

NATIONAL STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE
6th CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO
THE ARMS TRADE TREATY
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 17 – 21 AUG 2020

Mr President,

Distinguished colleagues,

1. Singapore thanks the Conference of States Parties President, Ambassador Federico Villegas, and the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Secretariat for your efforts throughout the preparatory process and in particular for organising the 6th Conference of States Parties (CSP6) to the ATT, during these challenging times. While we are not able to convene an in-person meeting due to the COVID-19 pandemic, conducting this Conference by written procedure shows countries' continued commitment towards developing an effective arms control regime.

Mr President,

2. Singapore consistently supports global efforts to regulate international trade in conventional arms. To reaffirm our commitment to international efforts to eliminate the illicit arms trade, Singapore signed the ATT on 5 December 2014. Singapore welcomes the progress achieved in the implementation of the ATT since its entry into force in 2014.

3. Apart from participating in the annual CSP since 2015, Singapore has consistently contributed to international efforts to promote arms trade transparency. Since 1993, Singapore has submitted annual reports to the UN Register of Conventional Arms on international arms transfers. This year, Singapore participated in the UN Group of Governmental Experts on

Problems Arising from the Accumulation of Conventional Ammunition Stockpiles in Surplus which discussed safety and security measures for the through-life management of conventional ammunition stockpiles, so as to address the issues of unintended explosions and diversion of ammunition to undesirable users.

4. Singapore remains committed to the objective and purpose of the ATT. We have in place a comprehensive export control regime to curb the illicit arms trade and we are laying the ground for updating domestic legislation to allow for Singapore to fully implement the ATT. Our agencies regularly review and update our export control regime to ensure that we are aligned to international standards on international arms transfer.

5. We also urge the Conference to work towards implementation standards that are achievable and consistent with the ATT text. Like many other port cities, Singapore is a busy transit and transshipment hub. We must strike a fine balance between fulfilling ATT obligations and enabling the smooth flow of international trade.

6. Singapore supports the Conference in its consensus-based approach towards achieving the goals of the ATT. We also support the Conference in its efforts to ensure that the ATT remains relevant and sustainable.

Mr President,

7. We look forward to meeting in person and learning from States Parties' implementation experiences next year at the 7th Conference of States Parties to the ATT.

Thank you.

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