



**STATEMENT BY MALAYSIA  
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE  
OF THE SIXTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES  
TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY  
17-21 AUGUST 2020  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND**

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Malaysia expresses its appreciation to Ambassador Federico Villegas, President of the Sixth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), on his leadership and commitment in steering the preparatory process for the meeting. Malaysia also extend its thanks to the Secretariat and the chairs of the Working Groups for their dedication and relentless efforts in ensuring that the Treaty continues to fulfil its mandate and objectives, especially during these challenging times.

Mr. President,

2. The world has been facing the COVID-19 pandemic. All countries and people have been affected, and many have paid the ultimate sacrifice from this deadly disease. Malaysia offers its sincere condolences to everyone who has lost loved ones, relatives, friends and colleagues due to this dreadful COVID-19 virus. The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has been devastating, has affected many facets of life, and the full economic impact of this disease remains to be seen.

3. The Arms Trade Treaty has also not been spared from the effects of COVID-19. After seven (7) years since the ATT's establishment, and for the first time, the Second Preparatory Meeting in April had to be cancelled, and even this Conference of States Parties is taking place in an unprecedented situation, whereby proceedings are undertaken through a written procedure. This situation, unfortunately, has disrupted the momentum of various ATT discussions. This should not, however, impede the work of all states and other stakeholders to progress on strengthening and cooperating on the Treaty. All must work together, adapt to the "new normal", and invigorate our efforts to fulfil the mandate of this Treaty.

Mr. President,

4. The ATT is the first legally binding instrument that regulates the international trade of conventional weapons. One of the most important objectives of the Treaty is to prevent and eradicate the illicit transfer and diversion of conventional weapons, which have fuelled armed conflicts around the world. Since its inception, the Treaty continues to promote cooperation among member states and enhance greater transparency and responsibility in transfers of conventional weapons.

5. Malaysia considers this Treaty as an important instrument in contributing towards international and regional peace, security and stability. Malaysia is actively working towards ratifying the Treaty as soon as possible, and there is a continuous internal process to ensure that the administrative and relevant legislative measures in Malaysia are in place to allow us to be in full compliance with all the obligations under the Treaty.

6. Even though Malaysia has yet to become a State Party to the ATT, Malaysia has always been consistent to subscribe to the Treaty provisions. Malaysia has several domestic legislations in place that govern the importation, exportation, transit, trans-shipment and brokering of conventional weapons, such as the Strategic Trade Act, the Arms Act, and the Explosives Act. These laws serve as the backbone of our arms control system in Malaysia to effectively control and prevent the illicit trade and diversion of conventional weapons.

Mr. President,

7. The implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) will complement the aims of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically Goal 16, which calls for UN member states and all actors to “promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels”. Indicator 16.4 highlights the aim to significantly reduce illicit financial and arms flows, strengthen the recovery and return of stolen assets and combat all forms of organized crime by 2030. Substantively, the Indicator correlates with Article 1 of ATT, which is to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and prevent their diversion. With the ATT implementation efforts in place, the design and support of control systems that uphold and strengthen ATT requirements and objectives will contribute reduce illicit arms flows.

Mr. President,

8. Malaysia remains a strong proponent for the universalisation of the Treaty. Universalisation and effective implementation would contribute to achieving the Treaty’s goal of establishing a global norm in the transfers of conventional weapons. Malaysia commends the universalisation efforts undertaken by the President and the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on Treaty Universalisation, despite the challenges faced in organising outreach programmes. Malaysia also would like to congratulate the states that have recently acceded to and ratified the ATT and looks forward to their active engagement in the ATT processes. With the growing numbers of signatories and State Parties to the Treaty, Malaysia is hopeful that this will resonate to other states to become party to the Treaty, and for the international community to strive for the goal of eradicating illicit trade and diversion of conventional arms.

Thank you, Mr. President.