



**Statement by H.E. Dell Higgle
Ambassador for Disarmament**

**Fourth Conference of States Parties
to the Arms Trade Treaty**

International assistance

22 August 2018

Thank you Mr President.

My delegation is pleased to have this opportunity to focus on the work of the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund, to which we have been a regular donor, most recently in May this year. We are very grateful for the useful presentations this morning from Germany and from the Secretariat.

New Zealand has had the privilege of serving on the VTF Selection Committee for two years – and we have indeed expressed our interest in serving again on it. As part of the Committee we have participated actively in the development of guiding documents for VTF donors, applicants and the Committee itself, and have benefited from the extensive and exceptional work of the ATT Secretariat in support of the Fund. New Zealand is very pleased that a workable solution was found to strengthen the Secretariat's capacity to administer the VTF and that this solution was adopted by States Parties via a silence procedure in April. We would also like to record our appreciation for the excellent leadership and work of our outgoing Chair, Ambassador Biontino of Germany and his team.

New Zealand fully supports the recommendations put forward in the report of the VTF Selection Committee, both with respect to the ongoing value of outreach on the VTF and to the proposal for the Committee to elaborate guidance for the evaluation of VTF projects. We see this proposal as very useful. It will provide a helpful reference tool for those preparing VTF

applications and will also assist the VTF Selection Committee in ensuring consistency and sustainability in its decision-making processes.

With respect to the Sponsorship Programme, New Zealand supports the recommendation that responsibility for the Programme be transferred from UNDP to the ATT Secretariat at the end of CSP4. We agree that the continued leveraging of an administration cost from contributed funds will provide a suitable way to bolster the human resources available to the ATT Secretariat for the purposes of operating the Programme. Please allow me also to convey New Zealand's appreciation to UNDP for its work in support of the ATT Sponsorship Programme to date. We look forward to hearing whether there are any remaining funds left in the Sponsorship Programme.

Thank you Mr President.