

**Arms Trade Treaty 4<sup>th</sup> Conference of States Parties**  
**Australian Comments on International Assistance**

Mr President

We welcome the commencement of the 2018 project cycle of the Voluntary Trust Fund and the enthusiastic response by states and civil society partners to the opportunity to seek support for implementation efforts. We thank Ambassador Biontino for his leadership of the Selection Committee and acknowledge Japan's generous contribution of USD 3 million to the Voluntary Trust Fund. We are pleased to see 10 projects funded for 2018.

Australia is pleased to have contributed AUD 200,000 to the VTF for this year's project funding cycle and to announce we intend to contribute a further AUD 200,000 to the Fund for next year's cycle. We have also supported the ATT Sponsorship Programme with funding since its inception, to ensure the broadest possible participation in the meetings of the Treaty, and we will continue to do so as required.

Australia is also a contributor to the UN Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation (UNSCAR). We contributed AUD 220,000 in 2017-18 and will again contribute AUD 200,000 this financial year. The current projects approved for funding cover almost all regions of the world and will promote best practice, build national capacity, identify synergies between arms control instruments, and support universalisation efforts.

We have been a key donor to the *ATT Monitor* and the Small Arms Survey Transparency Barometer. These are important analytical tools for policy makers in tracking the implementation of the ATT.

Australia has partnered with the Centre for Armed Violence Reduction to support Indo-Pacific governments to ratify or accede to the ATT by providing capacity building and technical assistance. The project will also seek to strengthen compliance with the ATT and the UN Programme of Action. This project is an integral part of our efforts to increase the representation of Indo-Pacific countries among ATT States Parties.

Cooperation with civil society is key to strengthening the ATT's implementation, and it is pleasing to see such collaboration in the range of proposals being put forward for funding under the VTF and UNSCAR.

We encourage other States to consider making a contribution to the VTF or UNSCAR where possible to support our universalisation efforts.

Thank you Mr President.