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**OFFICE OF THE OBSERVER OF THE DMUN FOUNDATION TO THE
UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AT GENEVA AND OTHER
INTERGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATIONS AT GENEVA**

On Transparency and Reporting

Ms. Zoe Lopez
Global Youth Representative
DMUN Foundation

11th Session of the Conference of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

AM 28 August 2025

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SEUL LE TEXTE PRONONCÉ FAIT FOI

I take the floor on behalf of the DMUN Foundation and a group of youth organizations that voluntarily align with our statement.

Mr. President, international assistance is the foundation that allows this Treaty to function. Without it, the ATT risks changing from an agreement for the collective to an agreement for the capable. The Voluntary Trust Fund is the instrument that prevents that outcome. From 2020-2023 it has implemented 49 projects with more than 12.9 million dollars raised to date since 2016. That is real impact. Yet it is equally clear that the Fund must evolve if it is to meet the demands placed upon it.

First, expand the donor base. Twenty-nine contributors are not enough for a Treaty that speaks in the name of all humanity. A fund so dependent on a handful of governments cannot guarantee stability. Each State Party that has the means to contribute should feel a duty to do so. A stronger base would spread responsibility



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more evenly and give the Fund the predictability it needs to plan ambitious, long-term projects

Second, prioritize systemic change. Too many projects stop at workshops or one-off deliveries. Training matters, but without legislation and permanent institutions, the impact fades. The Fund should privilege proposals that leave behind structures that cannot be dismantled by a change of personnel or a shift in budget. Youth in conflict-affected regions have seen the difference. When systems endure, violence recedes. When they collapse, insecurity returns.

Third, deepen regional cooperation. Arms trafficking routes cut across borders. A state acting alone can only ever contain part of the problem. Joint proposals submitted by regional blocs or groups of neighbors would stretch resources further and build the cross-border trust that this Treaty ultimately depends on.

Colleagues, the Voluntary Trust Fund is the test of whether this treaty lives or dies. Strengthen it and you prove that this treaty has the power to protect. Let it stagnate and the ATT fails. Our generation has been failed enough.

We thank you.