

19 October 2012

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Sir Jeremy Greenstock
Chairman
UN Association of the UK
3 Whitehall Court
London
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Foreign &
Commonwealth
Office

King Charles Street
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Dear Jeremy,

Thank you for your letter of 25 September about the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), and your acknowledgement of the UK's leading role in support of the Treaty.

Securing a robust and effective ATT is still a high priority for the UK. Much progress was made at the UN Conference in July, and it is important that we sustain the momentum of the UN process.

The President's draft text of 26 July would bring significant improvements to the international situation. However, the draft does contain some inconsistencies, and a number of states have raised some issues with the current text, some of which you have raised in your letter. We believe that with a small amount of additional work we can make the text more coherent and effective.

The overwhelming view of the international community is that a short, additional conference in early 2013 would provide the platform for this work. The UK and other ATT Co-Authors are taking a Resolution to UN First Committee to set the timing for this conference, which will operate on the same rules of procedure as the ATT Conference in July. This is the best way to ensure the continuing participation of the whole UN Membership in the ATT process.

It is our aim to secure a high standard Treaty, with the broadest support possible, during this UN General Assembly session; and in the words of the Foreign Secretary, we will strain every sinew to attain it.

*We are truly working very hard on this - Thank you for
the support*

Yours ever
Alistair
ALISTAIR BURT