



Delegation of Italy to  
the Conference on Disarmament  
Geneva

## **Tenth Conference of the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)**

### **General Debate**

*Geneva, 19 August 2024*

Mr. President,

At the outset, let me congratulate you on your Presidency of the Tenth Conference of the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). I would like to assure you of my delegation's full support during this week.

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

Mr. President,

Ten years have passed since the adoption of the ATT by the General Assembly. Italy has always been a firm supporter of the Treaty, being actively involved in its negotiation process and being among the first countries to sign and ratify it. I would like to reiterate that for us this Treaty is not only a legal instrument to regulate trade in conventional arms and ammunition complementing other voluntary frameworks, most notably the UN Register of Conventional Arms and the Program of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons. It is first and foremost a tool to promote high standards for the respect of human rights and international humanitarian law. The lack of this regulation may fuel in fact armed conflicts, organized crime, terrorism; generate violations of human rights; destabilize countries and jeopardize economic development.

The ATT is also the first arms regulation treaty to recognise the link between conventional arms transfers and gender-based violence, mandating that gender based violence be considered in the course of export risk assessments. Its effective implementation can contribute to eliminating violence against women and girls, as set out in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 5.2.

Italy fully supports the Political Declaration promoted by the United Kingdom which recognizes the important achievements of the Treaty over its first decade of existence and welcomes the continued efforts undertaken to support its universalization and reporting mechanisms. We renew our commitment to the Treaty's full implementation and the establishment of a set of goals and actions to be prioritized in order to strengthen international and regional peace, security and stability.

In this regard, Mr. President, along with important achievements, we still have a great deal of work ahead of us in different areas, primarily universalization and reporting. Taking into account the universalization of the Treaty, over the last years we have struggled to expand the membership and a new commitment is needed particularly towards key arms importers, exporters, and transit States that still remain outside the Treaty. We fully support all the efforts you and your predecessor, Ambassador Seong-mee Yoon of the Republic of Korea, conducted in this informal preparatory process and welcome the recommendations to be adopted this week to enhance the work of the Working Group on Treaty Universalization (WGTU), both in terms of the work plan and the list of practical ratification/accession questions as well as domestication practices. The ATT Universalization Toolkit Provides consistency to the universalization narrative, taking into consideration motivations, benefits and challenges of accession. As of today, only 12 States in the Asia-Pacific are part of the Treaty and we support the efforts undertaken by the Presidency particularly in the region.

We express appreciation for the discussions held on the improvement of reporting mechanisms encompassing training initiatives, confidence-building measures, and the use of a clear and uniform terminology when completing the annual reports. We continue to be concerned by the low number of annual reports and call on all States Parties to comply with such Treaty obligations regularly and on time.

Mr. President,

We gather today in this conference room while the Russian Federation continues its illegal, unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression against Ukraine, which Italy condemns in the strongest possible terms. Along with other EU Member States, we put an arms embargo in place vis-a-vis the Russian Federation. We condemn the use by Russia of various conventional weapons against civilians causing untold human suffering and we call on all States Parties to refrain from any transfers to Moscow. This war also constitutes a case where legitimate transfers significantly contribute to the protection of values enshrined in the UN Charter and the right of self-defense and for this reason a number of EU Member States, including Italy, is supporting Ukraine with military assistance.

Mr. President,

Let me conclude by renewing our call to all relevant States to settle their arrears without further delay, as we consider financial stability the only way for the ATT to function effectively.

Thank you, Mr. President.