

## **Ireland – General Statement**

**ATT CSP8, 22 – 26 Aug**

**Geneva**

Thank you Mr. President.

At the outset, I would like to thank you, Ambassador Goebel, and your team, as well as the ATT Secretariat, for the excellent work conducted throughout this CSP cycle. I assure you of our delegations full support in your endeavours towards a successful Eighth Conference of States Parties.

Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered yesterday by the European Union, and would like to offer the following remarks in a national capacity.

Ireland reiterates its support for the ATT, and its object and purpose to reduce human suffering through establishing the highest possible common international standards for regulating the international trade in conventional arms, and prevent their diversion. The ATT forms a crucial part of a comprehensive international regime that, when fully universalised and effectively implemented, will help contribute to peace, stability, security, and development, and facilitate the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals, in particular target 16.4. With this in mind, we should redouble our collective efforts towards improving Treaty universalization rates, timely, comprehensive and public initial and annual reporting, and effective Treaty implementation more broadly.

We welcome the President's thematic focus on Post-Shipment Controls, including the various workshops held throughout the intersessional period culminating in the President's Working Paper on Post-Shipment Controls and this morning's thematic discussion. We encourage future presidencies to carry forward this important work, as well as the thematic work elaborated in previous ATT presidencies, to ensure continuity and make good use the information and tools at our disposal created throughout the years to help fulfil the object and purpose of the ATT.

We are also highly supportive of the President's timely initiative to launch a 'stock taking' exercise that aims to measure the achievements and shortcomings of the ATT after nearly a decade of its entry into force. This introspective exercise, to hopefully be carried forward by future presidencies, will go a long way in identifying challenges and opportunities for

enhancing the universalization and effective implementation of the Treaty, and to reconsider working methods to this end. In this regard, the synopsis paper prepared by Germany in cooperation with Control Arms, SIPRI, and the Stimson Center is an excellent resource to kick-start this important process, and we highlight the crucial role of civil society to this end. Ireland looks forward to actively engaging in these discussions that will help shape our future work towards reaching our collective goals.

Mr. President,

As we are aware, the disproportionate gendered impacts of armed violence and conflict have been widely recognised at the international level in various human rights, humanitarian and disarmament frameworks, among others. There is clear evidence highlighting the correlation between illicit arms flows and the rate of violent crimes and intimidation against women and girls, in both conflict and non-conflict affected states. Addressing this challenge will support our goals as set out in the 2030 Agenda, and UN Security Council Resolution 1325.

Importantly, the ATT, through its gender-based violence risk assessment criteria, formally recognises the link between the arms trade, ammunition, and GBV. The Treaty obliges States Parties to assess the risk, when considering whether to approve an arms export, of whether the conventional arms and ammunition covered by the Treaty may be used to commit or facilitate serious acts of GBV or serious actions of violence against women and children. In this regard, we encourage States Parties to implement the decision taken at CSP5 to collect and share gender-disaggregated data to better inform licensing officials when considering the ATT's GBV criteria.

Finally, Mr. President,

Ireland looks forward to the long anticipated inaugural meeting of the Diversion Information Exchange Forum, and congratulate Mr. Alejandro Alba Fernandez of Mexico for his role as chairperson. We are hopeful that this body will be conducive to building confidence and exchanging relevant information that will lead to better understanding occurrences of real life cases of diversion, and through sharing best practices, how to prevent them moving forward.

Thank you Mr. President.