



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Statement of the Netherlands

delivered by

Ms. Sabine Visser

at

**Eight Conference of States Parties to
the Arms Trade Treaty**

Matters pertaining to VTF/int assistance

Geneva, 25 August 2022

Thank you Mr. President,

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

The Netherlands thanks Germany, especially ambassador Higgin, the ATT secretariat, the VTF donors as well as funds recipients for all their efforts to further strengthen the implementation of the Treaty. It is a great achievement indeed that the VTF has been able to continue its operations in spite of the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. The steady submission of project proposals to the fund is a testament to the added value of the fund.

In reference to the Chair's report to the CSP on the VTF, we would like to underline that compliance with financial obligations are an important proof of the commitment of the beneficiary to the Treaty. The treaty's finances are in dire straits and all states parties should take responsibility to remedy this. The capacity to pay is different for each country, but that has been adequately reflected by the application of the UN scales of assessment which take into account issues like size of the economy and GDP per capita. We therefore feel it is only right that the state of compliance with all ATT commitments, including the financial commitments, is taken into account as a secondary selection criterion when establishing the eligibility to benefit from the ATT Voluntary Trust fund and sponsorship program.

Thank you Mr President.