

**Intervention: Agenda Item No. 5 – Treaty Universalization**

*Seventh Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP7)*

30 August – 3 September 2021

Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. President,

The Philippines continues to implement the provisions of the Strategic Trade Management Act (STMA), a law which seeks to prevent the proliferation of weapons of mass destruction by managing the trade in strategic goods. While this law specifically focuses on the local implementation of United Nations Security Council 1540, it likewise touches on important elements of the ATT.

Furthermore, A Memorandum of Agreement (MoA) on Trade Facilitation of the Exports of Strategic Goods was signed by the STMO together with the Bureau of Customs (BOC), and Philippine Investment Promotion Agencies (IPAs) to ensure security of the supply chain from attempts of proliferation of weapons of mass destruction, while guaranteeing ease of doing business and trade, especially for legitimate and compliant companies and exporters.

Proposed amendments to the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act (CFARA) were submitted to the legislative department of the Philippines in order to strengthen the law and to harmonize it with the provisions of the ATT.

Relevant Philippine government agencies have also been actively participating in various capacity-building activities, webinars and other related initiatives conducted by European Union organizations, the US Department of State, our civil society partner, Nonviolence International Southeast Asia (NISEA), and many others to strengthen our knowledge and capacities on international arms control.

Despite the challenges brought about by the COVID-19 pandemic, the Philippines has been working continuously to bring the country closer to ratifying the ATT. This resulted in the resumption of hearings on the

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ATT at the Philippine Senate. We remain hopeful that this series of hearings will conclude with the Philippines ratifying and depositing its instrument of ratification to the UN Secretary-General.

Mr. President,

Allow me to express and reiterate our clear and unequivocal commitment to the noble aim of the ATT. As a signatory State, we are grateful for the opportunity to actively participate in regional and international discussions on the subject, share our national position on important issues in the Conference of States Parties, and join the international community in the promotion of human rights and international law.

Thank you very much.