

**SEVENTH CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES TO THE ARMS TRADE
TREATY BY THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

On behalf of the Republic of Namibia, I would like to congratulate you, Mr President and your team, on your successful tenure as the President for the Seventh Conference of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty. I would also like to express my gratitude to the ATT Secretariat for their hard work.

30 AUGUST 2021

AGENDA ITEM 4: THEMATIC DISCUSSION ON SMALL ARMS AND LIGHT WEAPONS AND STOCKPILING MANAGEMENT

Mr President,

Namibia became a state party on 28 April 2020 and has taken note of the importance to regulate arms in the world, especially small arms and light weapons within our region where they are Weapons of Mass Destructions as in most of the developing world.

It is unfortunate that the flow of small arms and light weapons into developing regions has increased. To curb the transfer of small arms and light weapons, Namibia has committed to the African Union declaration on “**Silencing the Guns in Africa by 2030**” and the implementation of the African Union Border Management Programme, as well as of course ratifying the Arms Trade Treaty.

Namibia also adheres to the SADC Protocol on the Control of Fire Arms, Ammunition and Other Related Material. To this end, each year, Namibia commemorates the African Amnesty Month during September until 2030, by urging its nationals and all inhabitants to surrender all illegally acquired and unlicensed firearms, armaments and ammunition to the Namibian Police.

Namibia wishes to inform the conference that, in collaboration with Control Arms, the second phase of the Southern African Academy on the Arms Trade Treaty funded by the ATT Voluntary Fund took place from 16 – 20 August 2021, virtually. The focus of the training was on articles 5, 6 -9, 11 and 13 of the ATT.

Namibia therefore urges all State Parties, Signatories and Non-State Parties to strictly adhere to the transfer obligations as contained in the ATT as well as in other

international instruments to reach our ATT objective and to ultimately eradicate illicit and illegal small arms and light weapons within our territories. My delegation underscores the importance of the gender-based-violence provision of the Arms Trade Treaty, under Article 7 (4) whereby it is illegal to transfer weapons if there is a risk that the weapons will be used to facilitate gender-based-violence.

The full implementation of the Treaty remains achievable with the full cooperation of us all. As we continue to “**seek to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world’s human and economic resources**” as per the UN Charter, my delegation pledges its support to the implementation of the ATT.

We also remain committed to the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALWs) in All Its Aspects.

Mr. President,

You can count on my delegation’s full support during this meeting.

I thank you.