



PERMANENT MISSION OF THE REPUBLIC OF FIJI TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE  
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA

**Fiji Statement**  
**Ninth Conference of the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP9)**  
**Geneva (4 minutes)**  
**21 – 25 August, 2023**  
**Agenda Item 5 – General Debate**

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*CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY*

Madam President,

I am honored to deliver this statement on behalf of my delegation.

As a Small Island Developing State in the Blue Pacific region, Fiji faces many security challenges, attributed largely to its strategic geographical location and its vulnerability to climate change. We are exposed to the risks of illicit trade and diversion of conventional arms, with their potential to fuel conflicts, violence, and human rights abuses in our region and beyond. At the same time, we are dependent on the international arms trade for our defense and peacekeeping obligations.

That is why Fiji recognises the importance and urgency of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), the first legally binding agreement that regulates the international trade in conventional weapons and seeks to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade and diversion of conventional arms. The objectives of the ATT are closely aligned with our regional commitments to peace and security, as enshrined in the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent and the Boe Declaration. The irresponsible and poorly regulated arms trade is undermining the universal attainment of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals and the maintenance of global peace and security.

As a non-exporting state with limited conventional arms importation linked to our traditional UN peacekeeping obligation, Fiji is dependent on the full implementation of the treaty and its associated programs, protocols and transparency obligations by all member states. The growing security challenges facing our region, such as the transshipment of conventional arms and related transnational organised criminal activity, require strong international cooperation and commitment, particularly through the ATT framework.

Fiji is committed to acceding to the ATT and to implementing it effectively and efficiently. We have made realistic progress toward this goal, thanks to the assistance and support we have received from other State parties, signatories, and relevant stakeholders, such as the ATT Secretariat, the Voluntary Trust Fund, and civil society organizations. We wish to express our sincere gratitude and appreciation to all those who have helped us in this process. We also welcome further capacity building and



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technical cooperation efforts that promote international cooperation and engagement that could facilitate our accession process.

We recognise that partnerships and cooperation is important to enhance global peace and security within the Pacific region's guiding framework on peace and security priorities. Above all, a peaceful, safe and secure Blue Pacific region remains our ultimate goal where people can realise their full potential in the community.

Fiji is ready and willing to engage in constructive and inclusive dialogue with other state parties, signatories, and relevant stakeholders on various issues related to the ATT, such as the role of industry in responsible international transfers of conventional arms, and the impact of emerging technologies on the ATT.

In conclusion, Fiji wishes to reiterate its conviction that the ATT must be implemented in its entirety to achieve its objectives. Weapon-producing nations and importers alike have a critical role to play in view of the existing global security landscape where sophisticated technologies exist that have made the world more interconnected and vulnerable than before.

We look forward to working with all of you to make the ATT a success for our region and the world.

Vinaka and Thank you for your attention.