

## **BOTSWANA STATEMENT DURING THE EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES (CSP8) TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY (ATT)**

*(Tuesday, 23<sup>rd</sup> August 2022, Geneva)*

Mr President,

1. As this is the first time Botswana addresses this Conference, allow me to congratulate you, Your Excellency, and the Federal Republic of Germany on assuming the Presidency of the Eighth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty.
2. Botswana thanks the Secretariat of the Arms Trade Treaty and all stakeholders, both State and Civil Society, who worked hard to ensure that the work of the Treaty continued smoothly amid the challenges occasioned by the COVID-19 pandemic.
3. We also wish to congratulate the Philippines on their ratification of the Treaty in March 2022 becoming the 111<sup>th</sup> State Party. Botswana supports efforts towards the universalisation of the Treaty and encourages non-State Parties to take the required steps to join the Arms Trade Treaty.
4. We take note of the thematic priority areas by the Presidency, which among others include the strengthening of post-shipment controls and on-site verifications. These are some of the essential elements for the effective the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, particularly in

combatting the illicit trade in conventional arms and prevention of their diversion.

Mr President,

5. The Republic of Botswana is strongly committed to fully adhering to adherence and implementing the Arms Trade Treaty. Botswana does not export arms and we have measures in place to avoid the diversion of imported arms.
6. As a State Party since accession to the Treaty in 2019, Botswana undertook to ensure implementation of obligations under the Treaty. In accordance with Article 13 of the Treaty, Botswana has submitted her annual report which include year 2021, and wishes to thank the Secretariat in its efforts to facilitate effective reporting
7. Further, Botswana is also up to date with the payment of her assessed contributions. We therefore encourage other State Parties to make timely payments of their assessed contributions as per ATT financial rules.
8. In conclusion, Mr. President, we have listened with keen interest as some State Parties declared their willingness and commitment to assist in capacity building for other State Parties to realize the objectives of the ATT. Botswana therefore avails herself to engage in that respect.

I thank you, Mr President