

## DECLARATION ON THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

*Presented by the Board of Directors of ParlAmericas*

### WHEREAS

*Guided* by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations,

*Recalling* Article 26 of the Charter of the United Nations which seeks to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world's human and economic resources,

*Guided* by Article 3, subsection i) of the Principles of the Charter of the Organization of American States (OAS), which provides that "controversies of an international character arising between two or more American States shall be settled by peaceful procedures,"

*Considering* that ParlAmericas' purposes include to contribute to inter-parliamentary dialogue regarding issues included in the hemispheric agenda, to help strengthen the legislative role in a democracy, and to contribute to the defence and promotion of human rights,

*Underlining* the need to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and to prevent their diversion to the illicit market, or for unauthorized end use and end users, including in the commission of terrorist acts,

*Recognizing* the legitimate political, security, economic and commercial interests of States in the international trade in conventional arms,

*Reaffirming* the sovereign right of any State to regulate and control conventional arms exclusively within its territory, pursuant to its own legal or constitutional system,

*Acknowledging* that peace and security, development and human rights are pillars of the United Nations system and foundations for collective security and recognizing that development, peace and security and human rights are interlinked and mutually reinforcing,

*Recalling* the United Nations Disarmament Commission Guidelines for international arms transfers in the context of General Assembly resolution 46/36H of 6 December 1991,

*Noting* the contribution made by the United Nations Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects, as well as the Protocol against the Illicit Manufacturing of and Trafficking in Firearms, Their Parts and Components and Ammunition, supplementing the United Nations Convention against Transnational Organized Crime, and the International Instrument to Enable States to Identify and Trace, in a Timely and Reliable Manner, Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons,

*Recognizing* the security, social, economic and humanitarian consequences of the illicit and unregulated trade in conventional arms,

*Bearing in mind* that civilians, particularly women and children, account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict and armed violence,

*Recognizing* also the challenges faced by victims of armed conflict and their need for adequate care, rehabilitation and social and economic inclusion,

*Mindful also of* the role regional organizations can play in assisting States Parties, upon request, in implementing this Treaty and, more specifically, of ParlAmericas' responsibility to promote the harmonization of national laws and legislative developments among member States,

*Noting* that on 2 April the United Nations General Assembly approved The Arms Trade Treaty by a 154-to-3 vote with several abstentions,

#### **The Plenary Assembly of ParlAmericas**

#### **RESOLVES:**

- 1. To encourage member Parliaments of ParlAmericas to adopt The Arms Trade Treaty recently approved by the United Nations, and**
- 2. To communicate this resolution to each member Parliament.**