



**United Nations Office
for Disarmament Affairs**

**Video message by Izumi Nakamitsu
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**Opening Remarks at
Tenth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP9)**

As delivered



Geneva
26 August 2024

Mister President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

I am honored to address the Tenth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty.

I congratulate Ambassador Răzvan Rusu of Romania for assuming the Presidency of the Conference and commend his efforts to promote the universalization and implementation of the Treaty.

The purpose of the ATT remains as vital today as when the treaty first came into force on 24 December 2014.

The world continues to witness the devastating impact of unregulated and irresponsible arms transfers, including in the context of ongoing armed conflicts. The human cost is staggering; conflicts fuelled by such transfers result in civilian lives lost, communities shattered, and development stunted.

Transparency in arms transfers is a crucial confidence-building measure that can serve to reduce tensions, clarify intentions and ensure accountability. The ATT and the UN Register of Conventional Arms are key instruments in this regard.

In his policy brief on “A New Agenda for Peace”, the United Nations Secretary-General called for actions to reduce the human cost of weapons, an objective which aligns with the express purpose of the ATT to reduce human suffering.

To mitigate the human cost of weapons, States must exercise utmost responsibility in their arms and ammunition transfers, including through pre-transfer risk assessments. I urge States Parties to the ATT to abide by their obligations, including to deny arms transfers where there is an overriding risk that these arms could be used to commit or facilitate serious violations of international humanitarian law or international human rights law. I also encourage States to include adherence to the political declaration on explosive weapons in populated areas in their arms export assessment criteria.

Excellencies,

Challenges of treaty implementation remain. States Parties must implement their obligations faithfully, in accordance with the Treaty’s humanitarian purpose and in a consistent, objective and non-discriminatory manner. To protect the norms and preserve the credibility of the ATT, it’s crucial to bridge the gap between the treaty’s obligations and actual arms transfer practices.

In this regard, this year’s priority theme, *The Role of Interagency Cooperation in the Effective Implementation of Arms Trade Treaty Provisions*, is highly relevant.

The implementation of the ATT can be strengthened by leveraging synergies with other international arms control instruments, such as the Firearms Protocol and the Programme of Action on Small Arms and Light Weapons and its International Tracing Instrument and the Global Framework for Through-life Conventional Ammunition Management.

In the New Agenda for Peace, the Secretary-General urged Member States to implement concrete measures against illicit flow of arms and diversion. This important target of the Sustainable Development Goals can only be successfully accomplished through robust international cooperation. In this context, I am pleased that the Diversion Information Exchange Forum will convene again this week.

Excellencies,

Universalization is also crucial for the Treaty's success. This is the only way to ensure that the standards it sets have global impact. In this connection, I welcome Gambia and Malawi to the Treaty, which brings the number of States Parties to 115. The Secretary-General of the United Nations, as Depositary of the Treaty, will continue to promote increased adherence. I encourage all States that have not yet joined the Treaty to do so without delay.

As you embark on our deliberations over the coming days, let us reaffirm our commitment to the core values of the ATT. Let us work together to address the challenges before us and to promote our shared goal of a safer and more secure world.

My office and I, alongside the ATT Secretariat, remain committed to supporting you in achieving these goals.

I thank you for your attention and wish you productive discussions.