

**United Nations
66th General Assembly
First Committee**

**Statement of
Ted Rowe,
President of the WFSA**

Thank you Mr. Chairman, for this opportunity to address the First Committee. I am Ted Rowe, President of the World Forum on the Future of Sport Shooting Activities. For nearly fifteen years we have represented the hundreds of millions of hunters, sport shooters and legal firearms owners here at the UN. We also represent the civilian ammunition and firearms manufacturers.

Today, I would like to briefly comment on the Programme of Action (or POA) on small arms and light weapons and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). We are entering into a crucial period regarding the POA and the ATT. In July of next year we will, theoretically, negotiate an ATT, and in August of that same year there will be the Review Conference on the POA.

Mr. Chairman, the hunting, sport shooting and manufacturing community unfortunately needs to repeat messages which it has delivered to this distinguished group throughout the ten years of the POA and five years of the ATT process.

Mr. Chairman, there seems to be reluctance of those involved with the POA and ATT, to acknowledge the legitimacy and usefulness of legal civilian firearms ownership. Notwithstanding the fact that 70% of the small arms in the world are legally owned by civilians and not subject to abuse, the UN continues to oppose civilian firearms. Mr. Chairman, civilian firearms do not cause violence. In fact, the best research shows that the opposite is true. We do not have the time here to debate this issue.

Future POA efforts must acknowledge the legitimate role of legal civilian firearm ownership if they are to be successful. We sincerely hope those involved with the POA will heed our request.

Mr. Chairman, my second comment has to do with the issue of ammunition in regards to the POA, the ATT, and any other UN effort such as the initiative on stockpiles.

Mr. Chairman, the marking and record keeping of ammunition, continues to be put forth as a viable solution to a SALW problem. As ammunition manufacturers, we produce billions and billions of rounds of legal ammunition every year, much of which is quite quickly consumed. Let me repeat what I have said to this and other bodies: our objection to ammunition proposals is more involved than just policy considerations. It is

based on our expertise and experience as the entities that actually produce ammunition. No one knows this topic better than we do.

The inclusion of civilian firearms and ammunition in an Arms Trade Treaty will have an adverse effect on each and every member state of the United Nations. The importation of firearms and ammunition is made by every member state, furthermore, the export of firearms and ammunition is made by a great many of the states. Canada, Japan, Brazil, the United States, many members of the European Union, Turkey, Israel, Russia, China and other member states all export civilian firearms and/or ammunition.

Inclusion of these products and their components will greatly impede this worldwide trade, increasing costs, and create vast amounts of unnecessary paperwork and record keeping. The results would also affect the ownership within each of the several states contrary to the stated position that an ATT would not interfere with the private ownership within an individual state.

Let me conclude, Mr. Chairman, it is imperative that civilian firearms and ammunition be excluded from the scope of any future ATT. We are particularly encouraged by the Canadian statement made July 14th of this year at the ATT Preparatory Committee on the exclusion of sporting arms. Mr. Chairman, an ATT which specifically addresses the real problem of the proliferation of fully automatic military small arms will command very widespread support.

We stand ready to expand on these points should this be of assistance to you.

Thank you Mr. Chairman.