



Mr. Chair,

As it is the first time we take the floor, allow us to congratulate you and your team on the meticulous preparations for the 8th Conference of State Parties, as well as the excellent work leading up to the meeting, significantly contributing to the further development of the Treaty, despite the hurdles posed by the COVID – 19 pandemic restrictions and all its implications.

We are confident that, given your extensive experience, you will lead our deliberations to a tangible outcome for the fulfillment of our common goal, which is inter alia, to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms as well as prevent their diversion. Moreover, we assure you of our delegation's full support in your endeavors.

Mr Chair, Dear Colleagues,

Greece fully aligns with the statement delivered earlier by the EU, on this thematic cluster and would like to make a few remarks in our national capacity.

We have from the outset supported the Treaty, as it is a robust safeguard in tackling the diversion of conventional weapons in general, setting a realistic roadmap in further decreasing the illicit arms trade flows, and its impact on maintaining regional and international security and stability.

To this end, Greece is fulfilling its reporting as well as its financial obligations in a timely manner, in accordance with the provisions of the Treaty, thus contributing to its credibility.

Mr Chair,

We strongly believe that fulfilling the reporting obligations, is an indicator of the commitment of a state - party to the Treaty. In this regard, we stress the need for submitting the annual reports on time, ,as per Article 13 of the Treaty.

Furthermore, we **support** the view that the option of making our annual report publicly and not restrictively accessible to member - states, greatly fosters transparency in the arms trade, is a fundamental element for fulfilling the Treaty's ultimate purpose.

In this context, within the current year, Greece **concluded** its internal procedures, so as to declassify its annual reporting data and henceforth **share them publicly**.

In the same vein, we encourage state parties to examine the option of non-confidential reporting.

Additionally, we urge countries that face technical difficulties in fulfilling their reporting obligations, to make use of the available assistance mechanisms in order to achieve compliance.

We would also like to express our support for the **guidance document on the Annual Reporting Obligation**, believing that upon its finalization, it will become a living document for the Treaty and a useful tool for the authorities responsible for submitting the annual information.

Moreover, we welcome the first meeting of the **Diversions Information Exchange Forum (DIEF)**, which is expected to provide the necessary ground for fruitful discussions on concrete cases of detected or suspected diversion of conventional arms that state parties have dealt with.

Mr Chair,

We anticipate that this cycle of meetings, leading to the 8th Conference of state – parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, will further contribute to the constructive synergies among stakeholders, in a manner that will support the envisaged objective, which is the reduction of illicit arms flows.

Thank you for your kind attention.