



10th Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

Geneva, 19 to 23 August 2024

Statement by the Delegation of Brazil

GENERAL DEBATE

(Check against delivery)

Mr. President,

Allow me to start by congratulating you on your presidency. We extend gratitude for the leadership demonstrated by Romania as it guides the Conference of States Parties, particularly as the Treaty marks the 10th anniversary of its entry into force. My delegation also expresses its condolences to the ATT Secretariat for the passing of Mr. Stefan Ott, whose dedication and contributions to our work will not be forgotten.

The thematic focus of the CSP10 – “interagency cooperation” – is indeed timely and imperative. A broad perspective is warranted: one that underscores the critical role of interagency cooperation in combating the diversion of conventional arms and the potential synergies between such cooperation and the role of the industry, discussed last year under the Republic of Korea’s stewardship.

Brazil's experience in combatting the diversion of conventional arms reveals an important lesson: the timeliness and accuracy of information are paramount for the investigations, as evidence can degrade fast in such cases. In our prevention efforts, the pathways to success rely heavily on the efficacy of interagency coordination and the prompt exchange of actionable intelligence. The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) embodies this spirit, aiming to create

functional processes and channels that guarantee effective cooperation. However, to strengthen these processes, the involvement of various stakeholders must be viewed not only as beneficial, but as an integral component of our strategy. So we said last year with regard to the role of the industry; so we say today on the relevance of interagency cooperation.

While international cooperation remains indispensable, the significance of interagency coordination and the role of the industry's compliance and due diligence cannot be overstated. All the agencies and private stakeholders involved in the export of firearms and ammunition, in particular, must be deeply committed to immediate, compliance-driven cooperation. Their expertise in identifying potential vulnerabilities within distribution networks and their understanding of the dynamics of global supply chains are invaluable to investigations of diversion cases.

Mr. President,

Transnational organized crime demonstrates remarkable adaptability, relentlessly seeking new avenues whenever traditional channels for firearms trade are obstructed. Minor modifications in firearm design, trade routes, or supplier patterns can circumvent years of painstaking work by authorities to close gaps that could be exploited for diversion. In this context, interagency cooperation is critical. Agencies must share their focused insights and findings to develop a comprehensive understanding of emerging threats. By enhancing coordination between law enforcement, intelligence, customs and diplomatic channels – to quote a few –, we can more effectively develop diagnostics, collect evidence, and coordinate courses of action.

Mr. President,

Tracing is of utmost importance, and its effectiveness is significantly enhanced through robust interagency cooperation. Each firearm carries a unique history. Many of the firearms that end up being seized initially entered circulation legally, but were later diverted through criminal activities. The collaboration between different agencies – domestic and foreign – is essential in ensuring that tracing efforts are comprehensive and precise. Through meticulous tracing and analysis of identification data, and by leveraging the collective expertise and resources of multiple agencies in relevant jurisdictions, it is possible to reconstruct the lifecycle of a firearm, thereby uncovering a wide range of criminal activities, from local thefts to complex international trafficking networks.

The recent advancements within the United Nations framework, particularly the adoption in June 2023 of a global framework on through-life ammunition management, offer valuable tools for the effective implementation of the ATT. This, together with the 2021 Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) report on conventional ammunition, provides essential guidelines for States in ensuring the safety and security of ammunition, thereby preventing its diversion. Brazil places great importance on the adoption of minimum standards for ammunition marking as a path towards better control and a more integrated and coordinated approach.

Mr. President,

In a world that is increasingly interconnected, let us combine the strengths of interagency cooperation, the proactive engagement of the private sector, and the precision of tracing efforts to effectively counter the threat posed by the diversion of conventional arms.

I thank you.