



Permanent Mission of Italy  
UN - Geneva

## **Eighth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty**

### **General Statement**

*Geneva, 22 August 2022*

Mr. President,

Italy aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. I would like to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

As a staunch supporter of the Arms Trade Treaty since the early stages of its negotiations, Italy remains firmly committed to the Treaty's goal of setting the highest possible common international standards to regulate the international trade in conventional arms and ammunition, as well as preventing and eradicating their illicit traffic and diversion.

We continue to believe that the way towards these goals remains the Treaty's universalization and full implementation.

In this vein, let me join others in welcoming the Philippines as the newest State Party. We hope that others States will follow soon and we wish to thank you, Mr. President, for your outreach efforts to broaden the ATT membership, as well as your appeal to international cooperation and assistance mechanisms aimed at overcoming technical hurdles and barriers existing in some cases.

We welcome the paper you presented, together with the other co-chair of the Working Group on Treaty Universalization, and we look favourably to your recommendations for enhancing progress in this domain. Indeed, more work is needed, particularly towards key arms importers, exporters, and transit States that still remain outside the Treaty.

Mr. President,

We strongly support the efforts aimed at enhancing openness and transparency in the implementation of the Treaty. In this vein, since 2020 Italy has decided not to avail itself of the Art 13.3 clause, allowing States to exclude from their annual reports commercially sensitive or national security information, and to provide the ATT Secretariat with any data concerning countries of origin and destination of all categories of weapons.

Furthermore, we welcome constructive steps emerged from the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting, towards improved reporting mechanisms encompassing training initiatives, confidence-building measures, and the use of a clear and uniform terminology when completing the annual reports. Initial and annual reporting are core obligations of the ATT and all should comply with such obligations regularly and on time.

Mr. President,

The ATT aims to contribute to the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security, defending the respect of international law and human rights. This is why, together with our EU partners, we have an arms embargo in place against Russia.

We strongly condemn the unprovoked and unjustified aggression against Ukraine decided by the Russian leadership and we call on all States Parties to refrain from any transfers to Russia.

Mr. President,

Like others, Italy once again expresses its concern about the financial situation of the Treaty. In this regard, we welcome the work on the proposed procedure that seeks to establish the necessary arrangements for States in arrears to settle their financial obligations.

At the same time, we renew our call to all relevant States to settle their arrears without further delay, as we consider the financial stability of the Treaty the only long-term solution allowing the ATT institutional structures and mechanisms to function effectively.

Thank you, Mr. President.