

Ireland General Statement

Arms Trade Treaty

First Informal Preparatory Meetings for the Eighth Conference of States Parties (CSP8)

Geneva, 18 February 2022

Thank you Chair.

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

Ireland welcomes the ongoing efforts by the Presidency and Secretariat to ensure that work on the universalisation and effective implementation of the ATT continues, despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. Ireland looks forward to actively participating in advancing this important work at this preparatory meeting, and the working group meetings throughout the year.

Ireland remains committed to the Universalisation of the ATT, and we call on all State Parties to redouble their efforts to promote the universalisation of the Treaty; international standards are strongest and most effective when they are universally applied. The ATT is a crucial part of a comprehensive international regime that, when fully universalised and implemented, will support peace, stability, security, and development.

Ireland recognises that many States Parties continue to experience difficulties meeting their ATT reporting obligations, including due to a lack of capacity and resources, internal coordination challenges, and difficulties in conducting technical assessments. Ireland is concerned by the ongoing low rate of compliance with reporting obligations, and we remain fully committed to working collectively to find solutions to overcome challenges to reporting by States Parties.

In this regard, Ireland strongly supports the new reporting templates, prepared by the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting, for initial and annual reports. These new templates can help to address confusion on certain aspects of reporting, bringing increased clarity to the process and facilitating greater transparency by States Parties. We are hopeful that the proposed changes to the reporting templates will also facilitate more timely responses.

Ireland recalls that the ATT is the first arms regulation treaty to recognise the link between conventional arms transfers and gender-based violence, mandating that gender based violence be considered in the course of export risk assessments. Its effective implementation can contribute to eliminating violence against women and girls, as set out in Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) target 5.2. As States Parties we should discuss ways in which the outcomes of CSP5, which focussed on gender and GBV, can be better implemented

throughout the Treaty going forward. In this vein, Ireland welcomes the President's initiative to begin a review process that will take stock of the achievements of the Treaty since its entry into force 8 years ago and its future potential, in order to identify ways in which to improve the ATT's effectiveness.

Ireland also looks forward to engaging in the Diversion Information Exchange Forum (DIEF), which is well positioned to become a valuable mechanism for States to combat arms diversion through sharing concrete and operational information about cases of suspected or detected diversion. We share the EU's hope that this forum will take account of the valuable contribution that can be made by civil society in this forum.

Thank you Chair.