



## **Sixth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty**

### **Statement of Republic Namibia**

Namibia associates itself with Statement by the African Group, and wish to express its profound gratitude to the President, Vice President, Members of the Management Committee and the Secretariat for organizing the Sixth Conference of States Parties (CSP6) to the Arms Trade Treaty.

On 2 April 2020, Namibia deposited its instruments of ratification to the United Nations thereby becoming a State Party to the ATT, because of the recognition that the illicit trading of small arms remains a serious threat to international peace and security, hence universality and effective implementation of the ATT has never be more urgent then before as demonstrated by the Covid-19 pandemic. In this connection Namibia welcomes the ratification of Afghanistan, Sao Tome and Principle, Maldives and Niue, taking ATT membership to 110.

In view of our commitment to the ATT, we are pleased to report that with the funding from the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund, Namibia in collaboration with Control Arms held an ATT Academy for Southern Africa in Windhoek, from 9 to 12 December 2019. The second round of the ATT academy was scheduled for June 2020, however due the travel restrictions imposed as a result of Covid-19, the workshop has been put on hold.

We therefore, wish to acknowledge support and efforts of ATT Voluntary Trust fund, the German Federal Office for Economic Affairs, the Geneva Centre for Security Policy for having supported Namibia towards ratification. Namibia is in her infancy in the implementation of the treaty, we will rely on the support of the Secretariat, States Parties and NGO's to be capacitated in the effective implementation of the Treaty at the National Level.

As Member State of the African Union, Namibia wish to recall the AU initiative of "Silencing the Gun by 2020" adopted during the AU 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary in 2013, We welcome the current chair of the AU of 2020, South Africa for prioritizing the theme "Silencing of the Gun", during its tenure to intensify efforts to establish peace and stability in Africa. Namibia believes that the ATT should continue to support and compliment regional efforts to combat the illicit flow of small and light weapons, therefore our common objective should be to establish the highest possible international standards for regulating international trade in conventional arms to prevent and eradicate their illicit trade and diversion.

Namibia welcome the ATT Sponsorship Programme under VTF, which is essential for representative and participatory discourse within the ATT framework. In this context,

Namibia supports the view that no State should be prejudiced by Financial Rule 8 (1) d applying from the Fund until the issue is adequately addressed by CSP7.

With regard to the decision by the Management Committee for the continuation of the contract of the Head of ATT Secretariat, Mr. Dumisani DLADLA, for a second term, Namibia wish to support and endorse the decision.

In conclusion, as one of the latest State Party to the ATT, Namibia will like to assure the ATT and other States Parties of its willingness and commitment to fully cooperate in a collective manner in order to realize international peace and security for all humanity.