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Control Arms campaign and ATT Steering Committee position on the Arms Trade Treaty draft Resolution A/C.1/64/L.38 submitted by Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Finland, Japan, Kenya, and the United Kingdom.

The Control Arms Campaign and the ATT Steering Committee welcome the proposed establishment of preparatory meetings and the United Nations Conference on the ATT in 2012. An ATT must set the highest possible common international standards for the international arms trade, as mandated in paragraph 4.

We are encouraged by the reaffirmation of states to respect international human rights and humanitarian law and the recognition that international action should be taken to address the problems created in the absence of common international standards, including impacts on sustainable social and economic development, armed conflict and international terrorism.

However, we are gravely concerned that requiring decisions at the proposed United Nations Conference in 2012 to be made on the basis of consensus may derail progress towards achieving a strong and robust treaty. A strong ATT must require states to stop irresponsible transfers that fuel conflict, armed violence, corruption and serious human rights violations. Consensus-based decision making in the United Nations Conference will risk creating an ATT that is weak and fails to reflect the views of the overwhelming majority of states in the world that demand a comprehensive and strong treaty.

All states participating in the Conference must work to create a credible ATT that requires a rigorous risk assessment by states of each proposed international transfer of arms and that prohibits all those transfers of arms which are likely to be used to commit serious violations of international humanitarian or human rights law or to undermine sustainable development or to further armed violence. This will require a global treaty with comprehensive scope, parameters based on relevant international law and best practice standards, and strong mechanisms for transparency and implementation.

