

**Arms Trade Treaty – CSP11**

**General Debate Statement**

**Australia**

President,

We thank you and your team for your guidance and assure you of Australia's support, including as Vice-President of this CSP cycle. Thanks also to the Secretariat, the Management Committee, and the Working Group Facilitators for their commitment to supporting the ATT's implementation.

We further commend you for your focus on universalisation and welcome Colombia, Malawi and Vanuatu as the newest members of the ATT family.

President,

Article 1 of the ATT states that the purpose of the ATT is to contribute to international and regional peace, security and stability, reduce human suffering, and promote cooperation. As the preamble of the ATT correctly recognises, it is civilians, particularly women and children, that account for the vast majority of those adversely affected by armed conflict and armed violence.

States have the tools to realise the purpose of the ATT. Treaties such as the Anti-Personnel Mine Ban Convention, the Cluster Munitions Convention, and this ATT were all established by States to prevent the very human suffering we are seeing now on a daily basis.

We can all play our part in strengthening the implementation and universalisation of these treaties, including to recommit to the object and purpose of the ATT.

Last year Australia supported the Stimson Centre's ATT@10 Project which provided valuable insights into possible ways forward for the treaty. We are pleased to see the recommendations of that report continue to resonate in the ongoing work of the ATT committees and throughout the preparatory processes for this conference. Together with the UK-driven 2024 Political Declaration for the next decade of the ATT, we are well placed to deal with the challenges of steering the ATT in these complex geopolitical times. We also welcome the UK's proposal for a five-year strategy. We recognise the potential for a strategy to guide implementation of the ATT and look forward to the exchange of views later in the agenda.

President,

Australia takes its obligations under the ATT seriously and contributes to global efforts to regulate the trade of conventional arms. We are committed to working with States Parties to strengthen implementation of the treaty and build capacity of those States requiring assistance to implement the treaty. That's why, in addition to our record as a donor to the Voluntary Trust Fund, we supported the Sponsorship Fund this year to assist delegates attend ATT meetings.

This year we are pleased to present at the Diversion Information Exchange Forum. We hope our case-study will assist States build their capacity to conduct robust assessments of export permit applications.

President,

Australia continues to be gravely concerned by the flow of arms to Russia from the DPRK and Iran, and the supply of dual-use goods which further its illegal and immoral invasion of Ukraine. Russia's invasion is a gross violation of

international law, including the UN Charter, by a permanent member of the UN Security Council.

Australia joined with 10 other states to establish the Multilateral Sanctions Monitoring Team which monitors and reports on violations and evasions of DPRK related UN Security Council sanctions. Concerningly, the first report provided credible evidence of arms transfers, including artillery, ballistic missiles and combat vehicles from the DPRK to Russia for use in Russia's invasion of Ukraine. We again join other states in calling for all illegal transfers of arms to Russia to cease immediately.

Australia wants peace and stability to prevail, both in our region and beyond. We urge an immediate return to a ceasefire in Gaza.

We note the opportunities for universalisation of the ATT in the Indo-Pacific region. We must better understand why States are reluctant to join the ATT and commend Small Arms Survey for its research on understanding the underlying reasons. We valued Vanuatu's presentation this morning which showed some of the challenges they faced.

President,

The ATT was ground-breaking as the first legally-binding treaty to recognise links between the arms trade and gender-based violence and violence against women and children. Sexual and gender-based violence has a profound and devastating impact on individuals, communities and countries and comes at considerable economic cost: estimated by the World Bank to be USD1.5 trillion each year globally. Ending sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) is a key priority for the Australian government, including through its *International*

*Gender Equality Strategy and its second National Action Plan on Women, Peace and Security 2021-31.*

President,

Australia is committed to transparency and has published its ATT Annual Reports every year since the treaty's entry into force in 2014. We call on all States Parties to submit their reports for publication, and to do so in a timely manner.

President,

We look forward to a fruitful conference.

Thank you.