



Working Meeting of the
Committee on Democracy and Peace of the
Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA)
Brasilia, Brazil
October 15, 2013

**RESOLUTION ON THE RATIFICATION OF
THE ARMS TRADE TREATY (ATT)**

CONSIDERING that international trade in arms, when undertaken irresponsibly or diverted to illicit markets, contributes to armed conflict and armed violence and this often results in serious violations of international humanitarian law and human rights law, acts of terrorism and diversion for the benefit of organized crime;

BEARING IN MIND that civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those affected by armed conflict and armed violence;

CONSIDERING that the devastating consequences of irresponsible trade in conventional weapons undermine peace and peace-building processes, human safety and security, initiatives to reduce poverty and prospects for sustainable socio-economic development;

CONSIDERING that, since 2006, member States of the United Nations have adopted resolutions A/RES/67/234 B (2013), A/RES/67/234 A (2012), A/C.1/66/L.50 (2011), A/RES/64/48 (2009), A/RES/63/240 (2008) and A/RES/61/89 (2006) and conducted negotiations for the adoption of an arms trade treaty, particularly at the Final UN Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty held from March 8 to 28, 2013;

CONSIDERING the contribution made by the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects as well as by the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition;

CONSIDERING that so far 105 States ratified the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition;

CONSIDERING that more than 2,100 parliamentarians from 114 countries signed the Global Parliamentary Declaration on the Arms Trade Treaty in 2012, calling on decision makers to establish an international agreement covering all transfers of conventional arms and to recognize the role of parliamentarians in the ratification, promotion and implementation of the Treaty;

CONSIDERING that in April 2013, the General Assembly of the United Nations adopted the Arms Trade Treaty regulating the trade and transfer of conventional arms by a vote of 154 in favour, 3 against and 23 abstentions;

CONSCIOUS of the importance of addressing the problem of illicit trafficking of arms and armed violence from a holistic perspective in the light of these two global legal instruments;

AWARE that it is the responsibility of all States, in accordance with their respective international obligations, to regulate and supervise the international trade of conventional weapons, to prevent their diversion for illicit purposes and to implement effective systems of national control;

NOTING that the Treaty on Arms Trade and the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Parts and Components and Ammunition are the only legally binding global instruments to be complementary and mutually reinforcing;

CONSIDERING that parliamentarians play a major influential role in the defence and endorsement of the Treaty, and in its ratification by their respective governments, its transposition into national law and its effective implementation;

The Parliamentary Confederation of the Americas (COPA), by means of its General Assembly, **RECOGNIZES** that it is essential to prevent all trafficking and to regulate legal trade through the signing and ratification of an international treaty on arms trade. To this end, the parliamentarians:

1. **APPLAUD** the successful negotiations conducted at the Final Conference held in March 2013, which led to the adoption of the Treaty;
2. **URGE** the governments of their respective States to take action for the ratification of this Treaty and the Protocol which will save lives as well as protect and promote human rights and commit to promote the ratification of the Treaty and the Protocol among their colleagues in their respective parliaments, particularly through direct contact with ministries of foreign affairs, media interviews, information documents for internal use, motions or questions in parliament, meetings with parliamentary speakers and public awareness raising;
3. **ENSURE** that domestic laws faithfully reflect and integrate the provisions of the Treaty and the Protocol and that their respective governments uphold commitments with respect to both instruments;
4. **PLEDGE** their full cooperation with other regional organizations to promote the ratification of the Treaty.

Adopted by the General Assembly of COPA, on October 16, 2013, in Brasilia, Brazil