

Statement by the Czech Republic on the Arms Trade Treaty at the Third Conference of State Parties

Mr President,

Let me congratulate you on your election as the president of the Third Conference of State Parties and assure you of our full support in all your endeavours. The Czech Republic fully aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. I would nevertheless like to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Above all, the Czech Republic considers the universal legally binding treaty to be a milestone in the development of internationally agreed standards to regulate global trade in conventional weapons. We really wish the ATT to become a strong global instrument and this simply requires every State Party to establish and maintain a national control system, including a national control list and designate a competent national authority. And we appreciate that the Second Conference of State Parties took important decisions regarding the establishment of the working groups on transparency and reporting, implementation and universalization, the Voluntary Trust Fund and the reporting template. These decisions initiated many reasonable follow-up activities that have brought us closer to the fulfilment of the objectives of the Treaty.

Second, we understand that many states which are not traditional exporters have to build their national control systems from the very beginning and this constitutes a demanding task for them. As country with a robust export control system and extensive experience and expertise in the field of export controls of conventional arms, we will be more than pleased to share our experience and practices - bilaterally or within the EU projects - in support of the Treaty implementation.

Third, the Czech Republic welcomes the decision to establish the Voluntary Trust Fund which is an important instrument to support national implementation and it has also supported it financially last year. This year's voluntary contribution of the Czech Republic is just on the way.

Fourth, the Czech Republic shares the view that transparency is a key element to build confidence in compliance with the provisions of the Treaty and ensure its effective implementation. In this respect, it is indispensable to strengthen reporting capabilities of State Parties so that they are able to fulfil their reporting requirements. We are convinced that an effective system of reporting and the data gained through it will subsequently help State Parties and their national authorities in the risk assessment process while evaluating

individual requests on national level. They may also help in conflict prevention efforts. As regards the form of reporting, we support the use of unified national reports on the basis of a reporting template derived from the one used for reporting to the UN Register for Conventional Arms. This way of reporting will enable that State Parties will report in requested scope and that the reports will be comparable and usable for expert analysis on national level.

Mr President,

As all the mechanisms are in place now, we have to keep momentum and focus on the process of further universalization and full implementation of the Treaty. The Czech Republic is proud to have an opportunity to participate actively in the work of the Management Committee and will continue to contribute through active outreach and assistance in achievement of the goals of the Treaty.

Thank you Mr President