



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

Statement by H. E. Amb. Giorgio Starace

General Debate

Mr. President,

At the outset, let me commend and thank you, as well as the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat, for the productive and transparent way in which you have steered our preparations for this Conference.

Italy aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, and would like to add some remarks in its national capacity.

First of all allow me to express our satisfaction for the holding of this conference in Japan, a Country committed to peace in a regional exchequer that has been confronted to major challenges in terms of peace and security that we hope to see gradually improving, thank to concerted efforts of the international community.

Mr. President,

As a staunch supporter of the Arms Trade Treaty since the first stages of its negotiations, Italy remains firmly committed to the Treaty's goals of setting the highest possible common international standards to regulate the international trade in conventional arms and ammunition and preventing and eradicating their illicit traffic and diversion.

To achieve such goals, universalization and implementation are key priorities.

We welcome the latest ratifications by Cameroon, Chile, Kazakhstan, Palestine, Brazil . We also wish to thank you, Mr. President, as well as Amb. Korhonen of Finland for your outreach efforts to broaden the ATT membership. More work is needed, however, particularly towards key arms importers, exporters, and transit States that still remain outside the Treaty.

All stakeholders have a role to play in this respect. We particularly support the continued involvement of non-governmental organizations and industry representatives. Regional level activities, conducted in cooperation with relevant organizations, also have great potential, as they allow tailoring the message to specific institutional, legal and cultural contexts.

The Working Groups on universalization, effective implementation and transparency and reporting provided a very useful framework. The discussions highlighted good national practices, main challenges and possible solutions, and identified possible sources for implementation

guidelines. We look forward to continued and practical discussions in such formats, and would like to sincerely thank the Chairs of the Working Groups.

Mr. President,

We regret to note that a limited number of States Parties, including Italy, have submitted national reports in this and previous years, as we believe that widespread compliance would increase transparency in the conventional arms trade and strengthen the significance of reporting itself.

We recall that reporting obligations under the Treaty are central to achieve the ATT goals. Therefore, we urge all those concerned to comply with such obligations regularly and on time. We welcome proposals elaborated by the WGTR in this regard, particularly the strategy for outreach in reporting, as well as suggestions for providing targeted technical assistance to requesting States. The ATT Secretariat could play an important role in this regard, provided this does not generate an excessive burden on its existing human and financial resources.

Reliable funding is also necessary to allow the ATT institutional structures and mechanisms to function effectively, and thus adequately support Treaty implementation. The fact that the Treaty has already been accumulating a budget deficit as well as the liquidity issues that may arise from late payments of financial contributions are cause for concern. While renewing the call to all relevant States to pay mandatory contributions fully and on time, we welcome the work conducted by the Management Committee to overcome these issues, and look forward to discussing the related proposals later this week.

This week we have the opportunity to review our progress in the past year and to lay out a solid programme of work for the coming intersessional period, in a spirit of cooperation involving all relevant stakeholders. Italy is ready to play its part.

Thank you.