



**THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO GENERAL STATEMENT
DELIVERED AT THE EIGHTH CONFERENCE OF
STATES PARTIES (CSP8) TO THE ARMS TRADE
TREATY – GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
22 – 26 AUGUST 2022**

States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty,
Signatory States,
Observer States,
International and Regional Organizations,
Civil Society, Industry,
NGOs,
Distinguished delegates,

On behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho's delegation, I wish to congratulate you **Mr. President**, on your election at the helm of the 8th Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Conference, and affirm the Kingdom of Lesotho's unwavering support for your leadership toward a successful outcome of this Conference. My delegation applauds the commendable preparatory work done and dedication throughout the year.

The Kingdom of Lesotho aligns itself with the statement delivered by Niger on behalf of the African Group.

Mr. President,

We wish to express our gratitude to the ATT secretariat for providing technical assistance to states, more particularly the Least Developed Countries. We further welcome the inventiveness of the secretariat for establishing the ATT Sponsorship Programme, without which it would not have been possible for my delegation to gain the level of exposure we will attain by participating in this 8th conference. The Sponsorship Programme goes a long way in building capacity of delegates from developing countries and ensuring representative and participatory discourse towards successful Treaty implementation.

Mr. President,

Lesotho regards the ATT as a vital instrument that seeks to ensure a safer and more secure world. In recognition of the need to join global

efforts to reduce human suffering caused by illegal and irresponsible arms transfers, in order to improve regional security and stability, Lesotho renews her commitment to work towards a meaningful progress in the implementation of the Treaty. We wish to highlight that the Inter-Ministerial Task Team has been recently formed and will soon execute its mandate.

Mr. President,

The Inter-Ministerial Task Team will consider the existing domestic legal framework governing the conventional arms to align them with the spirit of the Arms Trade Treaty, where the laws lack such. The task team will also be responsible for the drafting of Lesotho's initial report on the implementation of the ATT, as well as subsequent reports and plan going forward.

Mr. President,

Lesotho like other States Parties to the ATT is under an obligation to fulfill her commitment to implement the Treaty and is also committed to the principles of maintenance of international peace and security, as well as to promote accountability and transparency concerning transfers of conventional arms. To succeed in these obligations, Lesotho needs to address a challenge of proliferation of conventional arms as a result of illicit arms trade.

Mr. President,

To achieve the effective implementation of the ATT, as well as to address challenges hindering its implementation, cooperation and assistance will be essential for Lesotho and other States who are lagging behind in the implementation of the ATT.

In conclusion, **Mr. President**, my delegation looks forward to a fruitful and successful conference and we take this opportunity to reiterate our

full support and cooperation to the work of the ATT secretariat and to your leadership throughout this conference.

I thank you for your attention.