



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Statement by the Netherlands

Third Conference of States Parties of the Arms Trade Treaty

International Assistance

Thank you Mr. Chair.

The Netherlands aligns itself with the EU statement and would like to make some additional remarks in its national capacity.

First of all, the Netherlands thanks Germany, the VTF Selection Committee and the Secretariat, for the major progress made on the Voluntary Trust Fund. This is of significant importance to assist States Parties and Signatory States to implement the Treaty. It also may be an extra encouragement for countries to join the ATT and hence it may also (indirectly) contribute to the objective of universalization. For these reasons the Netherlands financially contributes to the upcoming call for project proposals.

We support the recommendation made for the VTF outreach activities and the recommendation to address the capacitation of the VTF administration. The Netherlands could support the use of a particular percentage of the voluntary financial contributions for administration. Instead, the Netherlands could also support the Secretariat to approach the EU with a project proposal that would include VTF administration activities.

Further, exchange of views and experiences on concrete arms export and import control plays a vital role to give actual meaning to the Treaty in daily practice. As mentioned in our general statement, the Netherlands therefore will also contribute to the sponsorship programme such that experts from capitals can participate in working group meetings.

Finally, the Netherlands stands ready to share its arms export control experiences in the context of international assistance, be it multilaterally or bilaterally.

Thank you Mr. Chair.