

Arm Trade Treaty

31 August 2021

Seventh Conference of State Parties

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Geneva, 30 August- 03 September 2021

## **Statement by Finland**

### **Treaty Implementation**

It gives me a great pleasure to speak on behalf of Finland today at the Seventh Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty.

Let me start by thanking the Presidency for all the work you have done for preparation of this Conference in difficult circumstances. We are happy to meet now in hybrid form.

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

Illicit flow of arms and conventional weapons is one of the greatest challenges that we face today. Civilians including women and children are increasingly targeted. Finland attaches great importance to the humanitarian dimension of the Arms Trade Treaty. However, the consequences of uncontrolled flows of conventional arms go far beyond the immediate human impact of violence. It also seriously hampers any attempts for economic and social development and growth.

We welcome the Presidency thematic focus on illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and their effective stockpile management. The topic is closely linked to the key objectives of the ATT, especially to article 11 where all State Parties commit to take measures to prevent diversion.

The effective stockpile management is vital when combating illicit transfer of small arms and light weapons. We need to explore further synergies between the ATT and other institutions, programmes and financial instruments. We hope that this CSP 7 gives clear guidance to further discussions on this issue.

Let me highlight briefly the priorities of Finland.

Finland adopted in March this year Government Strategy on Africa that specifies our bilateral and multilateral objectives and points out the need to support all efforts to combat the proliferation of small arms and conventional weapons in Africa.

During the Finnish ATT Presidency in 2016-17, we organized a thematic discussion on arms trade and development that highlighted many links between the Treaty and the 2030 Agenda for Development, especially goal 16.4 on illicit transfer. The outcome of that thematic discussion that took place in CSP 3 is still very relevant.

Just few more points:

First, transparency and reporting is vital part of ATT implementation and key to confidence building. We regret that some participant States have failed to report. I would like to use this opportunity to inform you that Finland included in 2020 ATT Annual Report a Voluntary Annex on export data covering all categories of the EU Military List. This Annex is comprehensive and based on real export data.

Second, the ATT is the first arms-regulation treaty that recognise the link between transfer of arms and gender-based violence. We emphasise the importance of mainstreaming gender into practical and technical small arms control activities and programmes.

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

Thank you for your attention!