



## **Arms Trade Treaty 5<sup>th</sup> Conference of States Parties**

Geneva 26-30 August 2019

### **Australia – Statement on International Assistance**

Mr President

The Arms Trade Treaty has the potential to make a significant difference to the pursuit of peace, security, development and human rights.

The Arms Trade Treaty envisioned a global network of States Parties enforcing the highest possible common international standards for regulating the international trade in conventional arms. The effect of which would be the prevention and eradication of the illicit trade in conventional arms and prevention of their diversion.

In order to achieve this vision, all States Parties need to work cooperatively to promote the most effective and comprehensive implementation of the treaty possible.

Article 16 encourages each State Party to seek assistance as required to effect the successful implementation of the Treaty and it encourages all States Parties who are in a position to do so to provide such assistance.

Australia was instrumental in establishing the United Nations Trust Facility Supporting Cooperation on Arms Regulation – UNSCAR – and we are a member of its Strategic Planning Group. We currently contribute USD135,000 a year to UNSCAR.

We fund the Centre for Armed Violence Reduction to undertake promote the Arms Trade Treaty and assist States Parties to participate fully in the operation of the treaty and implementation, including meeting their reporting requirements.

In February 2019, Australia partnered with New Zealand to host a conference in Brisbane to promote and support the universalisation and implementation

of the Arms Trade Treaty to countries in the South Pacific and South East Asia. Representatives of 12 countries attended.

We encourage States Parties to support the Arms Trade Treaty Voluntary Trust Fund. Last year we contributed USD135,000 to the Voluntary Trust Fund and this year we contributed USD245,000.

Australia is also a regular contributor to the Arms Trade Treaty Sponsorship Program. We regard such support as integral to the operation of the treaty. A States Party's participation in our important work should not rely on its ability to fund its own travel.

We encourage States Parties to seek assistance through these mechanisms. In order for the treaty to be successful, we must cooperate and support each other. The full potential of this treaty can be reached only through full universalisation and effective implementation.

Thank you.