

**Statement by Canada**  
**Seventh Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty**

Mr. President,

At the outset, our delegation would like to congratulate you on the assumption of the Presidency of the Seventh Conference of States Parties. Please be assured of our full support.

We also thank the President of the Sixth Conference of States Parties and the Chair of the Working Group on Effective Implementation of the Treaty for their useful presentations.

Firstly, as States are invited to exchange views on the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty, we would like to highlight some of Canada's ongoing efforts in the implementation of the Treaty.

Following accession to the Treaty in 2019, in addition to submitting its Initial Report and its first Annual Report, as per Article 13, Canada also published its annual national report titled *“Report on Exports of Military Goods from Canada”*. We are legally required to table this report in our Parliament by May 31st every year.

We wish to note that, for the year 2020, Canada denied five permit applications further to a “substantial risk” assessment (which is the Canadian equivalent for “overriding risk”). The proposed exports were denied because our Minister of Foreign Affairs determined that there was a substantial risk that these exports would result in one or more of the negative consequences specified in Articles 7.1 and 7.4 of the Treaty, and that this risk could not be sufficiently mitigated.

More specifically, denials were made on the grounds of a substantial risk of serious violation of international humanitarian law, serious violation of international human rights law, or serious acts of gender-based violence.

More information can be found on the website of the Canadian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Global Affairs Canada. We would like to draw delegates' attention to the chat function of the Conference's online platform, where we have posted the link to this report.

In addition to the national measures in place to implement the Treaty domestically, Canada continues to support initiatives that strengthen general Treaty implementation. For instance, Canada has recently partnered with the United Nations Institute for Disarmament Research (UNIDIR) to support its Gender and Disarmament Programme, with a funding of \$CAD 300,000 over the next three years. The expected outcomes for this partnership include improving current practices related to gender analysis and the use of gender-disaggregated data in conventional arms control and disarmament processes, as well as developing a more diversified group of actors supporting the integrations of gender considerations into arms control and disarmament policy and practice, including weapons and ammunition management.

We would also like to provide an update on the working paper we are preparing on post-delivery verification measures, which we noted at the Working Groups meetings this past spring. This Working Paper will aim to gather different perspectives in the Arms Trade Treaty context. The paper is intended to be neutral in presenting its findings, in order to stimulate discussion rather than champion a particular view.

We thank the Secretariat, which has kindly circulated Canada's questionnaire on post-delivery verification measures in May, to allow us to compile the different views from States Parties and other stakeholders into the working paper.

We recognize that the consultation timeframe was short, particularly in the context of COVID-19. We are nonetheless pleased to report that a number of States Parties and civil society organizations already responded, and we wish to thank them for their contribution.

In order to produce a better and more representative document, at this stage we believe that it still behooves us to seek broader input. Accordingly, we invite all States Parties and other stakeholders that have not yet had the opportunity to do so, to complete and return the questionnaire, or to reach out to us to obtain a copy of the questionnaire. Our intent will be to present the working paper at a future Arms Trade Treaty meeting with a view to encouraging further dialogue on this topic.

Thank you, Mr. President.