



STATEMENT DELIVERED BY NIGERIA ON AGENDA ITEM 6
(TREATY UNIVERSALIZATION) AT THE 11TH CONFERENCE OF
STATE PARTIES OF THE ARMS TRADE TREATY (ATT)
(TUESDAY, 26 AUGUST 2025)

Mr. President,

Thank you for giving me the floor. We congratulate you on your able leadership of this Conference and commend the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on Treaty Universalization as well as the ATT Secretariat for their excellent work and comprehensive report.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates,

For Nigeria, universalization of the ATT is not only about the universal adoption of the Treaty, but equally about its universal implementation. We are gravely concerned that, despite growing membership, ongoing conflicts across the World continue to reveal disturbing gaps between States' obligations under the Treaty and their actual practices. Reports of arms transfers to actors credibly accused of violating International Humanitarian Law directly undermine the spirit and letter of the ATT.

Universalization remains the cornerstone for the full effectiveness of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). Nigeria strongly believes that wider adherence to the Treaty is critical to curbing the illicit transfer of conventional arms and to reducing armed violence globally, especially in Africa.

Mr. President,

The credibility of this Treaty rests not only on the number of States Parties but on the integrity of its implementation. It is not enough to ratify; States must live up to the responsibilities they have accepted. Selective adherence weakens confidence in the ATT and perpetuates cycles of violence, instability, and humanitarian suffering, of which Nigeria and our region are painfully aware.

We therefore call for:

1. **Stronger peer accountability** mechanisms to ensure that arms transfers by State Parties do not fuel violations of international law.
2. **Enhanced transparency and reporting**, as confidence-building measures among States.
3. **Dedicated support for capacity-building**, especially for developing States, to enable effective implementation.

Mr. President,

Nigeria supports the role of regional “universalization champions” and encourage States Parties to continue engagements in advancing universalization. Universalization must mean a global culture of responsibility in the arms trade. Nigeria reaffirms its commitment to this vision and urges all present to match words with action.

I Thank you.