

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Macedonia**

**Statement by Mrs. Svetlana Geleva
Deputy Director for Multilateral Affairs**

General Debate

Fourth Conference of States Parties of the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP4)
Tokyo, 20-24 August 2018

Mr. President,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me start by joining previous delegations in thanking the Japanese Presidency for the excellent hospitality, for the strong commitment to the ATT and the transparent and inclusive preparatory process leading to the 4th Conference of States Parties. I would also like to compliment the Management Committee, as well as Working Groups and co-chairs for their extensive, targeted work and well structured reports providing us excellent food for thought and basis for a fruitful outcome of the Conference. The contribution of the Secretariat to our collective effort is praiseworthy as well.

The Republic of Macedonia has aligned with the EU statement made this morning, but I wish to add a number of comments in my national capacity.

The Arms Trade Treaty represents a key tool in the regulation of global arms trade, designed to prevent arms to threaten security, destabilize countries and regions, undermine social and economic development, violate human rights. Its implementation is instrumental to the accomplishment of a number of SDGs, notably 16.4. on reducing illicit arms flows and 5.2 on eliminating gender based violence.

We live in a complex security environment in which one of our primary responsibilities is to protect individuals from atrocities inflicted by illegal and uncontrolled spread and accumulation of conventional arms, including SALW. With almost 100 ratifications, the ATT has already proven itself as a precious instrument with clear advantages in the spectrum of overall international and regional arms control and disarmament efforts. However, wider adherence is necessary for the Treaty to be truly effective, especially by large producing and exporting countries.

Ladies and gentlemen,

Univerzalisation, effective implementation, strict adherence to the Treaty rules on arms transfers and enhanced transparency must remain the focus of our future action in respect of the ATT. The success will depend on the "critical political will" and on how the states parties will develop and implement national export control regimes. Outreach, cooperation, sharing of the already existing expertise are key to

complementing the individual states efforts. In this regard, we welcome the important work being done by the Voluntary Trust Fund.

Furthermore, we need to provide coherence and convergence of multilateral, regional and individual state efforts and policies. Let me in this context express our appreciation for the sustainable and continued efforts by the civil society war in this regard.

Speaking about the national agenda, let me underline that early membership in the Wassenaar arrangement remains a priority. We have made significant progress in the area of strategic trade controls, at present focusing on drafting a new Law on the development, production and trade in military goods, to overcome the identified shortcomings in the previous legislation. As for the area of SALW, let me inform you that a new National Action Plan on SALW will be developed by the end of 2018 to incorporate the elements of the Roadmap for sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking in SALW and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2024, adopted at the July Western Balkans Summit in London. The Roadmap-related regional and national process is facilitated by the SEESAC.

Let me conclude by underlining that the Republic of Macedonia remains a staunch supporter of responsible arms trade, non-proliferation and disarmament and is particularly committed to the full and effective implementation of the.

Thank you Mr. President