Another step in regulating the arms trade

The nowadays world’s unregulation generate sales of conventional weapons by more than 40 billion dollars. Roberto Garcia Moritán – ex Deputy Minister of Foreign Affairs – Chairman of the Preparatory Committee for the United Nations Conference on the Arms Trade Treaty and a close friend of the NPSGlobal Foundation stated that the Treaty looks for “set a number of criteria and parameters with the aim, among others, at relieving human suffering and prohibiting the illicit transfer of weapons that will have to be taken in count by all States at the time of exporting weapons.”

UN only established that the Summit must specify a Treaty that regulates import, export, and any transference of conventional weapons. It must be discussed whether States should interpret the controls or will be a set aside specific checklists, or whether to include “ammunition or parts and components for conventional weapons”. Some party-States considers this one as central to achieve the objectives of the treaty, but others see it as impractical and unnecessary. Even Moritán have stated “regarding the scope, that is to say, what type of conventional weapons treaty should been cover by the treaty, initially it should cover all conventional arms, including ammunition and weapons components and parts. Anyway, this is a controversial issue”

Needless to say that each state will strive by the more appropriate regulation to its will, either total, partial, or un-regulation. I.e., the representative of Trinidad and Tobago stated that “CARICOM cannot contemplate an ATT that excludes small arms and light weapons and ammunition. These are weapons of mass destruction in our region and the trade in them must be regulated”, whereas the U.S. representative opposes emphatically to this regulation

The criteria issues to authorize the sales of weapons will be one of most essential subjects. Here is a conflict topic, because some countries already have a “hard” legal body on whom, and how to export, but a lot of countries are still unregulated. One of most common factors that tend to arise is not to sell weapons to those who break human law and humanitarian law breakers. Although it’s also suggest banning to sell to those embargoed by the UN.
ATT is likely to delegate the implementation to party States, without create an inter-state organization; eventually it will set certain necessary processes to assure the transparency and publicity of national reports. Probably it will build a little Implementation Support Unit to receive this information and ensure its publicity.

The ATT's final goal is to develop international weapon trade standards that could help to reduce crimes against human rights and violence within societies. Particularly it tries to avoid that weapons reach to mafias, drug traffickers or terrorists. According to the Chairman of the Preparatory Committee "under his responsibility and without prejudice future negotiations, he has presented a paper containing a comprehensive view of what may be the treaty but has warned that most issues are still open and should be resolved at the Conference of negotiation itself."

Even in the worst scenario, where it fails to satisfy its lofty objectives, the ATT is an advance according that it represents an initial step for the next – and more institutionalized – agreement that imposes a more detail regulation and lead to an inter-state organization that monitor its compliance.

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