

**Check against delivery!**

**STATEMENT OF HUNGARY**

**at the 7<sup>th</sup> Conference of States Parties to the  
Arms Trade Treaty**

**United Nations**

**Geneva, 30 August 2021**

**Thematic discussion on Small Arms & Light Weapons, and Stockpile Management**

Mr. Chairperson,

Hungary associates itself with the statements to be delivered on behalf the EU. Nevertheless, I wish to make a few remarks to this particular discussion from our national perspective.

First of all, I would like to thank Sierra Leone, and personally you, Ambassador **Gberie**, for leading the preparations for the seventh Conference of the States Parties throughout a very challenging year.

We are particularly glad for the choice of *“Strengthening efforts to eradicate the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons and ensuring efficient stockpile management”* as the priority theme for Sierra Leone’s presidency.

Undoubtedly, the illicit trafficking in small arms and light weapons and their diversion represent a very serious threat to security, as these weapons kill or injure more people than any other kind of weapons. Hungary fully shares the view that stockpile management is key to preventing diversion in the post-delivery phase.

We very much welcome the approach of the Presidency’s Working Paper suggesting that we need to explore and further enhance synergies between the ATT and other international instruments that are relevant in this area. In this spirit, Hungary has recently been active in preventing the diversion of SALW by enhancing stockpile security in South-East Europe.

Given our vicinity to the region, Hungary has been focussing its efforts to supporting the Western Balkan countries to find a viable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and smuggling of these weapons. In concrete terms, in order to help the efforts of Bosnia and Herzegovina and Montenegro to further decrease the risk of proliferation of firearms, ammunition and explosives and to mitigate the consequences of stockpiling those weapons and ammunition, Hungary has provided a financial support of 250 000 EUR to two projects within the framework of the OSCE:

- The project entitled *“Safety and Security Upgrade of Bosnia and Herzegovina Ammunition and Weapons Storage Sites”* aims at enhancing the capacity the MoD and Armed Forces of BiH to manage weapons and ammunition in line with international best practices.
- The objective of the project called *“Mitigation of Safety and Security Risks related to SALW/ stockpiles of conventional ammunition in Montenegro”* is to reduce the risk of explosion at munitions sites and diversion of small arms and light weapons or stockpiles of conventional ammunition from the Ministry of Defence’s storage sites.

Small arms and light weapons is and remains an issue highly relevant to countries in all continents and to a range of international fora. We support that proper follow-up be given to it in the framework of the ATT as well.

Mr. Chairperson,

As this year’s conference will not have a general discussion part, let me highlight here one, more general aspect of the ATT. We recognize the efforts Sierra Leone as President of the CSP7, in cooperation with its predecessor Argentina, and Director Dladla, Head of the

Secretariat have made in order to advance the universalization of the Treaty. We are grateful for that. We however need to face the fact that compared to the previous period, in the last few years universalization has been slowing down. I cannot but reiterate that as long as key players remain outside of its scope, the impact and efficiency of the Treaty remains limited. Therefore, we all need to reach out to those countries that yet have to sign or ratify the ATT.

In conclusion, let me confirm that Hungary continues to support wholeheartedly the objectives of the Treaty, as well as its implementation.