

**NATIONAL STATEMENT BY SINGAPORE**  
**5<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO**  
**THE ARMS TRADE TREATY**  
**GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 26-30 AUG 2019**

Mr President,

1. On behalf of the Singapore delegation, I wish to thank our host, the Government of Switzerland, for its warm hospitality, the Conference of States Parties President, Ambassador Janis Karklins of Latvia, and the ATT Secretariat for the outstanding efforts throughout the preparatory process for the 5<sup>th</sup> Conference of States Parties (CSP5) to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT).

Mr President,

2. Singapore consistently supports global efforts to regulate international trade in conventional arms. To reaffirm our commitment to efforts to curb the illicit arms trade, Singapore signed the ATT on 5 December 2014. Singapore welcomes the progress of the ATT since its entry into force in 2014.

3. Apart from participating in the annual Conference since 2015, Singapore has consistently contributed to international efforts to promote arms transparency. Singapore has submitted a return to the UN Register of Conventional Arms (ROCA) every year since 1993. This year, Singapore participated in the UN ROCA Group of Governmental Experts which discussed proposals for the UN Office of Disarmament Affairs to engage actively with the Secretariats of other international instruments, including the ATT, so as to increase UN ROCA participation and reduce reporting burdens for UN Member States.

4. Singapore remains committed to the object and purpose of the ATT. We are laying the ground for updating domestic legislation to allow for Singapore to fully implement the ATT. Singapore conducts due diligence on arms transiting through our ports. We have also been vigilant at our borders. For example, in March 2019, the Singapore Government seized a shipment of firearms and ammunition, which transited through our port and was reportedly bound for Djibouti, but would next tranship at Sudan. Investigations revealed that the end-user certificate was falsified. The shipment was therefore seized as our authorities had cause to believe that the true destination of the shipment could be Sudan, where an arms embargo is in effect under the provisions of UN Security Council Resolutions (UNSCR) 1556, 1591, and 1945. Singapore remains committed to fulfilling our obligations under the relevant UNSCRs, and we will continue to take action on suspect shipments where there is a sound basis to do so.

5. At the same time, we urge the Conference to work towards implementation standards that are achievable and consistent with the ATT text. Like many other port cities, Singapore is a busy transit and transshipment hub. We must strike a fine balance between fulfilling ATT obligations and safeguarding legitimate trade.

6. As the ATT enters its fifth year into force, Singapore looks forward to learning from States Parties' implementation experiences, and contributing to fruitful discussions over the coming week.

Mr President,

7. Singapore supports the Conference in its consensus-based approach towards achieving the goals of the ATT. We also support the Conference in its efforts to ensure that the ATT remains relevant and sustainable.

Thank you.

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