



REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES  
PERMANENT MISSION TO THE UNITED NATIONS  
AND OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS IN GENEVA



Arms Trade Treaty  
Working Group on Treaty Universalization  
22 February 2024



The Philippines aligns itself with the collective vision of the State Parties in fostering a world free from the adverse effects of illicit transfers and unwarranted harm resulting from the proliferation of conventional weapons. As a frontrunner among Southeast Asian nations, the Philippines, by virtue of its ratification, eagerly anticipates the increased participation of additional State Parties in the Arms Trade Treaty.

We affirm the view that the efforts of the Working Group on Treaty Universalization should be harmonized with the broader initiatives of the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation.

In a bid to encourage more nations to join this noble cause, it is imperative to identify gaps in the ratification or accession process per State and focus on specific activities that merit attention. The Philippines stands ready and reiterates its commitment to contribute to this endeavor by sharing its valuable experiences and practical steps in ratifying the Treaty.







## ARMS TRADE TREATY WORKING GROUP ON TREATY UNIVERSALIZATION

Drawing from our national experience, wherein our export control authority simultaneously assumed roles as a regulator and trade facilitator, the Philippines underscores the indispensability of national controls in fostering a safe and secure business environment for strategic trade. Dispelling the misconception that controls impede trade, we assert that the Philippines' expanded strategic trade, following the implementation of the Strategic Trade Management Act in tandem with the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act, serves as evidence. This not only assures our industry partners of the country's compliance with global trade security standards but also contributes to sustainable development by adopting a people-centered approach to trade.

Additionally, our country commends the current version of the universalization toolkit, which aptly frames ATT membership in terms of its contributions to sustainable development and the enhancement of trade standards.