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| MISSÃO PERMANENTE DAREPÚBLICA DE MOÇAMBIQUEJUNTO DAS NAÇÕES UNIDASGENEBRA |  | PERMANENT MISSION OF THEREPUBLIC OF MOZAMBIQUETO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICEGENEVA |

**Statement**

**By**

 **H.E. Geraldo Saranga, Ambassador and Permanent Representative of the Republic of Mozambique to the United Nations Office and other International Organizations in Geneva, on the occasion of the Tenth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP10)**

**General Debate**

**19th August 2024**

**Mr. President,**

1. At the outset, I would like to join previous speakers in congratulating you Ambassador Russo, for your election to preside over this conference, and for the brilliant manner in which you have been conducting the proceedings of this important conference. I assure you of Mozambique’s full support in the discharge of your noble task.
2. We would like to seize this opportunity to also recognize the excellent work done by your predecessor H.E. Ambassador **Seong-mee Yoon** of the Republic of Korea, to whom we pay our tribute.
3. Mozambique associates its self with the statements delivered by Maldives on behalf of the OIC member states and by Burkina Faso on behalf of the African Group.
4. We thank the ATT Secretariat through Mr. Dumisani for the preparations of this Conference and, indeed, for the outstanding work done at the helm of this Treaty.

**Mr. President,**

1. This conference which also celebrates the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the ATT, is taking place when the international community is facing one of the most pressing geopolitical tensions since the end of the Cold War.
2. The issue of arms transfer represents an important chapter in the ATT which brings additional pressure to all parties involved. As a matter of fact, the increasing tendency in international arms transfer demonstrates the firm belief of parties in the primacy of military approach, anchored in the zero-sum game logic.
3. It also confirms the growing and unprecedent level of mistrust, contributing to fuel conflicts in an already fragile and complex international landscape.
4. Like in many conflicts, civilians continue to bear the brunt of death, danger and destruction.

**Mr. President**

1. We recognize that States enjoy the sovereign right of self-defense, a fundamental principle of International Law enshrined in the UN Charter, under which they are expected to adopt the necessary measures to protect their own sovereignty and territorial integrity.

Such measures may often entail arms transfer.

1. On the other hand, we hold the view that, if not carefully handled, arms transfer can lead to devastating and untold consequences.
2. History has shown that the availability, proliferation and massive transfer of arms have a huge potential to worsen a conflict, to increase insecurity and, ultimately, divert resources from critical social areas to sustain war’s efforts.
3. Bearing in mind this complex and fragile context, mitigation measures are crucial. Therefore, we underscore the importance of responsible arms transfer, within the existing international legal framework.
4. Responsible arms transfer is an indispensable tool to enhance transparency, to bring strategic stability and reduce uncertainty, thus contributing to build the much-need confidence between the parties.
5. It is against this background that Mozambique attaches great importance to the ATT and recognizes its paramount role in providing legal framework for sound international trade in conventional arms.
6. Prevention and eradication of illicit trade in conventional arms should remain a priority. Likewise, all parties should engage in the prevention of conventional arms diversion.

**Mr. President,**

1. Mozambique is a State Party to the ATT, since 2018, but regrettably the submission of initial and subsequent reports remains a challenge.
2. The good practices, lessons learned, challenges and experiences shared by different States, will certainly be taken into account in our internal process of reporting.
3. Finally, I wish to congratulate both Malawi and the Gambia for their accession to the ATT. We look forward to cooperate with both countries in the implementation of the ATT provisions, as we seek to achieve universal adherence to the Treaty.

**I thank you.**