



## STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF KIRIBATI

At the Eighth Conference of State Parties (CSP8)

Arms Trade Treaty

22 - 26 August, 2022

Geneva, Switzerland

1. Mr President, at the outset, let me congratulate you on behalf of the Republic of Kiribati on your election as the President of this Eighth Conference of state parties.

2. Kiribati also extend its sincere appreciation to the ATT Secretariat for its dedication and relentless efforts in ensuring that the Treaty continues to fulfil its objectives in the prevention and eradication of illicit trade and diversion of conventional arms so as to reduce human suffering, promoting cooperation, transparency and responsible action among the international community.

3. Though, Kiribati is among the small developing countries of the world, its early signing of the Treaty on the 25 September 2013 shows its commitment to the Treaty and it stands shoulder to shoulder with countries (big and small) that recognise the establishment and implementation of a standard system to regulate the international trade of conventional arms and to prevent the illegal flow of arms to the wrong hands of society.

4. While Kiribati is yet to experience armed violence, new threats are emerging in the form of transnational organised crimes that could lead to the illegal use of arms in the future. Its close proximity to a major tourist hub in the Pacific coupled with its vast ocean area that attracts hundreds of fishing vessels annually has increased the vulnerability of Kiribati to small arms smuggling and trafficking.

5. Kiribati considers the Treaty, a vital instrument in promoting international peace, security and stability and fully committed to working towards ratifying the Treaty as early as possible. However, Kiribati lacks the expertise and resources needed to fully implement the Treaty and therefore seeks assistance to support a wide range of activities intended for the ratification of the Treaty, including but not limited to legislative gap analysis, updating certain laws and regulations, building and supporting the work of national coordination committees, creating

and maintaining national record-keeping processes, and facilitating dialogue to create a national action plan for the implementation of the ATT.

6. Thank you Mr. President and I wish you, and the conference every success.