

Statement by Finland

Mr President,

It is a pleasure to speak on behalf of Finland today at the Eighth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

Let me start by thanking the Presidency for all the work you have done for preparation of this Conference.

I wish to align myself to the statement by the European Union and add some remarks in my national capacity.

Arms Trade Treaty remains a key international instrument in regulating the international trade in conventional arms, preventing their illicit trade as well as prevent their diversion. Its relevance remains high in current difficult international situation after unprovoked and unjustified war of aggression by Russia in Ukraine. We want to thank the German Presidency for placing focus on post-shipment controls. Finland's focus in export controls remains in pre-licensing phase, but understanding better possibilities of post-shipment controls will help us better avoid risks of diversion.

Let me mention a few topics that are particularly important for Finland.

The humanitarian dimension of the Arms Trade Treaty is an area that Finland attaches great importance. We have to address challenges that make civilians including women and children increasingly targeted. This include for example

illicit flows of arms and conventional weapons. We also attach great importance to the link between transfer of arms and gender-based violence in the Arms Trade Treaty. Mainstreaming gender remains very relevant in arms control activities and programmes.

We also welcome the continued work for the Treaty Universalisation with an aim for full universalisation. For the ATT to be effective, it should be close to universal.

We must continue to pay more attention to conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons. We see that active international cooperation and assistance not only benefit the concerned countries, regions and people. Supporting countries' efforts against illicit flows of small arms and light weapons is a direct investment into our own security. Finland for instance continues its efforts to combat the proliferation of small arms and light weapons in Africa, in line with our Government Strategy on Africa.

In our view, the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund is a valuable tool to advance Treaty implementation and universalization. Finland has decided contribute to the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund with a yearly sum of 240 000 euros for the years 2021-2023.

Finally, we emphasize the importance of transparency and reporting as part of ATT implementation.

Finland has continued the practice to include in 2021 ATT Annual Report a Voluntary Annex on export data covering all categories of the EU Military List.

This Annex is based on actual exports as reported by the defence industry. (real export data.)

In conclusion, let me express our full support to all efforts aiming to strengthen the Treaty implementation.

I thank you Mr President.