

SIXTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY GENERAL DEBATE

STATEMENT BY AMBASSADOR VELJKO MILONJIĆ, DIRECTOR GENERAL FOR MULTILATERAL AFFAIRS, MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS OF MONTENEGRO

Mr. President,

I would like to commend your efforts in CSP6 preparation process that was being conducted under unprecedented circumstances caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Montenegro firmly believes that in an urgent health situation, states must show strong resolution to continue multilateral cooperation on issues that are important for the whole international community. To that end, we believe in the positive outcomes of the CSP6, despite the challenging logistical and technical conditions in which the conference is being held.

Mr. President,

Montenegro aligned itself with the statement of the EU. Please allow me to give few remarks in my national capacity.

Arms Trade Treaty presents a breakthrough in the international efforts to regulate arms and ammunition trade on a global scale, making it more responsible and transparent without impeding the legitimate needs of the business community. International reports point out that small arms and light weapons continue to be a primary cause of death in conflict zones and enabler of pervasive crime, and that the danger of terrorist acquiring those weapons remains present as ever. The role of illicit arms trade in fueling ongoing conflicts, support of terrorism and organized crime is undeniable.

This is the first international treaty that contains global norms on transfer of conventional weapons that are above any national regulation. By imposing high standards in the international trade and transit of arms state contribute to international peace and security, and by setting norms to prevent illicit trade with the aim to eradicate it, states are supporting efforts to ease human suffering, especially in conflict zones.

In order to establish a global regime of arms trade control we strongly support universalization of the ATT and call on all states to join this important international instrument. Member states must continue their work on promoting the values of the ATT and the benefits of becoming a truly universal standard in arms trade.

Montenegro is fully committed to promoting and implementing the ATT at the national and international level. We are proud to announce that with the help from EXBS and Estonian Government in Montenegro we are currently preparing an electronic system for issuing licenses that will make the procedure more efficient and more transparent. Montenegro continues in its communication with other countries and in international fora to promote the importance of the Treaty and to encourage the non-member states to become party to it.

International cooperation in the form of sharing information, knowledge and experience remains important aspect to ensure effective implementation of the Treaty. We believe that Voluntary Trust Fund is an important tool to assist member countries in setting up and implementing arms trade control regime.

We would like to extend our support to the work of the ATT Secretariat and to the efforts of the Working groups on how to advance implementation of specific obligations in the Treaty. In order

to ensure their smooth functioning of the Secretariat it is necessary that all member states pay their financial contributions in full and in a timely manner.

Mr. President,

Let me reiterate our full support to the efforts of the international community to establish a global regime of responsible and transparent trade in conventional weapons, efforts that materialized in the ATT six years ago, as one of the biggest achievements of the international community in the recent period. The global pandemic has put the multilateral system under strain and we must show willingness to preserve and advance implementation of all mutually agreed commitments on global level.

Montenegro expresses full readiness to contribute to the successful outcomes of this conference and to our further work on the goals of the ATT.

Thank you