare simultaneity, which were the true strategic sectors and therefore the first obligations of States to implement them. We are not talking here about wishes, but about the imperative duty that the governments of the world had to fulfil in order to protect human rights, the most basic of which is : The right to life.

None of the delegates here, we believe, will contest this obvious fact which opens the way for these same States to reflect on the means to be put in place in order to effectively protect the citizens of planet earth. This leads us to hope, along with the billions of human beings, that despite the few hiccups at the beginning of the crisis, States have understood the need for transparent and good-faith cooperation in order to be as effective as possible in this struggle, which is very likely to be a long-lasting one.

Mr. President, the analogy that we are proposing to you has no doubt not escaped your notice, and we are convinced that this terrible crisis shows us that it is also possible to pull ourselves together on the challenges posed by the arms trade treaty, particularly with regard to its implementation.

Indeed, since its entry into force on 24 December 2014, the Arms Trade Treaty does not seem to have done what it was designed to do, namely to clarify the framework of states' obligations

to prevent arms transfers that could be used to commit serious violations of fundamental rights and international humanitarian law.

Whether in terms of the volumes of transfers, which show a significant increase in their monetary value at the global level, or in terms of the destinations of these same transfers in conflict zones or in areas overwhelmed by crime, it is very difficult to say that the arms trade treaty is being rigorously implemented by the States parties.

Afghanistan, Libya, Palestine, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Sudan, Syria and Yemen are countries at war where the main arms exporting countries continue their irresponsible transfers with rare cynicism. Nearly all Latin American countries, the Philippines, South Africa continue to experience per capita rates of violence that could be akin to conflict situations.

Mr. President, this sad observation forces us to question the relevance of these State Party Conferences. The various legal actions taken by NGOs in Belgium, Canada, France, Great Britain and Italy are also there to question these conferences not as to their needs but as to their effectiveness.

The great French poet and resistance fighter René Char once wrote:

"what comes into the world to disturb nothing deserves neither consideration nor patience".

Mr. President, let this bard's injunction inspire you to see this conference in this "strange" time, give a new breath to this exercise to convince the delegates that in this Arms Trade Treaty the imperative duty of States is to prevent serious violations of human rights and international humanitarian law in order to contribute to international and regional peace, security and stability.

Thank you, Mr. President.

For ASER

Benoît Muracciole
President