**STATEMENT BY INTERNATIONAL ACTION NETWORK ON SMALL ARMS IANSA ON INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION AND ASSISTANCE AT THE TENTH CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES (CSP 10) OF THE ARMS TRADE TREATY (ATT) IN GENEVA SWITZERLAND ON THE 22ND OF AUGUST 2024.**

**DELIVERED BY ITS MANAGING DIRECTOR**

**JOHNSON ASANTE-TWUM**

Mr. President,

Since this the first time we are taking the floor, permit me to express our condolences to the immediate family of Mr. Stephan Ott and the ATT Secretariat as well as the colleague from South Africa on their tragic passing.

Let me use this opportunity to thank you, your team and the ATT Secretariat for an excellent work through the CSP 10 cycle and to express our gratitude to Mr. Dumisani Dladla for his pioneering role as the Head of the ATT Secretariat and his skilled leadership and dexterity shaping this process. We wish him well in his future endeavors, whilst at the same time welcoming his successor to the office and assure her of our principled support and active cooperation.

We also welcome The Gambia and Malawi as the 114th and 115th members of the ATT family.

The International Action Network on Small Arms (IANSA) is a coalition of NGOs with hundreds of members in civil society organizations campaigning to stop the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons and working particularly in the Global South to prevent gun violence. IANSA draws on the practical experience of our members to campaign for policies that will promote human security and is probably the only International Civil Society Coalition working on small arms control issues with its headquarters in Africa - and Ghana to be specific.

IANSA was one of the three international civil society movements alongside Amnesty International and Oxfam International that launched the campaign for an Arms Trade Treaty in 2003. Hundreds of our members took part in over 120 countries in putting forward our arguments and proposals to their governments. Today the narrative has been turned around and that is something to be proud of especially for those us who were involved in the negotiations. IANSA publishes many briefings and campaign materials. Recently a group of our authors reviewed the available UN and other statistics and found that deaths committed and facilitated with small arms and light weapons, both directly and indirectly over the past decade, amounted to millions of lives lost. In addition, there are enormous social and economic costs of SALW-related criminal violence and conflict committed with small arms and light weapons.

When we look back over the 10 years since the establishment of the ATT, we believe that the Treaty is a milestone worth celebrating because it created a new international normative framework for the conventional arms trade and enabled the development of a set of mechanisms for States to actively cooperate with each other and with international and regional organizations, as well as industry and civil society, to improve their national control systems. Of course, there are still enormous challenges to ensure universalization and more robust implementation of the ATT provisions, especially the strict application of the ATT prohibitions and the other ATT measures to stop arms transfers that would result in serious violations of international humanitarian and international human right laws, including acts of gender based violence and violence against children, and in transnational organized crime and terrorism, and which would contribute to diversion.

Mr. President,

IANSA believes that to overcome these challenges there is a need for, not only more coordinated international assistance to meet institutional capacity needs especially in the Global South, but also a need for much greater political will at the most senior levels of government. Building the ATT is not only a technical matter. The ATT will not be a fully universalized treaty that is effectively implemented without stronger commitments by governments to transparency and timely reporting of all arms transfer decisions, and without awareness programs to build a global political culture in which conventional arms control is a central means to contribute to global peace and security, reduce human suffering and improve stability and development.

Therefore, as part of International Cooperation and Assistance, it is vital that the critical role of Civil Society at the grass roots levels and in working with parliamentarians and other influential actors is meaningfully harnessed to promote ATT norms and compliance. Such efforts require a better investment of resources to train advocates in the ATT basics and to include the promotion the full and equal participation of women and other underrepresented groups. Civil society organizations in IANSA urge States to sign and ratify the Treaty, and promote programs for weapons collection, destruction and marking. IANSA is also actively promoting complementarities between ATT and other international frameworks such as the UN Program of Action on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (UNPoA), the International Tracing Instrument and the Firearms Protocol among others and we urge States to continue to explore synergies in their implementation of these instruments.

Mr. President,

Whilst the important role of Civil Society has been greatly acknowledged in the campaigning for and developing almost all the global and regional instruments in the control and regulation of arms trade, Civil Society seems to be left behind in the support for implementation of these treaties and instruments.

IANSA would therefore greatly appreciate the kind consideration of States to set up a dedicated funding support mechanism for CSOs under the ATT framework to enhance the impact that has already been demonstrated by various Civil Society-Government Partnerships.

IANSA stands ready to discuss the detail of this proposal this week and beyond.

I thank you very much.