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Statement by Canada
Eight Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
Agenda Item __: General Exchange of Views

Mr. President,

At the outset, we would like to congratulate you on the assumption of the Presidency of the Eight Conference of States Parties. Please be assured of our delegation's full support.

We would also like to congratulate the Philippines for their ratification of the Treaty this year. Canada remains committed to universalizing the ATT, and we reiterate our call on all States not yet party to join the Treaty. We thank the Presidency for the joint démarche led earlier this year in favour of the universalization of the Treaty. We are pleased to have been part of this initiative through our Embassies in Haiti, Indonesia and Mongolia.

Mr. President,

Universalizing the Treaty can only be accompanied by a commitment to its effective implementation. In this regard, Canada thanks the Geneva Centre for Security Policy for the virtual executive course on "Building Capacities for Effective Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty" it offered this year. We are pleased to have contributed financially to this initiative.

We are also glad to announce that Canada's Weapons Threat Reduction Program has received the necessary approval to continue funding the ATT Sponsorship Programme, with a contribution of 75,000.00 \$ annually for three years.

Mr. President,

We thank you and your team for the two workshops you have organized this year on post-shipment controls (PSCs). From Canada's perspective, we have appreciated the opportunity to learn about the different experiences and views on PSCs, keeping in mind that we want to foster effective implementation of the ATT and not create any new commitments. In this regard, we thank once more those who responded to the questionnaire we circulated last year. Your input is much appreciated. We have summarized the responses to the questionnaire without attributing the content to any State or organization, and we have provided our summary to the Presidency, with the intent of contributing to Germany's efforts as part of their thematic focus on PSCs. We hope that this will be useful for future ATT discussions.

Mr. President,

Regarding the worsening financial situation of the Treaty, we can only express our strong concern. We are highly disappointed that no state with payments in arrears has made a request to enter into a payment arrangement, despite the fact that we have spent the last two years investing a great deal of effort in clarifying the application of Financial Rule 8.1.d. Once more, we urge all States Parties to pay their annual contributions in full and on time. Fulfilling this legal obligation is essential to the survival of the ATT.

In this context, but also with a view to ensuring meaningful participation of all delegations in ATT meetings, we believe it will be important to carefully assess how we organize our work in the next years. Indeed, we note the increasing saturation of the disarmament calendar, which makes it more and more challenging, especially for smaller delegations, to effectively contribute to our multilateral work. We also note that the ATT has a particularly high number of days of Working Groups and Preparatory Meetings every year. Other conventions manage to carry on their work with less days of meetings and it would make sense to align the ATT with these models, noting what can be reasonably achieved with the nature of this Treaty.

Mr. President,

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Almost eight years after its entry into force, the ATT is now at a crucial point where it needs to take the necessary means to ensure its sustainability. This is key to achieving our common objectives of reducing human suffering and contributing to peace, security and stability.

Thank you.