



Statement

by

H.E. Ambassador Michael Biontino

Permanent Representative of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament

at the Third Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty CSP3

Geneva, 11 September 2017

Mr President,

Let me begin by complimenting you on your presidency. I would like to emphasize our gratitude for your diligent preparation of this conference as well as the impressive outreach you have undertaken over the past year in advancing the Arms Trade Treaty all over the globe.

Ever since the launch of negotiations in 2006, Germany has been a staunch supporter of the Treaty and indeed was one of the first states to sign it. We see the ATT as an indispensable and robust instrument to counter the uncontrolled spread of arms and ammunition. It can considerably contribute to security and stability in the world, and we continuously promote its benefits in our bilateral engagements with non-State Parties.

From Germany's perspective, universalization as much as effective implementation is of utmost importance for the ATT to succeed. The first two CSPs focused on institutional and administrative matters. We should carry the positive momentum from last year and our recent meetings in February, April and May should be carried into CSP3. We must now finalize the institutional layout of the treaty and delve into the more substantial issues of its implementation.

A decisive step for advancing the ATT's implementation and universalization has been the establishment of the Voluntary Trust Fund, which recently approved its first round of projects. The VTF is an invaluable instrument to support states in their efforts to implement the Treaty. We applaud both its donors and the applicants for breathing life into this distinctive instrument foreseen by the Treaty. Germany will continue its commitment to the Trust Fund, including our financial commitment. We greatly encourage State Parties that have not yet done so to consider a contribution themselves.

Moreover, for the ATT to be effective, we believe it is key to render its three working groups permanent. They should become platforms for the substantial discussion between member

states on the issues of implementation, transparency and universalization. To this end, we should adopt appropriate terms of references where lacking and adopt work plans that enable expert level discussions of these topics in the future.

In tackling illicit flows of arms and ammunition, we regard transparent reporting based on universally accepted templates as vital for the Treaty's credibility. We are pleased to see that a large number of States have already submitted their annual report for 2016, as has Germany, and encourage all others to follow suit.

Germany notes with some concern that a certain amount of assessed national contributions is still outstanding. This issue should be addressed in the coming days. We must not let it become a permanent challenge to the ATT budget and compromise the Treaty's resources and effectiveness further down the road.

Finally, please allow me to mention a new element in our national arms export control policy that we see as a crucial tool in advancing the purposes of the ATT. In 2015, Germany adopted a policy of post-shipment controls for war weapons and specific types of firearms. The objective is to improve the guarantees governing end use for military goods exported from Germany. In May this year, we conducted our first post-shipment control and are ready to share our experiences with interested State Parties this week.

Let me conclude by reaffirming that Germany remains firmly committed to support the ATT's implementation and its universalization.

Thank you very much.