



General Statement delivered by South Africa during the 11th Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)

25-29 August 2025

Mr President,

At the outset, my delegation aligns itself with the statement to be delivered on behalf of the African Group. South Africa expresses its appreciation to the Chairs and facilitators of the Working Groups for their dedication and valuable contributions throughout the CSP11 cycle of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

In an international environment where multilateral institutions and rules-based system of governance based on international law are increasingly being devalued and undermined, a steadfast reaffirmation of our collective commitment to the ATT and striving for broader participation are essential. Universalisation is not merely about increasing numbers, it is about strengthening the norms and international standards we have committed to uphold.

In this regard, South Africa warmly welcomes The Gambia, Malawi, Colombia as States Parties to the ATT and offer our full support as they begin their journey toward effective Treaty implementation. Each new accession reinforces the Treaty's legitimacy and its contribution to international peace and security. It therefore remains pivotal that we accelerate our efforts towards universalisation of the Treaty.

Mr President,

We take note of the multi-year workplans elaborated by the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation (WGETI), the Working Group on Treaty Universalisation (WGTU), and the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting (WGTR). These forward-looking plans offer a strong platform to deepen the exchange of good practices and lessons learnt among States Parties.

South Africa believes that effective implementation of the workplans will depend on regular engagement, practical cooperation, and sustained technical support, especially for developing countries. In this regard, we reiterate our long-standing support for international assistance and cooperation as central pillars of Treaty implementation. The Voluntary Trust Fund and the Sponsorship Programme remain vital tools to promote inclusivity, capacity-building, and the sharing of expertise.

Mr President,

South Africa recognises the efforts of the Management Committee and appreciate the recommendations regarding the Treaty's programme of work. We also wish to take this opportunity to reflect on the role and function of Vice-Chairs within the Bureau and during CSP meetings. As the Treaty continues to mature, it may be timely to review and clarify the responsibilities and contributions of Vice-Chairs to ensure they are optimally positioned to support the work of the President, promote inclusivity, and enhance coordination throughout the ATT cycle.

Furthermore, we commend the Secretariat for its ongoing work in ensuring the smooth functioning of the Treaty's mechanisms.

South Africa remains committed to the objectives of the ATT and to working collaboratively with all States Parties to ensure its full and effective implementation. We are confident that CSP11 can be a turning point in reinvigorating universalisation efforts, strengthening institutional cooperation, and advancing the ATT as a cornerstone of responsible arms transfer governance.

I thank you.