



**THE REPUBLIC OF THE GAMBIA  
MINISTRY OF DEFENCE, No. 4 MARINA PARADE, Banjul**

**STATEMENT**

**BY**

**HONORABLE SERING MODOU NJIE,**

**THE MINISTER OF DEFENCE, THE GAMBIA**

**ON**

**THE ARMS TRADE TREATY'S CSP8**

**HELD IN GENEVA**

**FROM 22-26 AUGUST, 2022**

**Ambassador Thomas GÖBEL, the Chairperson and President of the CSP8**

**Mr. Dumisani DLADLA, Head of the ATT Secretariat**

**Chairs of the Working Groups**

**Excellences**

**Distinguished Delegates**

It is a pleasure for me to be part of this conference and I bring warm fraternal greetings to you from His Excellency the President of the Republic of The Gambia, President Adama Barrow. On behalf of the delegation of The Gambia and on my own behalf, I sincerely thank the Swiss Government as the host country for this Conference, and we also wish to express our appreciation to the ATT Secretariat, Control Arms, SaferWorld and other donor and bilateral country partners for providing the necessary technical support and facilitating the participation of my technical team in this important annual conference.

**Mr. President, Excellencies,**

The Gambia's commitment to the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty and the realization of full treaty compliance is still alive and real. Even though the ratification process is taking more time than expected, I would like to reiterate that we continue to associate ourselves with the principles of the Arms Trade Treaty, realizing that the ATT works towards the consolidation of peace, security and stability not only in our respective countries but the world at large. The ratification process is at an advanced stage, with plans intensifying my Ministry's engagement with the Cabinet, the National Assembly and other relevant sectors to ensure a smooth ratification before the end of this year.

## **Your Excellencies, Distinguish Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen**

Our commitment as a continent to the Arms Trade Treaty is very strong, as Africa is one of the continents hardest hit by the devastating consequences and bears the painful scars inflicted by small arms and light weapons. The West African Region witnessed the World's most gruesome atrocities committed against humanity in living memory, claiming precious lives and deterring progress in our development agenda.

## **Distinguish Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen**

In response to the use of weapons for the wrong purpose, The Gambia is fully committed to the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons as a sub-regional framework to control and regulate the transfer of conventional Arms, prevent their illegal proliferation and save them from falling into wrong hands. The Gambia is compliant with the provisions of the Convention, and we have worked hard with the ECOWAS Commission and other partners to put in place the required implementation mechanisms including an Arms Commission, at national level.

## **Mr. President**

Our convergence here today shows the determination to ensure the coexistence of peace and security in our countries without which development is meaningless. I want to take this opportunity to assure States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty of the resolve and clear commitment of the Government of the Gambia to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty as soon as possible as highlighted before. We are cognizant of the importance of working with the relevant institutions to enhance our national mechanisms including sectoral collaboration and legislative approaches to promote

transparency and prevent illicit transfers of conventional weapons in the implementation of the ATT.

## **Ladies and Gentlemen**

I am happy to inform you that with a view to enhance national coordination and to bring stakeholders to be au fait with the Treaty to facilitate ratification and implementation, the cabinet information paper on the ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty was shared with relevant stakeholders for inputs and comments before its submission to Cabinet.

## **Mr. President**

In conclusion, I want to take the opportunity to express our sincere appreciation and profound gratitude to the Arms Trade Treaty and the donor countries of the Voluntary Trust Fund; I am happy to inform you that The Gambia's project proposal application for the current cycle of the fund has been approved by the Assessment Committee.

Yet we call on other donor partners and organizations to increase commitment to fund the work of the ATT to continue helping the Least Developed Countries meet the objectives of the ATT.

And on this note, I wish us all a fruitful conference.

Thank you all for your kind attention.