

**UNITED NATIONS GENERAL ASSEMBLY FIRST COMMITTEE  
STATEMENT BY THE UNITED KINGDOM ON BEHALF OF CO AUTHORS  
OF UNGA FIRST COMMITTEE RESOLUTION L38 The Arms Trade Treaty  
21 OCTOBER 2009**

Mr Chairman

It is a privilege to introduce the Resolution L38 entitled “The Arms Trade Treaty” on behalf of the Co-Authors – Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Finland, Kenya and Japan.

Mr. Chairman

The Co-Authors represent a broad cross section of international opinion and we have been encouraged in our endeavours over the past 3 years by the way that the vast majority of the world community have rallied to the cause of those who believe we must take action to ensure more effective regulation of the international arms trade.

But equally we have recognised the spirit of positive and constructive engagement by many others, who have had doubts and on occasions concerns about whether an Arms Trade Treaty was the best way forward and how it would work in practice.

As many speakers during this thematic debate have remarked at each stage of the discussion over the past 2 years we have been able to produce a consensus report to the General Assembly. In this we owe much to the wise chairing of these discussions by Ambassador Roberto Garcia Moritan of Argentina.

Mr. Chairman,

The ATT Co- Authors welcome the new US engagement and support on this issue, which was highlighted by Secretary of State Hillary Clinton in a statement of 15 October and in the United States national statement in this forum yesterday.

The resolution, which the Co- Authors have put before this year’s First Committee reflects a widespread view in our United Nations community that the time for general discussion is over. We must move forward to consider the practical details of an Arms trade treaty and to set out a clear framework for the ATT, giving us direction and purpose to our overall goal.

In keeping with the very positive discussion over the past 2 years the Co-Authors want an inclusive process and one that can be supported by all. There will be differences in the negotiation. That is what negotiation is about.

The Co Authors are united in seeking a strong ATT, one that addresses the abuses of Human rights and Humanitarian law that can result from the lack of effective regulation in the international arms trade. The wider damage caused to sustainable

development and our collective effort to maintain international security and stability are well understood.

We all understand the importance of these issues. The question is not whether regulation of the arms trade should pay due regard to these issues. The question is how we can, via an arms trade treaty, ensure that we live up to these responsibilities and obligations when we authorise individual arms exports from our countries or transfer arms through our countries. As we have said before an ATT is not a mechanism for establishing embargoes. It is about taking responsible and informed decisions on a case-by-case basis through national control mechanisms. The ATT will ensure that everyone follows the same procedures, retaining national decision over individual exports.

However we have resisted efforts to pre-negotiate the treaty via its mandate. We believe that the current draft resolution preserves everyone's position as we move into this important phase. There is much work ahead, and we look forward to working as constructively as we have over the past 2 years.

It is the sincere hope of the Co-Authors that all colleagues will feel able to support this resolution.

Thank you Mr Chairman

**John S. Duncan**  
**UK Ambassador for Multilateral**  
**Arms Control and Disarmament**  
21 October