

Eighth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
Geneva, 22 August – 26 August 2022

General Debate

General Statement by Bahtijors Hasans

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Mr. President,

At the outset, on behalf of the Latvian Government, I would like to express our deep gratitude to you, Mr. President, and your team for the inestimable efforts in organizing this Eighth Conference of States Parties in in-person format despite the circumstances with all the side events being held as it was the ATT tradition before the pandemics. I would like to thank the head of the Secretariat Mr. Dumisani Dladla personally for tireless efforts in securing all activities under the Arms Trade Treaty in these difficult times.

Mr. President,

The Latvian delegation aligns itself with the statement *delivered/to be delivered* by the European Union and would like to add some remarks in a national capacity.

Latvia ratified the Arms Trade Treaty on 2 April 2014 thus contributing to the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty at the end of 2014. Successful implementation of the Treaty at the national level has always been a priority of the Latvian government. Latvia attaches great importance towards the values of the ATT. In that spirit Latvia exercised function of the President of the CSP5 in 2019. A wide spectrum of measures and activities were put in place under the guidance of CSP5 President Ambassador Jānis Kārkliņš of Latvia to maintain the highest possible standards in control of trade with conventional arms at national level. Our priority at CSP5 was a fight against a gender based violence in arms export. The priority was extensively discussed during the CSP5 and resulted in adoption of the result-oriented plan of action highly evaluated by the ATT community.

Latvia fully welcomes the values of the ATT and has always been ready to contribute to achieve the goals written in the Treaty. Since completing of its duties to serve as a President of the ATT Latvia has offered its services as a Vice President of the Arms Trade Treaty. Latvia is also ready to do its utmost in future in order to prevent illegal trafficking of weapons around the globe.

Mr. President,

Your priority to enhance the discussion on post shipment controls is the ambitious goal, but at the same time it is a core issue of the Arms Trade Treaty. Latvia is pleased that we are able to hold in person consultations or side events to discuss practicalities with the civil society as regards post shipment controls of arms. Latvia will also along with Japan and Mexico host a side event on Thursday during lunch time on our countries' experience in export control. State Secretary of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Latvia H.E. Andris Pelšs will arrive in Geneva to open the side event.

Latvia considers that universalization of the Treaty is a key to a world without violence caused by unsanctioned circulation of arms across the borders.

We always welcome new states joining the Arms Trade Treaty – Philippines have become a full-fledged State Party on 24 March this year after a ratification of the ATT. Philippines are the right example to other countries of the region.

Latvia shares concerns already expressed during the fifth Conference of State Parties in Geneva that despite an increased number of countries who have ratified the Treaty, the Treaty global coverage is uneven. It would be of utmost importance to further promote the Treaty and encourage States to join it, especially in the Middle East and Asia.

Mr. President,

It has been already mentioned by the European Union in its statement, but the situation with fulfillment of obligations of the ATT is only worsening. The operation of the ATT secretariat is a great benefit to all of us. Submission of annual reports to the secretariat is a core obligation arising from the Arms Trade Treaty.

Mr. President,

Due to the COVID pandemic, last year we were not been able to fully conduct our deliberations in person. Nevertheless, this year we are working in in-person format which is already a big step forward. I believe that it serves as a good example of cooperation between countries with a common goal to enhance and further promote an effective arms export control worldwide.