

*Mr. President,*

*Germany fully aligns itself with the statement presented by the European Union and would like to add some comments in its national capacity.*

*Promoting universalization and full treaty implementation is at the core of Germany's commitment to the ATT.*

*Mindful of the many institutional challenges arising from the various ATT obligations, Germany is offering assistance through the EU Outreach Project as well as national implementation support aiming to increase adherence to the ATT.*

*For us, the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund is an essential instrument for international assistance that we consider as a token of solidarity between all ATT States Parties. Now in its second project cycle, the VTF*

*has been able to fund projects advancing ATT implementation and universalization in the Americas, Africa and the Asia-Pacific. The third project cycle is envisioned to start in October this year. Germany would like to invite States Parties as well as states aspiring to accede to the ATT to formulate and submit their project proposals to the VTF.*

*The success of the VTF was made possible through the generous support of 14 donor states contributing a total amount of 6,5 Mio. Euro. Of these resources, 2,25 Mio. Euro were directed to the realization of 25 projects, oftentimes implemented by civil society, NGOs and regional organizations. All this work would have been impossible without the cooperation of all members of the selection committee and the constant and professional support of the ATT secretariat*

*who I would like to thank for its outstanding performance.*

*Mr. President,*

*Germany feels honored to have been entrusted the chair of the VTF selection committee. We stand ready to continue serving in this highly responsible task. To further stress our commitment to the VTF, it is my pleasure to announce that Germany pledges 500.000 Euros for the Fund, which is about to initiate its third project cycle. In this spirit, we would like to invite States Parties to also consider donations. Even smaller or symbolic contributions to the VTF send the pivotal message of universal solidarity between ATT States Parties and will be highly appreciated. Furthermore, we look forward to upcoming VTF outreach activities raising awareness and assisting applicants in preparing projects.*

*In closing, Germany commends the presentation of a comprehensive guide for project selection and fully supports all recommendations presented in the report for endorsement by CSP 4.*

*Thank you, Mr. President.*