

Mr. President,

At the outset, please allow our delegation to express its gratitude for your excellent work and be assured that you have our full support.

It is with great honour that I speak on behalf of the Government of Canada at this Fifth Conference of States Parties of the Arms Trade Treaty.

Canada has for many decades been at the forefront of promoting export controls as a means to reduce the risks that can come from the trade in conventional arms. Joining the ATT is a natural step to complement our existing engagements on the responsible trade of conventional arms.

Thus we are pleased to inform all delegates that, on June 19 of this year, Canada deposited its instrument of accession to the ATT. Canada will therefore become a State Party to the ATT on September 17th. We look forward to this day with great anticipation.

Our journey to accession may have taken longer than we had hoped, but we believe we bring much to the table. Canada amended its legislation to prepare for accession, and in so doing, further enhanced the rigour of its export control systems.

Through these legislative amendments, we have made important changes that demonstrate our strong commitment to the Treaty. We wish to share these developments with you, the ATT community, today.

1. We have integrated **into Canadian law** the ATT's risk test related to export assessments. This means that Canada will now be obligated to deny any export permit where there is an overriding or substantial risk that the export would lead to any of the negative consequences outlined in article 7.1 of the Treaty.
2. Canada has also welcomed the ATT's unique and much-needed focus on gender and gender-based violence as an important evolution in the international community's growing recognition of women's rights and

gender issues globally. In recognition of this, Canada has gone beyond the ATT's requirements by integrating the gender considerations of article 7.4 of the Treaty as a stand-alone assessment criteria in Canadian law, like those of article 7.1.

And even though we are not yet a State Party, Canada has recognized the importance of promoting the ATT and its emphasis on gender. We have contributed \$1 million dollars to address the proliferation of small arms and light weapons and ensure that a gender-responsive lens is applied to arms control practices, including in the broader disarmament community.

Finally, on the same theme, please allow me to add that we have strongly welcomed the Latvian Presidency's focus on gender and gender-based violence, which we believe has helped advance the discussion and work on these important issues.

Mr. President,

While we are still waiting for the Treaty to enter into force in Canada, we wish to reaffirm today our support for the ATT, and its principles, objectives and purposes.

We believe that the Treaty will contribute to international and regional peace and security; that it will reduce human suffering around the world; that it will promote cooperation, transparency and responsible action by States Parties, and thus lead to greater confidence among States Parties.

To achieve these goals, we deem it essential that all States Parties to the Treaty work together to ensure its effectiveness, including through financial viability, and we are committed to fully join these efforts.

As a soon-to-be new member of this global community, we hope to share our lessons learned and our example with you. And in the spirit of collaboration, we also wish to learn from each of you and from the best practices that you have collectively identified over the past years.

Indeed, as a soon-to-be new member of the ATT community, Canada looks forward to this collaboration with all States Parties, international organisations, civil society organisations, and private-sector businesses.

Together, we will discuss, learn, and find ways to implement the Treaty's obligations more effectively, to the benefit of the international community.

Mr. President, thank you.