

INDONESIAN RATIFICATION OF THE ARMS TRADE TREATY: ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

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The Arms Trade Treaty is a multilateral, legally-binding agreement that establishes common standards for the international trade of conventional weapons. The treaty aims to reduce human suffering caused by illegal and irresponsible arms transfers, improve regional security and stability, as well as to promote accountability and transparency by state parties concerning transfers of conventional arms with the view to control the virtually unregulated import, export, transit, and brokering of conventional arms. After nearly two decades of advocacy, diplomacy and years of preparation, ever since the conclusion of the ATT in early 2013, Indonesia has yet to become a signatory to the Treaty. Indonesia's reason for abstention circles around the argument that the ATT is still inadequate to be implemented. Inevitably, for any new legal instrument, it is almost impossible to reach an almost perfect set of regulations. Even treaties that have been established for decades are still prone to imperfections. As a newborn international instrument, the ATT may potentially help States to start making a significant difference in their arms exports and imports to ensure that they are compatible with development goals. Implementation of the ATT and its universalization will complement the aims of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and provide States with an effective tool to bring about the reduction of armed violence and human suffering. None of the ASEAN member States have ratified the ATT—only Malaysia and Thailand are signatories. Indonesia, Myanmar, and Brunei Darussalam voted to abstain while Vietnam did not cast a vote. It is necessary for Indonesia to not overlook the ATT for its weaknesses and putting aside the advantages it may bring, specifically for the ATT's contribution towards sustainable development. Ratification of the ATT will become one significant milestone for Indonesia because other than it being in line with the ASEAN Political-Security Community Blueprint it will so contribute to the State's SDGs. The ATT has

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much to offer to the development agenda, and vice versa. It is in the interest of all States to join the treaty to ensure a safer, more secure, and prosperous future for all. Therefore, this research will analyze the role of the ATT for its contribution towards sustainable development, and the urgency of Indonesia's ratification towards it.