

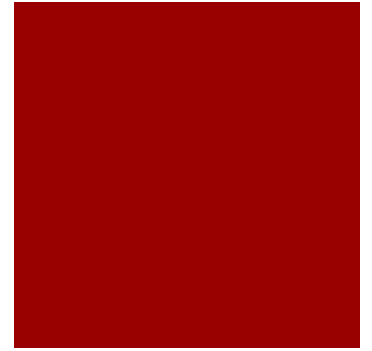


Arms Trade Treaty

Adoption, Basic Features, Distinctiveness.

Michael Liu (y.michael.liu@gmail.com)

Process leading to the ATT



- Prior United Nation (UN) Process.
- Four preparation Conference.
- ATT Conference 2012. Failed.
- Final Diplomatic Conference 2013.

Adoption.



- Consensus v. vote. Implications.
- Ratification.

Current ATT text: basic features and loopholes.



- Scope.

- i) Battle tanks; (ii) Armoured combat vehicles; (iii) Large-calibre artillery systems;
- (iv) Combat aircraft; (v) Attack helicopters; (vi) Warships; (vii) Missiles and missile launchers;
- (viii) Small arms and light weapons;
- (ix) Ammunition; and (x) Parts and Components

Current ATT text: basic features and loopholes.

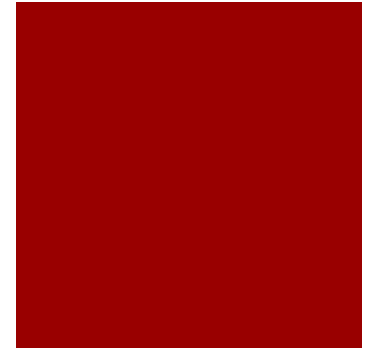
- Criteria. Prohibition. Article 6.

The ATT includes **explicit prohibitions** against States authorizing arms transfers under certain circumstances, including that the arms transfer

- would violate UNSC Chapter VII resolutions (arms embargo);

- treaty obligations;

- would be used to perpetrate war crimes, genocide, attacks against civilians and other grave breaches of the Geneva Conventions.



Current ATT text: basic features and loopholes.

- Criteria.Risk Assessment. Article 7.

Where the prohibitions do not apply, in considering whether or not to authorize an arms export States must conduct a **comprehensive risk assessment and consider possible risk mitigation measures**. The assessment explicitly requires States to examine whether there is a risk: of serious violations of international human rights or humanitarian law; of contravening conventions relating to terrorism and organized crime (which include corruption); or of facilitating gender-based violence or violence against children.

States are required to refuse authorization where the assessment concludes there is an “**overriding risk**” of the negative consequences listed.



Current ATT text: basic features and loopholes.

- Loopholes/weakness

Limited scope.

Risk Assessment: “Overriding risk”.

Diversion.



Distinctiveness with existing disarmament regulatory regimes.



- Regional v. Global.

Lower standard but wider coverage.

- Comprehensive.

- Humanitarian disarmament.

Significance for the region.



- Cross straight.
- East Asia.

Thank you!

