

Excellencies, Ambassadors,  
Distinguished Delegates,  
Ladies and Gentlemen,  
Your Excellency, Mr President,

Let me begin by expressing Poland's deepest gratitude to you, Mr. Ambassador, for your excellent work as President of the Arms Trade Treaty for the period of 2016–2017. We would also like to extend our appreciation to the Government of Finland who was one of the initiators of the Treaty and has been actively engaged in its enforcement. We also thank our host, the Government of Switzerland, and the ATT Secretariat for their valuable input in organizing this meeting.

I wish to align Poland with the statement delivered by the European Union during this general debate and would like to add the following considerations in a national capacity.

Poland will continue to promote the norms of the Arms Trade Treaty. Fully – fledged implementation of the provisions of the Treaty and its universalization are key challenges ahead of us.

Only through implementation the Treaty will make a real difference, especially in countries, where conflicts are a major obstacle to development. Some States Parties have difficulties, be it of legislative or administrative nature, in meeting their obligations under the Treaty. We all should do our best to respond to their expressed needs, also to show those countries the benefits they could gain from joining the ATT community. Special responsibility lies with Signatories that are not yet States Parties who should accelerate their ratification processes. In this context, we are pleased to congratulate Benin, Cabo Verde, Honduras, Madagascar and Republic of Korea who became States – Parties of the Treaty very recently.

Promotion of the universalization of the Treaty should take into account the specificities of the various regions and states and be implemented with the support of non-governmental organizations, representatives of defence industry and regional organizations who can help better target available international assistance.

Transparency is just as important because it helps build trust among countries from all corners of the world, creates conditions for further progress within arms control and disarmament field and thus strengthen peace and security.

Transparency of reports prepared in accordance with the Treaty facilitates cooperation and assistance efforts by helping to identify areas where States Parties may be in need of support. Poland has a reliable arms control system which is an effective tool of diminishing the illicit trade in arms. We also publish annually a national report on the exports of arms and military equipment which data are provided to international organizations and EU partners. We encourage others to follow this path.

Last but not least, a word on international assistance. Poland stands ready to participate in outreach activities carried out under relevant EU programmes or financed by the ATT Secretariat. We are open to sharing knowledge and experience with those countries that require such assistance.

Let me finish, Mr President, by wishing you and all distinguished participants of this event constructive and forward – looking discussions. We do believe that the Third Conference of States Parties will bring tangible results and provide the solid ground for CSP 4.

Thank you.