STATEMENT

*by Mr. Momir Brajić assistant minister a.i.- Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Bosnia and Herzegovina at the Tenth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP10)19–23 August 2024.*

Mr. President,

Bosnia and Herzegovina believes in the virtue of promoting international peace and security through arms control and is committed to strenghten effective approach on security issues.

In the line with priorities of Bosnia and Herzegovina’s foreign policy, existing strategies and action plans in the field of the fight against illicit arms trafficking, Bosnia and Herzegovina supports a systematic approach to the trust-building process and improvement of cooperation with other countries. Thanks to the support of international stakeholders, we have succeeded in improving regional cooperation, upgraded the level of equipment and staff training of the competent institutions and enhance information exchange.

Bosnia and Herzegovina supports regulated and transparent trade of conventional arms, and welcomes the progress made with the Arms Trade Treaty as the first legally binding treaty to regulate the international trade in conventional weapons. By ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), Bosnia and Herzegovina has confirmed its commitment to the strengthening of global and regional peace, security and stability. Furthermore, Bosnia and Herzegovina established national control mechanism and harmonized domestic legislation with the provisions of the ATT. Bosnia and Herzegovina has advocated the universalization of the ATT and its effective implementation.

We consider Arms export control as a key tool in preventing conflicts. In that sense, we intend to expand the areas of disarmament and non proliferation in line with the increasingly complex security environment.

As you know, Bosnia and Herzegovina, like other SEE countries, is facing many challenges related to arms control. One of the main challenges for our society and institutions is illegal arms in possession of individuals as well as surplus weapons and ammunition in possession of the Armed Forces. However, all these challenges have been already identified and presented adequately in the Roadmap for sustainable solution to arms control in the Western Balkans for the period 2025-2030.

According to the ROADMAP, the arms control policies and practices in the Western Balkans should be evidence-based and intelligence-led, the illicit flows of firearms, ammunition and explosives into, within and beyond the Western Balkans should be significantly reduced, the supply-demand and misuses of firearms should also be reduced through increased awareness, education, outreach and advocacy and the estimated number of firearms in illicit possession should substantially decrease in the Western Balkans.

I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize, once again, the full commitment of all institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina to undertake necessary measures and activities to improve all aspects of arms control based on principles of efficiency, transparency but also measurability.

In accordance with accepted international obligations and relevant documents of the UN, EU, and OSCE, institutions of Bosnia and Herzegovina have been carriying out activities for many years aimed at reducing quantity of arms in society, adoption of a legislation in this area, resolving problem of surplus weapons storage and destruction as well as improving cooperation with international organizations at regional and global level and non-governmental sector. Bosnia and Herzegovina has established **a legal framework**, which is mostly in line with the prescribed international standards. **On its path towards** membeship in the **EU, Bosnia and Herzegovina** continues to harmonize national legislation with EU instruments and standards.

It is worth mentioning that we include in the Criminal Code of Bosnia and Herzegovina different aspects of arms control such as: illicit trafficking in arms and military equipment; illicit trade or illicit manufacturing .

We are deeply aware of our ongoing commitment to improve arms export control capacities including risk assessment, licensing, delivery and delivery confirmation.Our experience so far shows that it is necessary to ensure the transparency of arms exports, but also to increase the level of awareness of firearms and ammunition manufacturers about the risks of diversion to illegal flows.

In that sense we established national Control mechanism and harmonized domestic legislation with EU laws and directives as well as with the provisions of ATT. The importance of an interdepartmental approach in fulfilling international obligations is recognized and represents a model of beavior in everyday work in this matter.

Finnaly I would like to take this opportunity to emphasize the importance and role of the ATT Secretariat in the preparation and realisation of this Conference.

Thank you for your attention!