**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 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.

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 success to the office and assure her of our full support and 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 several hundreds of members working in the Global South to prevent violence, linking civil society organizations working to stop the proliferation and misuse of small arms and light weapons. We draw on the practical experience of our members to campaign for policies that will protect human security. In fact, we are probably the only International Civil Society Coalition headquartered in Africa and Ghana to be specific.

We look back 10years ago and believe that the milestone achieved by this treaty is worth celebrating because until 2014, it was indeed a shame to be told that the banana trade was better regulated than trade in conventional arms. 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. We all know the challenges that the Treaty has faced in universalization and general implementation, but that is normal in every human endeavor and we at IANSA believe in working together between governments and civil society to jointly improve our efforts.

Mr. President,

A fully universalized treaty and its effective implementation including transparency in arms transfer decisions and reporting would significantly contribute to global peace and security, reduce human suffering and improve stability and development. It might also sound like a utopia that cannot be reached.

Nevertheless, we should not give up. Under international cooperation and assistance, the critical role of Civil Society can be meaningfully harnessed to promote compliance including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, prevent diversion, gender-based violence, promote the full and equal participation of women and other underrepresented groups.

There are obvious 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 (ITI) 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 sometimes to be left behind in the support for implementation of these treaties and instruments.

We therefore like to propose for the kind consideration of States the setting up of a dedicated funding support for CSOs under the ATT framework.

We believe that this would enhance the impact that has already been achieved by the Civil Society-Governments partnership in various fronts as has been demonstrated in our advocacy for many States to sign and ratify the treaty, in weapons collection, destruction and marking exercises in many countries among other roles.

We stand ready to discuss the detail of this proposal throughout this week and beyond.

Mr. President,

Permit me to use this opportunity to express our appreciation to States that contribute to the Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF).

I thank you very much.