



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES



Tenth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) 19-23 August 2024

Agenda Item 5: General Debate

Delivered by H.E. Carlos D. Sorreta
Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations
and Other International Organizations in Geneva



Thank you, Mr. President, and congratulations on taking on the leadership of our Conference. We assure you of our full support. We are also grateful to the Secretariat for its work.

We take this opportunity to congratulate and welcome Gambia and Malawi as the new State Parties to the Treaty and hope that others will follow.

This year marks the tenth anniversary of the Treaty's entry into force. In the face of the current global security challenges, now is a crucial time to reflect on our progress and to identify pathways in enhancing our collective efforts to improve the regulation of the international trade of conventional arms and the implementation of the Treaty, thus reinforcing further its relevance.

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DEPARTMENT OF
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Since the ratification of the Treaty, the Philippines has made significant strides in its implementation. At the early stages of the Philippines' implementation of the Treaty, it had already satisfied the ATT's provisional requirements, such as those stated in Articles 2-15, thanks to pre-existing national mechanisms, such as the Strategic Trade Management Act and the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act.

Mr. President,

We commend your chosen thematic focus on the pivotal role of interagency cooperation. Successful implementation of the Treaty demands a comprehensive, whole-of-government approach that requires unwavering commitment from pertinent government agencies in every step of its implementation, starting from the ratification process.

Universalization is of utmost importance in achieving the full implementation of the Treaty. We take pride in helping lead the way in Southeast Asia in being a party to the ATT, keeping in mind its compatibility with the recently passed ASEAN Declaration on Combating Arms Smuggling. The Philippines will continue to share its best practices and national experiences in ratifying and implementing the Treaty.

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The Philippines has embarked on bilateral and multilateral consultations with some states in Southeast Asia, South Asia, and the Pacific region from 2018 to 2024, including the development of a regional road map for weapons regulation under the UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation.

My country will also be hosting the 2024 Strategic Trade Management Summit in September, which will bring together over 30 countries and representatives from various sectors to exchange perspectives and best practices on the non-proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, supply chain security, and other international security challenges. The Philippines is optimistic that the Summit will generate and instill a deep commitment among parties toward the common goal of sustaining peace in the Southeast Asia region.

Mr. President,

The Philippines reaffirms its commitment to the Treaty's noble objectives. We assure you that our country will put its best efforts into keeping its momentum and in ensuring the implementation of the treaty a decade hence and beyond.

Thank you.