



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL  
GENEVA

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**Eleventh Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty  
Geneva, 25 – 29 August 2025**

General Debate

Statement by Portugal

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Mister President,

Portugal aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to add the following in our national capacity.

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Ambassador Foradori, on taking on the role of President of the Eleventh Conference of the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, and to assure you of my delegation's full support.

My delegation would also like to welcome Ms Carina Solmirano and to congratulate her on taking on the role of Head of the ATT Secretariat.

Mister President,

Portugal is committed to continuing to respect and uphold the international legal framework governing arms trade. This includes the norms and principles of International Law, International Humanitarian Law, the Arms Trade Treaty, and also the European Union's Common Position on Arms Exports. In the beginning of the second decade of implementation of the ATT, Portugal renews its commitment to the Treaty and to its goals.

In order to further the Treaty's goals of reducing human suffering and promoting peace, security and stability, it is of the utmost importance that universalization remains a priority. My delegation thanks you for having chosen this as the theme of your Presidency and for having promoted the Thematic Debate on this topic earlier today.

Since last year's Conference of States Parties, the ATT community has grown with the accession of The Gambia, Malawi, and Colombia. Portugal welcomes the new States Parties and encourages all countries who have not yet done so to follow suit – with special focus on the Asia-Pacific region and on major players in international arms trade.

The financial situation of the ATT remains a matter of concern. Effective implementation is dependent on financial stability and, therefore, it is essential that all States Parties fulfill their financial obligations in time and in full. Portugal is a frequent contributor to the Voluntary Trust Fund and to Sponsorship Programme of the ATT, and we encourage all States Parties in a position to do so to also support the Treaty through these means.

We welcome the working papers submitted by the United Kingdom – on the elaboration of a longer-term strategy for the ATT – and by Panama – on strengthening youth participation – and we look forward for their respective discussions later this week.

Mister President,

The ATT's importance is made growingly clear in the current international context. In Ukraine, Russia's illegal war of aggression continues to violate norms and principles of International Law, International Human Rights Law, and International Humanitarian Law. Portugal supports Ukraine's right to self-defense, in line with the UN Charter, and will continue to do so for as long as it takes, in full compliance with the ATT. In Gaza, the dire humanitarian crisis and human suffering deserves our unreserved concern. Portugal calls for an immediate and definitive cease-fire, the immediate release of all hostages, and the swift, unimpeded, and large-scale entry of humanitarian aid.

Mister President,

By establishing legally binding standards on arms trade, the Arms Trade Treaty plays an important role in the promotion of peace and stability and in reducing human suffering. It is up to us, as the ATT community, to uphold these values.

Thank you.