Background
On 2 April 2013, after more than a decade of campaigning and seven years of work at the United Nations, the UN General Assembly overwhelmingly adopted the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) by 154 votes to 3. This is the first treaty aimed at reducing humanitarian suffering by bringing the conventional arms trade under control. Implemented effectively, it will create a new global norm for the transfers of arms and ammunition, assessed against the risk of misuse for atrocities.

The ATT officially opened for signature on 3 June 2013. Shortly after this, the Control Arms Coalition launched the “Race to 50” campaign, to encourage speedy ratification of the Treaty and early entry into force. At the time of writing, 118 countries have signed the Treaty and 44 have ratified it. 50 ratifications are required to trigger entry into force (EIF), which will take place 90 days after the 50th country deposits its instrument of ratification. 50 ratifications are widely expected to have been reached and exceeded in late September 2014, making the Arms Trade Treaty one of the fastest arms agreements to enter into force.

Current context
The last year has represented a critical stage in deepening understanding about treaty implementation. Control Arms Coalition members have run implementation seminars and workshops around the world including in Asia, Africa, the Caribbean, Europe, Latin America, and the Pacific. Topics at these meetings have included the exploration of model legislation, the provisional application of criteria, monitoring and reporting, the interplay between key ATT articles, information exchange, as well as challenges specific to each region.

The Arms Trade Treaty-Baseline Assessment Project (ATT-BAP) is another initiative aiding implementation. Through a survey, the project helps states understand the obligations of the ATT as well as review their existing policies and practices. The ATT-BAP launched a freely-accessible and user-friendly online Portal (ATT-BAPP) in June to share information on ATT implementation and best practices.

Progress has been made toward the first Conference of States Parties (CSP). The government of Mexico has offered to host the CSP, which will take place at a date to be agreed during 2015. A first informal consultation took place in New York in May that allowed states and civil society to exchange views on rules of procedure, the future ATT Secretariat, and funding mechanisms, among other topics. An informal consultation on the CSP is scheduled to take place in Mexico City in early September, with up to three more informal consultations scheduled to take place before the first CSP. In the meantime, the Control Arms Coalition has
taken steps toward establishing a civil society monitoring regime for the Treaty that has included input from many diplomats, academics, NGO colleagues, and monitoring experts.

Achieving the intended goals of the ATT will require all stakeholders – including states, international civil society, and relevant defence industry members – to continue to work together so that the treaty is effectively implemented and begins to transform the international arms trade.

**Recommendations for governments**

**During First Committee:**
- All delegations should support an ATT resolution that calls for strong and effective Treaty implementation.
- Delegations should outline their intention to undertake strong implementation of the ATT’s provisions as well as provide updates and examples of such steps already being taken.

- Delegations should participate in and contribute to the substantive discussions taking place in side events and elsewhere in order to share expertise and strengthen capacity for the robust implementation of the ATT.

**Beyond First Committee:**
- ATT states parties should encourage continued universalization of the Arms Trade Treaty.
- States should sign the Treaty if they have not yet done so and continue progress towards ratification.
- States should take steps toward implementing the ATT in a transparent manner. In order for the ATT to have the most impact on the ground, states parties should set the highest possible standards as they implement the treaty.