

Women peace and security: The role of an Arms Trade Treaty

Thursday 22 October 2009, 1.15-2.30pm

Conference Room A

UN General Assembly: First Committee on Disarmament and International Security



'Setting the Scene'

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Introduction

- IANSA Women's Network members include women's rights groups, researchers, survivors, faith-based organisations, humanitarian and development agencies, etc.
- They are women's groups that have realised gun availability is preventing them from achieving their goals.

Gendered nature of armed violence

- Overwhelming majority of gun users are men, but the whole community suffers, both men and women.
- Through UN SC 1325 in 2000, the international community now recognises the role of women as peacebuilders.
- And through SCR 1820 and follow-ups, sexual violence is now being recognised as a weapon of war.
- The ATT must not ignore these developments.

Women's Network already active

- Using 1325 as an entry point, IANSA women's network has been active for many years on preventing armed violence.
- Used by WN campaigners in countries as diverse as Afghanistan, Burundi, Colombia, DR Congo, Iraq and Sudan.
- The network is also active through our participation in the UN NGO Working Group on Women, Peace & Security, and through Gender Action for Peace & Security.

States have existing obligations under international law

- International human rights law and international humanitarian law.
- But also emerging norms such as commitments to prevent crime and reduce poverty.
- These are objective standards, and should be reflected in the ATT.

International law includes women's rights

- Obligations under international law include specific obligations to support the rights of women.
- These rights are not explicit within the UN Charter or the Geneva Conventions and other instruments of international law traditionally used by diplomats in the disarmament community.
- But they have been elaborated by the Security Council resolutions and other international law, as will be described by my colleagues today.
- So they are part of the international law that is relevant for the ATT, and must be included.

Outline of side event

- My colleagues will be speaking in more detail about the links between an ATT, Violence Against Women, and the UN Security Council resolutions.
- The Women's Network is also launching an accessible briefing paper on the ATT.