



Permanent Mission of Israel to the UN
GENEVA

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Statement by

Mrs. Michal Maayan, Minister-Counsellor
Deputy Permanent Representative to the Conference on Disarmament

The Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)
Fifth Conference of State Parties

Geneva, Switzerland

27 August 2019

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Mr. President,

At the outset, please allow me to thank you, Ambassador KĀRKLINŠ, for your robust efforts in the preparation process of this Fifth Conference of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty. Our appreciation also goes to the hard work of the Secretariat, headed by Mr. DLADLA and to the members of the working groups. They all have shown much dedication and enthusiasm, contributing to the efforts of putting the ATT on the right course.

Mr. President,

Israel has long recognized the importance and merit of controlling the export of arms, as a means to curbing and preventing the irresponsible spread of arms around the world and of diminishing the threat posed by belligerent regimes as well as non-state actors. At the same time, as stipulated in the ATT, Israel recognizes that states have legitimate political, security, and economic interests in the international trade in conventional arms.

To this end, Israel maintained for many years prior to the negotiation of the ATT, a robust set of primary and secondary legislation aimed at regulating the sale and export of arms, related technologies and knowhow as well as services.

On an international level, Israel has been an active and constructive actor throughout the negotiation of the ATT and has voted in favor of the Treaty's adoption in the UN General Assembly. Israel signed the ATT at the end of 2014, and became a signatory state.



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Mr. President,

Israel is of a view that the Arms Trade Treaty is an appropriate and relevant forum to address the illicit trade in arms. In some parts of the Middle East, arms are deliberately transferred to terrorist organizations and terror sponsoring states. The consequences of such illicit trafficking of arms is, among others, the intentional and indiscriminate targeting of civilian population and civilian infrastructure. We believe that the prevention of diversion and proliferation of arms to unauthorized recipients, in particular to terrorists, is of paramount importance and must be accorded due attention within the scope of the ATT.

We believe that the Arms Trade Treaty is an important milestone in the international community's commitment and effort to fight the unauthorized arms trade and eradicate illicit trafficking. Setting international norms and standards, while taking into consideration national security concerns, are of vital importance. The efficient implementation of these norms and standards enhance the collective security of all states, especially in the Middle East. Israel reaffirms its intention to continue to effectively apply its national export controls, which uphold these standards. Israel also continues to submit its annual report to the UN register of conventional arms.

Mr. President,

Israel looks forward to this week and to the exchange of views on the outcome of the working groups. We believe that the implementation of the high standards and norms of export control, especially in the prone regions and states, is the most critical and pressing issue which needs to be addressed. Israel took part in the preparatory process leading to this Conference and will continue to actively cooperate regarding issues on the agenda. We wish for a successful outcome of this important conference.

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Mr. President,

In accordance with the letter submitted by Israel to the depositary on March 29th, 2018, regarding the Palestinian accession to the convention, membership in the convention, any presentation of credentials, as well as all official documents of the ATT and lists in those documents, do not imply the expression of any opinion regarding, and is without prejudice to, the legal status of any country or territory or of its authorities.

Thank you very much.

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