**ARMS TRADE TREATY**

**Eleventh Conference of States Parties**

**Geneva, 25 – 29 August 2025**

**Agenda Item 7**

**Mr President,**

Since it is the first time we are taking the floor during this session, Sierra Leone would like to congratulate you on your Presidency of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), and thank you and your team for all the hard work throughout this CSP cycle. We further commend your thematic focus on universalisation and welcome The Gambia, Malawi, and Colombia as the newest members of the ATT family. We reiterate our call on all States not yet party to join the Treaty.

We would also like to express our sincerest gratitude to Ms. Carina Solmirano and the ATT Secretariat for all their efforts to guide and support our work, including the effective coordination of streamlined documents and practical discussions.

Coming back to the agenda item at hand, we express appreciation to the Ambassador of the Philippines for chairing the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation and for the report on activities carried out during the preparatory period for this 11th Conference of States Parties, as well as to Ireland for facilitating the Sub-working Group on Current and Emerging Implementation Issues. Sierra Leone is honoured to facilitate the Sub-working Group on Exchange of National Implementation Practices. We believe the first well-structured exchange of views under the multi-year workplan has strengthened mutual understanding of implementation practices and set a good precedent for future work. In this light, we welcome the report and its recommendations, including continuing structured discussions on brokering and risk assessment, and the establishment of gender focal points. We support continued practical, structured exchanges next cycle—particularly on national control systems, brokering, and risk assessment (including gender-based violence considerations), on the role of industry, and on inter-agency cooperation—so that useful guidance translates into day-to-day procedures.

**Mr President,**

We meet at a challenging time for the entire international disarmament and arms-control framework. These headwinds make rigorous implementation of the ATT all the more urgent. Sierra Leone reiterates its steadfast commitment to the objectives and full, effective implementation of the Treaty.

**Sierra Leone’s national implementation updates since CSP10**

Over the past year, we have focused on concrete, practical steps to reduce diversion risks, strengthen transparency, and improve control of conventional arms:

* **Nationwide destruction of unserviceable weapons.** In March 2025, the Sierra Leone Commission on Arms and Ammunition (SLeCAA) coordinated a country-wide destruction exercise covering Makeni, Teko, Bo, Kenema and the Western Area, permanently removing obsolete state-owned and exhibit weapons from circulation and reducing stockpile risks.
* **Marking and record-keeping.** With support facilitated through ATT partners—including the Voluntary Trust Fund—SLeCAA and security personnel completed a five-day, hands-on training in Freetown on the effective handling and use of weapon-marking machines, aligned with international standards, to strengthen tracing and accountability across services.
* **Inter-agency control practice.** Consistent with the institutional approach highlighted at CSP10, SLeCAA continues to coordinate closely with Customs and Immigration, law enforcement, the military, the Office of National Security, and the Ministries of Justice, Foreign Affairs, and Trade to address imports and transit, brokering, and craft production in a holistic manner. This whole-of-government method remains central to our compliance efforts.
* **Reporting as part of implementation.** We believe transparency is an integral part of implementation, not an afterthought. We are updating our ATT reporting to reflect these measures—destruction, marking and records, and inter-agency coordination— and we welcome continued exchanges in the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting to keep improving quality and timeliness.

We express sincere appreciation to the Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) and to all donors and partners whose targeted assistance has strengthened our national implementation—historically supporting legislative work and capacity-building in Sierra Leone, and enabling many States to advance practical controls. At the same time, we must underscore the need for reliable and predictable funding to consolidate and institutionalise these gains. Continued, dependable support will help ensure that implementation measures deliver lasting impact.

**Mr President,**

Sierra Leone reaffirms its firm commitment to the full and effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty. We will continue to work with States Parties, the Secretariat, and partners to translate guidance into practice, strengthen national controls, and ensure the Treaty delivers concrete benefits for our people and our region.

Thank you.