**Third Statement**

**Maat for Peace’ efforts to promote the Universality of the Arms Trade Treaty**

**General Item: Universality of the Arms Trade Treaty**

**Evening session, August 26, 2025**

**Thank you, Mr. President.**

The Arab region is facing an unprecedented escalation in armed conflicts due to irresponsible arms transfers, including in the occupied Palestinian territories, Sudan, Libya, Syria, and Lebanon. This has facilitated the commission of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, and has led to serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. The illicit flow of arms not only exacerbates security conditions, but also exacerbates the suffering of civilians and undermines the prospects for peace and sustainable development in the region.

Based on Maat's belief in the importance of promoting the universality of the Arms Trade Treaty as a key tool to curb these illicit flows, Maat has worked through an integrated approach to raise awareness, build capacity, and promote dialogue among various stakeholders, recognizing the devastating effects of the irresponsible arms trade on regional security and human rights.

Since its participation in the treaty's conferences in 2021, Maat has highlighted the dangers of the illicit proliferation of conventional weapons, diversions, and the increasing civilian casualties they cause. It has also highlighted the limited accession of Arab states to the treaty, with only three countries having ratified it. In addition, Maat has organized more than eight panel discussions and published four research papers addressing the legislative, political, and institutional challenges hindering accession. It has also presented opportunities for regional cooperation to promote universality, with the participation of international experts and civil society representatives.

Maat has also focused on building the capacity of youth, organizing five training courses for university students to familiarize them with monitoring and advocacy mechanisms and analyzing arms trade trends. This has enabled them to monitor irresponsible deals and document their impact on human rights. It has also held six training sessions for civil society organizations to provide them with a deeper understanding of the treaty's provisions and the advocacy strategies needed to communicate with governments and parliaments.

Maat also seeks to integrate international mechanisms to protect human rights. For example, through the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), Maat makes repeated recommendations to states to accede to the treaty, the most recent of which was to Turkey, which was reviewed under UPR for the fourth time in May 2025.

Maat believes that promoting universality requires joint and coordinated efforts. Therefore, Maat is currently working to raise regional awareness, particularly among Arab countries, to pressure for a reduction in the proliferation of conventional weapons.

Universality is not merely a legal goal; it is an essential means of protecting civilians, limiting the flow of weapons into unsafe hands, including terrorist groups and armed militias, and preventing their use in the commission of war crimes and gross human rights violations.

**Thank you!**