

## **Statement on national implementation as a new State Party by Canada Sixth Conference of the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty**

Mr. President,

We would like to outline some of the key steps taken by Canada during our first year as a State Party in implementing the Treaty. We hope this will be helpful for the purposes of other new ATT States Parties, or those considering joining.

To begin, on September 1, 2019, legislative amendments were made to the *Export and Import Permits Act*, which forms the basis of Canada's export control regime. With these changes, Canada became fully compliant with the Arms Trade Treaty.

These changes included embedding the ATT assessment criteria of Article 7.1 directly in the *Export and Import Permits Act*. In recognition of the importance of addressing gender-based violence and serious acts of violence against women and children, as set out in Article 7.4, Canada made the conscious decision to give this criterion the same weight and importance as those of Article 7.1.

In addition, Canada embedded the concept of "overriding risk", known in our legislation as "substantial risk". As a result, if there is a substantial risk of any of the negative consequences listed in Article 7.1 and Article 7.4, the Minister of Foreign Affairs, who is responsible for the issuance of export and brokering permits, is required to deny the permit application.

Also on September 1<sup>st</sup>, Canada's brokering controls came into effect. We viewed ATT accession as an opportunity to further enhance the rigour of our trade controls and therefore chose to also apply the ATT criteria and substantial risk test to all brokering permit applications.

Canada also revised its internal risk assessment procedures to reflect the improvements described earlier. We developed an enhanced risk assessment process for exports and a separate brokering risk assessment process. The roll-out

of these enhanced evaluation tools has been accompanied by rigorous training sessions for all government departments involved in Canada's risk assessment procedures.

We are pleased to now be working with all ATT stakeholders to advance the important objectives of the Treaty.