



**United Kingdom
Permanent Representation
to the
Conference on Disarmament**

**Statement by the UK on agenda item 6
“A comprehensive programme of disarmament”
on behalf of
Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica,
Finland, Japan, Kenya
and the United Kingdom**

10 August 2006

Mr President,

The United Kingdom would like to make a short statement at this formal session on agenda item 6, "A comprehensive programme of disarmament" on behalf of the 7 co-authors of the First Committee Draft resolution on an Arms Trade Treaty (Argentina, Australia, Costa Rica, Finland, Japan, Kenya and the United Kingdom).

Over recent years a number of the world's political, as well as spiritual leaders, have called for the establishment of a new treaty to better regulate the trade in arms.

The international community has already taken a number of steps to deal with specific aspects of the trade in and the use of conventional weapons over a period of years. However, there is currently no comprehensive international legally binding instrument available to provide an agreed regulatory framework for this activity.

An ATT is not aimed at abolishing the arms trade, but in ensuring that it is conducted in a responsible manner. Our governments consider that the idea of an Arms Trade Treaty is one whose time has come. Our draft resolution aims to reflect the fact that this is a complex and often sensitive issue where, if we are to be successful, we must establish a proper balance between states' rights and obligations.

We propose that the United Nations begin work on this important issue as soon as possible by establishing a Group of Government Experts. We recognise however that there are clear benefits, once the Resolution is adopted, in having a period of wider consultation in order to better inform the discussion by experts. This is reflected in our draft resolution, which has been circulated to all UN members here and in New York.

We call on all members of the CD to support this important initiative as we take it forward in the United Nations this autumn.