



# PHILIPPINES

## PHILIPPINE STATEMENT

**Delivered by Special Envoy Bruce S. Concepcion,  
Office of the Special Envoy on Transnational Crime,  
Office of the President of the Republic of the Philippines  
during the  
Fifth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty  
Geneva, Switzerland, 26-30 August 2019**

### **Treaty Universalization**

Mr. President, Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon.

The Philippines had always exerted strong support to Treaty Universalization in the Southeast Asia in its strong desire to promote the highest ideals of human rights and the reduction of human suffering. Along with the European Union Arms Trade Treaty Outreach Project, and our Civil Society partners such as the Nonviolence International Southeast Asia (NISEA), the Philippines had continuously engaged ASEAN Member States in various universalization and implementation efforts, such as capacity building, regional meetings and other fora on arms and ammunition trade policies and practices

We aim to continue our domestic and regional outreach in the months to come, especially that the ATT will be tackled for discussion in the Philippine Senate as a final act for the ratification. In this crucial period, the agencies concerned with the ratification will be focusing its efforts on drumming up the political momentum and the preparation for its subsequent implementation.

It is just worth noting, Mr. President, that in our sub-region, being the ASEAN, only 5 out of 10 have signed the ATT and none had ratified. Also, in the discussions in the ASEAN, the topic of illicit Arms Trade was noted to have just started, especially in the Senior Officials' Meeting on Transnational Crime held last July 2019 in Nay Pyi Taw, Myanmar. For this reason, it is hoped that ATT can come up with a bilateral outreach effort with the ASEAN, most especially the Senior Officials' Meeting. To large extent, this will strategically speed up the acceptance of the ATT in this sub-region.

It is hoped therefore, that ATT will consider using this outreach effort as a serious move towards the treaty's universalization and keeping the tenor of the ASEAN discussion parallel to that of the ATT.

Thank you, Mr. President.