

Eighth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty  
Geneva, 22-26 August 2022

General Statement – POLAND

Mr. President,

We would like to sincerely congratulate you Mr. President and the Head of the Secretariat, Mr. Dumisani Dladla, on the successful organization of the Eighth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

Poland fully aligns itself with the statements delivered by the EU.

Mr. President,

Underestimating the significance of the Arms Trade Treaty would be a mistake. It stands out from other frameworks, as a unique, legally binding international instrument that regulates international arms transfers. Thus, the Treaty is also an expression of international community's aspirations to build international relations based on mutual trust, dialogue and cooperation.

The Treaty paves the way to achieve these goals, not only through its open concept of participation, but also through the widely accepted notion of transparency in arms transfers, which is also the main tool in the fight against arms trafficking. It is important to appreciate and include different perspectives of states, presented during each Conferences of States Parties and working groups of ATT, on developing a common approach to this issue. Therefore, we welcome the initiative of the Presidency to accelerate the process of reinforcing national capabilities in building post-shipment control systems, which like the first meeting of the Diversion Information Exchange Forum this year, contributes to the effective universalization of the Arms Trade Treaty.

We are very pleased to welcome the Philippines as a new State Party to the Treaty. At the same time we encourage all other states to consider a similar step by joining this global, legally binding instrument that promotes the highest standards in the international arms trade.

Undoubtedly, the progress in the universalization of ATT is most welcome, but it should not be forgotten, that today we are faced with a disturbing tendency to delay, refrain or submit incomplete mandatory national reports on arms transfers. Therefore, we encourage all States Parties to fulfill their reporting obligations which are one of the key obligations arising from the ATT. At the same time, we support

all constructive solutions, which could help to overcome challenges related to the compliance with financial obligations by States Parties.

Mr. President,

The difficulties we encounter in the current ATT activities should not obscure the fact that the Treaty is an expression of the efforts of the majority of the international community to strengthen international relations based on the principles of the United Nations Charter. This is all the more important at a time when Russia is carrying out a brutal military aggression against Ukraine, and which violates the world order based on international law and undermines the guiding principles that govern mutual relations between civilized nations.