

CSP4 General Debate: UK Statement

Mr President/ Madam Chair

The UK supports the statement made on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. I wish to add some comments in a national capacity.

Commend Japanese Presidency for commitment and engagement with States Parties and outreach they have carried out since being elected. Also thank Working Groups and Management Committee, who have made good progress unpacking some of the key challenges to ATT implementation and getting the Secretariat on a better footing. ATT is going from strength to strength, and we need to maintain this momentum.

We must also remain focused on the **core purpose of the ATT** – i.e. a globally well-regulated, legal trade in arms. More countries now have in place mechanisms to control exports and imports – this is very welcome. As well as encouraging States to observe and implement good practices, the Treaty provides space for honest dialogue on challenges and an opportunity for arms control experts to share experience about what measures are working. The increasing transparency and commitment to address national gaps is very positive, and must continue. But the Treaty must not become a platform to vilify States: to do so will discourage truly open dialogue

and deter potential new States Parties. For our part, the UK's export system fully assimilates the provisions of the Treaty, providing not only robust controls, but also the basis for legitimate, legal accountability through our court system.

While we welcome efforts to enhance the the treaty, including reflecting current developments on peace and security, our main focus needs to remain **ensuring implementation of the current commitments by all States Parties**. We continue to view the VTF as an essential tool to support that process. That is why we have contributed so much to the VTF and played an active role on the Selection Committee. We hope to continue to do so.

We still have much to do on transfer controls and countering diversion. We **welcome the focus of this conference on the theme of diversion**. This will be an opportunity for States Parties to share their national expertise on key topics and for civil society to contribute through awareness raising and capacity building projects. Encourage Working Groups to continue driving forward these discussions.

To make real progress on all of these areas, we see two key areas for outreach that need more attention:

Firstly, we need to draw on the **unique expertise and perspective of industry**. More needs to be done to engage industry and involve them in our discussions. We need to develop effective outreach to industry,

both to boost compliance and also to encourage them to develop solutions, including to support implementation and counter diversion.

Secondly, we also need to continue to **engage the major exporters and importers** who are not currently participating in the Treaty. We must actively seek out areas where there is scope for us to cooperate on the key themes of the Treaty. This should be a priority for the Presidency and States Parties.

Financial viability is essential for the future progress of the treaty. This means all States parties **meeting our financial commitments**. We must all pay our share. We look forward to a constructive discussion on the proposals put forward by the Management Committee and further work on this to help deliver this objective. .

Finally, let me reassure you of the UK's unwavering commitment to the Treaty. We look forward to continuing constructive discussions and coordination with other State Parties, the Secretariat, civil society, industry and the Presidency both this week, and **as we move toward CSP5**, for which we need to set clear objectives. [looking further ahead to CSP6, this will be a critical moment for us to collectively take stock of the Treaty.]