



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

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The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT Secretariat) and has the honor to forward the attached national statement of the Philippines to the Sixth Conference of States Parties to the ATT to be held via written procedure on 17-21 August 2020.

The Permanent Mission of the Republic of the Philippines to the United Nations and Other International Organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the ATT Secretariat the assurances of its highest consideration.

Geneva, 14 August 2020



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PHILIPPINES

National Statement

Sixth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP6)

17-21 August 2020

Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. President,

The Philippines continues to fully implement its Strategic Trade Management Act (STMA), which was enacted to fulfill the country's international commitments and obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty including, inter alia, United Nations Security Council Resolution 1540. The STMA provides the legal framework to implement most of the obligations under the ATT. The Strategic Trade Management Office (SMTO) of the Department of Trade and Industry oversees the effective implementation of this law and its Implementing Rules and Regulations (IRR), including the provisions that mirror the requirements under the ATT.

We have intensified our engagement with international Partners, such as the European Union, particularly, Expertise France and the German Federal Office of Economics and Export Control in the conduct of activities aimed at exchanging best practices, as well as capacitating government agencies and their respective personnel regarding the Treaty and its benefits to the country.

On 9-13 September 2019, Philippine government officials participated in a study visit to the Port of Rotterdam in the Netherlands through the EU P2P Program. We observed how the Netherlands implements the ATT through the strategic trade management framework. Subsequently, we have incorporated the observed best practices in our own licensing and enforcement system.

On 28-29 January of this year, the Philippines held an outreach project that evaluated the legal aspects of the implementation of the ATT in the Philippines. This was held back-to-back with a sub-regional seminar participated in by delegates from Cambodia, Indonesia, Malaysia, Singapore, Thailand and the Philippines on 30-31 January, that discussed and identified the challenges in establishing a national legal framework, control systems, and governmental mechanisms for implementing a system of arms transfers in ASEAN countries.

The Philippines has also initiated discussions on building an integrated sensitive/strategic goods database system that would cover not only conventional arms, but all regulated goods, including non-military items. In the context of recent progress in global technological capacity, having a database system is now a priority to improve information-sharing and real-time exchange of data and concerns among government agencies.

Mr. President,

There is a need for the international community, including non-governmental organizations, to pool resources and use the appropriate technology to universalize the tracing, reporting and accounting of the world's firearms. This would facilitate the tracking and tracing of firearms, and help prevent them ending up in the wrong hands.

Mr. President,

The work of concerned Philippine government agencies, particularly the Office of the Special Envoy on Transnational Crime in coordination with the Department of Foreign Affairs, to bring the country closer to ratifying the Arms Trade Treaty continues despite the disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Philippines reiterates its clear and unambiguous commitment to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty at the earliest possible time.

Thank you.