



Permanent Mission of Italy to
the Conference on Disarmament

Eleventh Conference of the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)
General Debate
Geneva, 25 August 2025

President,

Let me begin by congratulating you on your Presidency and on all the work you have done in the run-up to this Conference. You can count on Italy's full support.

Italy aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, and I wish to add brief remarks in my national capacity.

President,

More than ten years after the Treaty's adoption, Italy remains a strong supporter. We engaged actively in negotiations and were among the first to sign and ratify it. The ATT is vital to preventing illicit arms trafficking and the diversion of weapons to criminal groups and non-State actors. Just as importantly, it helps safeguard human rights and international humanitarian law. Without this regulation, armed conflict, terrorism, and organized crime risk being fueled, destabilizing entire regions.

The ATT also broke new ground by recognizing the link between arms transfers and gender-based violence. Italy attaches special importance to this provision, which can help eliminate violence against women, in line with SDG target 5.2. We therefore strongly support the decision to establish gender focal points, and we commend Mexico for its leadership.

President,

Despite progress, universalization and reporting remain pressing challenges. We welcome the recent accessions of Colombia and, before that, of the Gambia and Malawi, but too many key States—importers, exporters, and transit countries—remain outside. Expanding participation is not simply aspirational: it is essential to global security. In this regard, we support the focus on the Asia-Pacific region and endorse renewed collective efforts on all regions.

We thank you and your predecessor, Ambassador Ruzu, for your commitment to the Working Group on Universalization. Your paper, *"Universalization as a Priority"*, provides a clear roadmap, particularly in engaging industry, academia, and parliamentarians, using digital tools, and raising public awareness.

On reporting, Italy values the discussions on training, confidence-building, and using common terminology. Yet compliance remains weak. We urge all States Parties to submit annual reports regularly and on time.

Italy also supports the UK proposal to develop a long-term ATT strategy for adoption at CSP12. Building on the Political Declaration endorsed at CSP10, we should now define priorities and concrete actions to strengthen peace and security. In this spirit, Italy is pleased to join the new "Friends of the ATT" initiative as an informal platform for dialogue and cooperation.

President,

In spite of recent international efforts to end the fighting, the Russian Federation continues its illegal, unprovoked and unjustified aggression against Ukraine. Along with other EU Member States, we strictly apply a complete arms embargo towards the Russian Federation, while we provide full support to Ukraine with military assistance. We remain convinced that legitimate arms transfers can significantly contribute to the protection of values enshrined in the UN Charter and ensure the right of States to self-defence according to international law.

Finally, the effective functioning of the ATT depends on financial stability. We call on all States Parties to clear their arrears without delay.

Thank you, President.