



**Third Conference of the States Parties of the Arms Trade Treaty
Geneva, 11-15 September 2017**

**Statement by H. E. Amb. Vinicio Mati
Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament**

General Debate

Mr. President,

At the outset, let me commend and thank you, as well as the members of the Bureau and the Secretariat, for the constructive and transparent way in which you have conducted our preparations for this Conference.

Italy aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. I would like to add some remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. President,

Italy has been a strong supporter of the Arms Trade Treaty since the first stages of its negotiation. The ATT is the first global instrument to set the highest possible common international standards to regulate the international trade in conventional arms and ammunition, and to prevent and eradicate their illicit traffic and diversion. As such, it can make a unique contribution to fostering transparent and responsible arms transfer policies and reducing the grey areas in which illegal arms trafficking thrives, thus contributing to peace, security and stability, and addressing the suffering caused by the widespread availability of conventional weapons.

For the ATT to realize its full potential, universalization and implementation are key sides of the same coin.

At the domestic level, effective ATT implementation will strengthen arms transfer control systems, establishing norms and procedures aimed at ensuring compliance with higher standards of responsibility and traceability in the transfer of defence products. At the international level, as more countries put in place and implement the necessary regulatory frameworks and transfer controls, the legitimate trade will be preserved, while the illicit proliferation and diversion of conventional arms will be hindered.

In this respect, we welcome the latest ratifications by the Republic of Benin, Cabo Verde, Honduras, Madagascar and the Republic of Korea and call on all observer States and States not party to the Treaty to ratify or accede to it as early as possible. We also wish to thank you, Mr. President, as well as Amb. Imohe of Nigeria for your leading outreach efforts towards broadening the ATT membership.

Last year, together with France, Italy presented a proposal for the creation of an informal “troika system” of past, current, and future Presidents aiming to make universalization efforts more sustainable over the long term, while allowing for appropriate coordination between subsequent Presidencies and advance planning. We would be pleased to further discuss how such a system could make a valuable contribution towards making the ATT universal.

We look forward to having substantive discussions on the way ahead, to outline a solid programme of work for the coming intersessional period. The Working Groups on universalization, effective implementation, and transparency and reporting provided a very useful framework for exchanging information, including on best practices and main challenges, on implementation of the Treaty provisions, and we look forward to continued and practical discussions in such formats. In this regard, I would like to sincerely thank the Chairs of the Working Groups for their hard work and commitment throughout this past year.

Finally, Mr. President, let me underline that the ATT sets common goals and gives a collective responsibility to work towards them. Cooperation among all stakeholders, from Governments to international organizations, from civil society to industry, will continue to be fundamental for our efforts to meet with success.

Thank you.