

**Ireland – Universalization**  
**ATT CSP8, 22 – 26 Aug**  
**Geneva**

- Thank you Mr. President
- Ireland thanks the co-chairs for their efforts during the intersessional period to promote the universalisation of the ATT, as well as the ATT Secretariat for the update on the status of ratifications and accessions.
- We join others in warmly welcoming the Philippines as the ATT's 111<sup>th</sup> State Party, as well as the continued efforts by the Republic of the Gambia towards ratification, as we heard in yesterday's general debate. Despite these positive developments, the decrease in rate of treaty universalization, while expected at this stage, is concerning and merits our focussed attention.
- We reiterate our call for non-State Parties, particularly the major arms exporters and importers, to join the ATT community without further delay.
- Ireland welcomes the draft paper entitled "enhancing the work of the working group on Treaty Universalisation" annexed to the report of the WGTU. We share the assessment that the current work structure is rather short-sighted, limited to the purview of single year presidencies, to the detriment of medium or long term comprehensive approaches, which at this stage in the Treaty's life would likely yield better universalization results. The focus on establishing a long-term work-plan, to ensure continuity while incorporating a tailored approach, is promising.
- The initial considerations outlined in the paper succinctly outline a practical roadmap towards reinvigorating the work of the WGTU, and we look forward to elaborating these elements over the next CSP cycle.
- In particular, the ideas to establish Regional Champions, and to be more proactive with regard to Voluntary Trust Fund projects, seem like feasible, practical solutions to support states in their endeavours to join the Treaty.
- Furthermore, the value and importance of the contributions from civil society, regional and international organizations in reaching our collective universalization goals, cannot be overstated.
- Finally, it is worth reiterating that universalization must be accompanied by effective Treaty implementation, of all the Treaty's provisions, if the ATT is to contribute to the highest possible standards and norms in the international arms trade.

Thank you Mr. President.