



Statement on the Arms Trade Treaty
Pugwash President Jayantha Dhanapala and
Pugwash Secretary General Paolo Cotta-Ramusino
4 April 2013

We welcome the historic vote for the Arms Trade Treaty on 2 April 2013 in the UN General Assembly. This is the first global agreement to address the massive international arms trade, estimated at \$70 billion per annum. To the extent that this Treaty helps to codify and reinforce an international norm in favour of responsible and transparent arms transfers, governed by principles based in international humanitarian and human rights law, it is to be applauded. The Treaty will save lives and improve livelihoods in countries affected by conflict and armed violence. A negotiation among 193 states necessarily involves compromise, and items including the scope of weapons covered by the Treaty and the strength of human rights provisions preventing arms sales in certain circumstances are not as strong as we would have wished. However, Conferences of States Parties in the on-going monitoring and review process will have the ability to adapt and strengthen the Treaty. Over coming years this review process will build on the Treaty and create a wider body of international law governing arms transfers. We therefore urge all governments, including those who abstained and voted negatively on the Treaty, to sign the Treaty on 3 June 2013, and to move toward ratification and national implementation as soon as possible.