

**STATEMENT BY GHANA AT THE EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES (CSP8)**  
**OF THE ARMS TRADE TREATY (ATT)**  
**DELIVERED ON THE 23<sup>RD</sup> AUGUST 2022 IN GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**  
**BY JOHNSON ASANTE-TWUM, ALTERNATE HEAD OF DELEGATION TO THE**  
**CONFERENCE AND A DEPUTY DIRECTOR AT THE GHANA NATIONAL COMMISSION**  
**ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS**

Mr. President,

We align ourselves to the statement by Niger on behalf of the African Group and wish to make these remarks in our national capacity.

Allow me at the outset to congratulate you and your hard-working German Team, the Bureau, the Secretariat and the various Committees for your commitment to this process through the inter-sessional meetings up until now.

Permit to also welcome the Philippines as the 111 Member of the ATT. We therefore call on other States that have not join the Treaty to do so to ensure a stronger global instrument for the regulation of international trade in conventional arms. At the same we also wish to call on other stronger States to embrace weaker members who are struggling with their implementation because of their unfortunate financial challenges. Whilst it is important for us to call on States that are in arears of their access contribution to take steps to settle their indebtedness, we should not scare them away from the Treaty because their struggles. That would definitely have implication for effective treaty implementation, reporting and even our universalization drive. It is on that note that I want use the opportunity thank the Federal Government of German for their support for our implementation so far, we are grateful for that partnership.

Mr. President,

Your foresight in making Post-Shipment Controls at the centerpiece of your Presidency has brought to the front-burner an important concept that must engage our attention in the coming years as part of our implementation drive and compliance with the Treaty provisions.

Mr. President,

Let me also commend your efforts to constructively engage Industry in these discussions relating to Post-Shipment Controls and their willingness to embrace the concept.

We acknowledge the legal hurdles that States need to overcome in carrying out post-shipment controls and or verification. We note however, that the seeming legal hurdles can be dealt with by supporting one another through International cooperation and assistance.

Mr. President,

Post-shipment controls, if implemented effectively, would go to compliment, and enhance our efforts at diversion prevention and by extension go a long way to prevent unauthorized transfer of conventional arms which remains a cardinal objective of the ATT.

Let us remind ourselves of the cliché at the final round of the ATT negotiation in 2013 “that the ATT is the floor and not the ceiling” and for that matter States are at liberty to go as high as possible within their legal limits in implementing the Treaty. With that in mind, we believe that Post-shipment controls can be integrated into our ATT implementation as State Parties.

That said Mr. President, we wish to underscore the fact that for Post-shipments Controls to be carried out effectively, it would require mutual respect between the Exporting State and the Importing State and the recognition of socio-cultural, economic and political sensitivities around the sites or States where post-shipment controls or verification (PSC/V) would take place. If this is done properly, it is our firm conviction that it would enhance mutual responsibility regarding safety and security of conventional arms transferred between the Exporting States and the Importing States.

Mr. President,

Let us also remember that States are at different levels of implementations mainly due to differences in capacities and we dare say that least developed States are at the lower level of implementation principally because we are not producers of conventional arms but consumers and those who suffer the most of their unregulated trade. Certainly, some States are stronger and others are weaker, and the stronger ones must not leave the weaker ones behind.

We therefore wish to call for mutual understanding of how Post-Shipment Control and Verification (PSC/V) should be carried out. This would require the building of the capacities of the importing States to enable them be at the same level of their exporting counterparts in order to be ready for the implementation of PSC/V

Finally, Mr. President, an important question that needs to be addressed at the outset is the issue of cost of post-shipment controls and or verification; WHO BEARS THE COST OF PSC/V

We suggest that this issue of cost should be addressed at the time of the negotiation of the sale and purchase agreement before such contracts are executed to ensure transparency from the beginning.

Mr. President,

We look forward to upholding and sustaining the productive engagements on the subject of Post-Shipment Controls which you have ably introduced into this debate.

I thank you very much.