



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

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PREPARATORY COMMITTEE FOR THE UNITED NATIONS CONFERENCE ON THE ARMS TRADE TREATY
SECOND SESSION

**CONSIDERATION OF THE ELEMENTS ADDRESSED BY THE COMMITTEE TO DATE AND OTHER
OUTSTANDING MATTERS**

STATEMENT BY RALPH A. STAMM

ADVISOR, PERMANENT MISSION OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN TO THE UNITED NATIONS

Mr. Chairman,

The delegation of Liechtenstein is rather pleased with the draft paper you have presented. We have read the chapter on criteria with particular satisfaction. Section B of this chapter now features two separate points on international humanitarian law and on international human rights law. We support this new structure. It reflects the important roles those two bodies of international law must play in assessing arms transfers.

Liechtenstein is also pleased to see that international humanitarian and human rights law are mentioned both in the chapter on principles and in the chapter on goals and objectives. We have some concerns, however, regarding the formulation of point 4 in “Goals and Objectives”. The goal as stated in point 4 is to “contribute to international and regional peace, security and stability”. This goal subordinates several others: reconciliation, sustainable development, the respect for human rights, to name just a few.

Recalling the three pillars of the United Nations, we believe that sustainable development and human rights are goals in themselves and should not be subordinated to peace and security. We are skeptical of a hierarchy of goals, which is also suggested in point 6 under “Principles”. I quote: “acknowledging that peace and security, development and human rights are the foundations for collective security”. End of quote. To say that peace and security is the foundation for collective security seems to be rather circular.

Therefore, we would appreciate if the chapter on goals and objectives mentioned development and human rights as goals for themselves. An arms trade treaty could contribute to the goal of development by avoiding excessive investment in arms. It could also contribute to the respect of human rights, and international humanitarian law by preventing arms from being transferred to states that violate these laws.

Many delegations have said that the ATT must fulfill a humanitarian function. This humanitarian function should also be reflected in the treaty’s goals and objectives. In our view, the chapter on goals and objectives is reasonable and well written. It could be further improved, though, by splitting and simplifying point 4. Sustainable development, the respect for human rights and the promotion of international humanitarian law should be stated goals of an ATT in their own right.

Thank you, Mr. Chairman.