



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Statement of the Netherlands

delivered by

PM

at

Eighth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

General Debate

Geneva, 23 August 2022

Thank you Mr. President.

Let me start by thanking ambassador Göbel and his team for the excellent work done in preparation of this Conference. We are confident that under your leadership, we will have fruitful and productive discussions this week on how to enhance the functioning of the ATT. You can count on our delegation's full support.

The Netherlands aligns itself fully with the statement delivered by the EU and would like to make some remarks in our national capacity.

Firstly, we would like to welcome the Philippines into the ATT-family. Your accession is important proof of the continued international support of the Arms Trade Treaty. It is particularly important given the low degree of representation of Southeast Asia in the ATT-family, so we hope that your joining will be an impetus to further States joining the treaty. We look forward to working with you in promoting the objectives of the ATT.

While we welcome the steady growth of the ATT-family, more can be done. In particular on the participation of the major arms exporters and importers, which can vastly enhance the Treaty's impact. We should maximize our efforts to engage and re-engage them.

Secondly, we are of course delighted and relieved that we are once again able to meet in person and to see so many members of the wider ATT-family, such as representatives from NGO's and industry, present here

today. This will certainly lead to a fuller and more substantive exchange of ideas and practices.

Mr. President,

Regarding the substantive work in the ATT, we would like to highlight three priority areas for us:

1. We must continue to seek more effective ways to promote the ATT's aim of combatting illegitimate arms trade. The best way to do so is by exploring how the treaty is applied in practice. We would like to see more concrete discussions in the form of case-studies on how the ATT is applied in a real-life context. For that reason we welcome the first meeting of the Diversion Information Exchange Forum. Exploring how we apply the treaty in practice is especially important for conflict affected areas. The current crisis in Ukraine painfully exposes the harm that arms can do in the wrong hands in the form of territorial aggression, human rights abuses and violations of international humanitarian law. We call on all our ATT-partners to refrain from supplying weapons to the Russian Federation due to an overriding risk of misuse.
2. The second area of priority is transparency. Transparency on arms exports and imports is one of the central pillars of the Treaty. To have an informed and substantive discussion, we need to know what arms are transferred where. We therefore strongly urge those countries who have not yet submitted their reports to do so. We also call on all countries – including and especially the major arms

exporters that have a special responsibility here – to make their reports publicly available.

3. Thirdly, we are deeply concerned about the financial state of affairs of the Treaty. Too many of our ATT partners have not fulfilled their financial obligations. In doing so, you put the treaty's future at risk. We therefore call on all countries to meet their financial obligations as soon as possible.

Mr. President,

The Netherlands looks forward to continuing constructive dialogue with all participants, as we consolidate work on this treaty.

I thank you.