



**EU Statement**  
**Treaty Universalisation**  
**Arms Trade Treaty**  
**Eighth Conference of State Parties**  
**Geneva, 22-26 August 2022**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries North Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Serbia\*, Albania\* and Republic of Moldova, the potential candidate country Georgia and the EFTA country Norway, member of the European Economic Area, align themselves with this declaration.

The EU warmly welcomes the Philippines as the 111<sup>th</sup> State Party to the ATT. In the same vein, we appreciate Gambia's efforts to accede the Treaty soon. At the same time, the international community as a whole and States Parties to the ATT in particular, need to continue to work towards full universalisation of this treaty and bring on board the remaining UN Member States. We reiterate our call to all UN Member States, especially the major arms importers, exporters and transit States, to sign, ratify, or accede to the ATT without further delay. In particular, we encourage the signatories to advance their ratification processes so that they can set the example to follow. The EU urges other States Parties to increase their collective engagement and outreach efforts to State not Parties, underlining the benefits of joining the ATT, thus contributing to international and regional peace and stability. We very much welcome the efforts by the German Presidency of CSP 8 in reaching out to States not yet party to the Treaty and to signatories.

The EU and its Member States continue to play an active role in ATT universalisation efforts through the various EU Outreach Programmes and in bilateral dialogues on disarmament, non-

---

\* North Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

proliferation and arms control. The Third Phase of the ATT Outreach Project funded by the EU, and implemented by BAFA and Expertise France, explicitly focuses on outreach to States that are not yet Party to the Treaty. We call on all States Parties to advocate for the ratification of the ATT in their high-level bilateral contacts. It is essential that the Treaty receives the necessary attention, including at the political level, for universalization to become a reality.

It is not the ATT's objective to hinder the legitimate arms trade or impose measures regulating the trade of arms on the domestic market. The ATT clearly recognises the legitimate rights and interests of States with regard to the arms trade and production, as well as the right to self-defence, enshrined in Article 51 of the UN Charter. It is neither an exporters' treaty, nor an importers' treaty; the ATT is relevant to all participants in the international trade in conventional arms.

In this regard, we hope that the translation and publication of the ATT Universalization Toolkit in all UN official languages will further contribute to common understanding of the Treaty objectives and will serve to strengthen universalisation outreach activities.

Thank you, Mr. President.