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Statement by

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to the UN in Geneva

Arms Trade Treaty
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ATT – General Statement – CSP11

Mr. President,

At the outset, please allow me to thank you, Ambassador Foradori, your team and the ATT Secretariat for your vigorous efforts throughout the preparatory process and in particular for organizing the 11th Conference of States Parties to the ATT. Our appreciation also goes to the hard work of the coordinators and facilitators of the different working groups, the management committee and the ATT Secretariate.

Mr. President,

Israel has long recognized the importance of controlling the export of arms and preventing the illicit trade in conventional weapons in accordance with international humanitarian law. On a national level, Israel maintains a robust legislation, regulations and policies aimed at effectively controlling the export of arms. On an international level, Israel actively and constructively participated throughout the negotiations of the Arms Trade Treaty and was pleased to become a Signatory State to this instrument.

Israel reaffirms its intention to continue to effectively apply its national export controls. Israel also continues to submit its annual reports to the UN register of conventional arms.

Mr. President,

We believe that the Arms Trade Treaty is an important milestone in the international community's commitment and effort to fight diversion, unauthorized arms trade and eradicate illicit trafficking. Furthermore, Israel is of a view that the Arms Trade Treaty is an appropriate and relevant forum to address and discuss international norms and standards on arms trade.

We note with concern that in some parts of the Middle East, arms are deliberately transferred to Non-State Actors by terror-sponsoring states. The consequences of such illicit trafficking of arms are, among others, intentional and indiscriminate terror attacks against civilian populations, with the October 7th massacre being the prime example. We believe that the prevention of diversion and proliferation of arms to unauthorized

recipients, in particular to terrorists, is paramount and must be accorded due attention within the scope of the ATT.

In this regard, it must be clear that terror organizations and violent NSAs, in the Middle East specifically, are well-funded organizations that hold arsenals outnumbering those of some states. Since terror organizations do not see themselves accountable to any normative nor moral standard, the only way to stop them is by denying them the possibility to acquire weapons in the first place.

In this light, setting international norms and standards, while taking into consideration national security concerns, is of vital importance, and the efficient implementation of these norms and standards can enhance the collective security of all states, especially in the Middle East.

Mr. President,

We would also like to recall the link between gender-based violence and diversion of arms to NSAs, as acknowledged by the Arms Trade Treaty. In some cases, diversion can be a key factor in the escalation of armed violence, and in the perpetuation of gender-based violence. This clearly demonstrates the immense damage and loss of life that the illicit trade of conventional arms can cause.

We call for further action, including holding additional discussions on this issue as a matter of priority, in order to prevent the diversion of conventional arms to terrorist organizations, and to ensure that conventional weapons under this Treaty are not used to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence. Accordingly, we would like to note that we have submitted a Working Paper on this matter to the WGETI.

Mr. President,

Israel would like to stress the need to maintain our discussions **within** the scope of the ATT. Israel believes that the ATT has contributed to the creation of a framework for promoting responsible international transfer of conventional arms. We call for care when discussing and introducing to this forum guidance and measures negotiated and created by other fora. In addition, Israel calls to maintain the appropriate relationship between States and industry with regard to implementing regulations of arms transfers

under the ATT, bearing in mind that States have the responsibility to regulate arms transfers.

Mr. President, in this vein, we regret the statement heard earlier by the representative of the Palestinian Authority, which was unfortunately filled with falsehoods and manipulations. Mr. President, we are certain that delegations came to this conference with an intention to promote concrete and professional discussions on the very important subjects this forum was created for. We hope such distortions and lies - do not shift or divert this forum away from its important work.

Lastly, Mr., President, we hope that under your guidance, and with the support of the vast majority of the delegations, we can continue the collective efforts to avoid the exploitation of this forum for specific political interests, and continue reinforcing it so that it can remain capable to face today's challenges.

Our delegation stands ready as always to support your efforts.

Thank you very much, Mr. President.