



PHILIPPINES

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**Intervention Delivered by PLTCOL Julius E. Silagan,
Officer-in-Charge, Firearms Licensing Division,
Philippine National Police**

**during the
Fifth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
Geneva, Switzerland, 26-30 August 2019**

International Assistance

Mr. President, allow us once again to thank you, the Secretariat and the Chairs of various Working Groups for your hard work and the excellent arrangements for this CSP.

We take the floor today to convey that even as a Signatory State, we have worked hard to adhere to the spirit and purpose of the ATT, as evidenced by our active participation in capacity-building, exchange and cooperation projects. Our experience over the past five years is testament to the indispensability of international cooperation and assistance in ensuring effective treaty implementation.

Since the last CSP, various Philippine agencies, including our unit, the Firearms and Explosives Office of the Philippine National Police, have continued to progressively benefit from engagements with partners States, international, regional and non-governmental

organizations. These instances of cooperation have helped us not only to make the implementing units ready for eventual accession, but also to assist in addressing concerns and queries of various domestic stakeholders.

As a concrete example, our continued fruitful partnership with the European Union has allowed our Government to conduct at least two multi-stakeholder forums which gathered representatives of various government agencies, as well as private industry, under the EU's ATT Outreach Program. Presently, we are looking forward to a study visit to the Netherlands this coming September, made possible by the support of Expertise France and Germany's BAFA.

Also, as I speak Mr. President, an Advanced Licensing Workshop is being conducted by the U.S. Export Control and Border Security in Manila to strengthen the ability of licensing officials and technical experts to effectively assess the proliferation risks associated with proposed transfers of strategic commodities.

Regionally, our unit participated in the Southeast Asia Regional Outreach Seminar on Illicit Trade and Trafficking of Conventional Ammunition in Bangkok, Thailand from March 20 to 22, 2019 organized by the United Nations Regional Center for Peace and Disarmament for Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD) with the generous support of Germany. Moreover, the Philippine National Police is part of the newly formed Working Group on Arms Smuggling (WG AS) under the framework of the ASEAN Senior Officials Meeting on Transnational Crime.

Mr. President, the achievement of the ATT's promise in combating the proliferation of conventional arms and alleviating their destructive effects can only be realized through the full and effective implementation of all committed States. The uneven levels of States' capacities represent a crucial gap that must be accorded special attention. We therefore express our appreciation to donor States and organizations for the wide range of assistance opportunities at the bilateral, regional and multilateral levels, and hope that these are sustained, if not expanded.

We must also commend the Secretariat and the Selection Committee for their judicious and effective administration of the ATT's Voluntary Trust Fund, noting that approved projects are at a record-high since the Fund's inception. As both a donor and former beneficiary of the VTF, we are supportive of efforts to ensure that the Fund remains well-resourced and viable, in the hope that even more States will take advantage of the opportunity provided.

I thank you, Mr. President.