



*Statement by
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*Head of the Delegation of Albania to
the First Conference of State parties to the Arms Trade Treaty*

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Mr. President,

Albania congratulates Mexico for the arrangements made for this meeting. My delegation has also aligned with the statement of the European Union. Let me briefly touch on a couple of points.

Albania is happy and proud to be part of this first Conference of the State Parties to the ATT. Two years ago, while among the first countries to sign the treaty, we expressed high hopes for its quick entry into force. The treaty is now a reality: the word has a strong, powerful and robust legal tool it needs to regulate and bring light to the arms trade.

While State Parties begin implementation, work should continue to invite other countries to adhere to ATT so as to ensure universal adherence to the treaty, because every country irrespective of its size, has a role to play to control arms flow. It is the only way to effectively depart with the unregulated, irresponsible and illegal arms trade, responsible for so much human suffering along the past decades; it represents an effective way to bring responsibility and accountability to this area.

We have now entered the crucial and long-term process of implementation. We all need to work hard, persistently, and

the implementation must be conducted with utmost severity. For this, State Parties will need to take, as appropriate, a wide array of measures to ensure proper implementation. They include legislation improvements, institutional arrangements, sharing of experience and best practices and proper evaluation. They will also need help, technical assistance and support. In this regard, a process of cooperation and mutual support among countries, especially at the regional and sub-regional level, like the South Eastern and Eastern Europe Clearinghouse for the Control of the Small Arms and Light Weapons (SEESAC), is of utmost importance. Albania is truly and fully committed to do its part.

This first Conference will take important decisions that will be crucial for the Treaty implementation. We need to adopt the best possible set of rules of procedure, one that will build confidence among the state Parties that will allow for a smooth and proper implementation of the treaty, including in a transparent manner, and in cooperation with the Civil Society.

We have also to decide on the ATT Permanent Secretariat. We concur with the ideas to have a small yet capable team with the necessary resources and institutional framework that will enable it to perform its task.

Like in many other areas, civil society organizations have an important role to play in the CSP process. We support the proposal already put forward by several State Parties to agree on the best mechanism for a guaranteed attendance by concerned NGOs. The engagement and role of the civil society, which proved to be a powerful drive during the negotiations process, will also be indispensable for ensuring transparency, one of the main aims of the Treaty itself.

In concluding, we look forward to a meaningful engagement into the various discussions during this

Conference, in order to set the path of an implementation process that will make the ATT an important mechanism to reduce armed violence and by doing so, reduce poverty, human rights abuses and the devastating impact they have on civilians throughout the world.

We owe this to the victims of small arms circulating due to lack of proper regulations; We owe this to all those who wish to live in a safer and more prosperous world and have a future free from the threat of guns.

Thank you.