



Permanent Mission of Italy to
the Conference on Disarmament

12th Conference of the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)

General Debate

Geneva, 24 August 2026

Madam President,

Let me begin by congratulating you on your Presidency and thanking you for the work undertaken throughout this cycle. You can count on Italy's full support.

Italy aligns itself with the statement of the European Union and wishes to add a few remarks in its national capacity.

Madam President,

Twelve years after its entry into force, the Arms Trade Treaty remains an indispensable component of the international architecture regulating conventional arms transfers. Italy has supported the Treaty from its inception and remains firmly committed to its full and effective implementation. As the first EU Member State to ratify the ATT, in September 2013, Italy has been at the forefront of efforts to promote its objectives from the very beginning.

Italy is pleased to be part of the Group of Friends of the Arms Trade Treaty, which we see as a valuable, flexible and cross-regional platform to complement the Treaty's formal structures. We look forward to continuing to contribute actively to this initiative, fostering dialogue and cooperation and helping identify new opportunities to advance the ATT's universalization and effective implementation.

At a time of increasing international instability, the objectives of the ATT are more relevant than ever. Preventing illicit trafficking and diversion, while ensuring respect for international humanitarian law and human rights, is essential to preventing conventional weapons from fueling armed conflicts, terrorism and organized crime. We also continue

to attach particular importance to the Treaty's provisions addressing the risk of gender-based violence.

The effectiveness of the Treaty ultimately depends on its implementation. Legal obligations must translate into effective national control systems, rigorous risk assessments and concrete results. In this regard, Italy welcomes the work undertaken within the WGETI, including on current and emerging implementation challenges.

Universalization also remains a priority. With 118 States Parties, the ATT has established itself as a global normative reference, including for States that have not yet joined it. Yet important exporters, importers and transit States remain outside the Treaty. We must therefore continue our outreach, while ensuring that broader membership goes hand in hand with effective implementation.

Madam President,

CSP12 represents an important step towards defining a Five-Year Strategy for the ATT. Italy welcomes the draft elements before us and supports a strategy that is ambitious but realistic, with clear priorities, measurable objectives and strengthened cooperation between States requiring assistance and those able to provide expertise and resources.

Transparency and reporting remain equally fundamental. Reporting is not a procedural exercise: it is essential for confidence-building, accountability and our collective capacity to identify implementation gaps and diversion risks.

Finally, ongoing conflicts provide a stark reminder of why our work matters. Russia's illegal war of aggression against Ukraine, the conflict in Sudan and instability in the Middle East demonstrate the devastating consequences of illicit or irresponsible arms transfers and diversion. ATT States Parties have a particular responsibility to lead by example, while fully recognizing the legitimate right of States to self-defense in accordance with the UN Charter and international law.

Italy will continue to work with all States Parties to strengthen the Treaty, broaden its membership and, above all, translate its obligations into effective action.

Thank you, Madam President.