

Arms Trade Treaty
Fifth Conference of States Parties
Geneva, 16–20 August 2019
General Debate

Statement by Finland

Mr President,

I would like to begin by thanking you for your commitment and hard work in steering the preparations of this conference and the work of the ATT for the past year.

In addition to the statement by the European Union, allow me to highlight a few key issues from a national point of view.

Mr President,

Over the past five years, excellent progress has been made in moving the work of the ATT in a more substantive direction. Today, the working groups are focusing on practical issues, resulting in concrete recommendations. Recognition of and support for the Treaty continue to grow, as seen at the UN General Assembly and other fora – and at our meeting today.

So we are definitely on the right track, but still only at the start of our joint effort. For the Treaty to reach its full potential, continued efforts are needed in all three key areas of our work: ensuring effective implementation at the national level, strong outreach promoting universalisation, and enhanced transparency and reporting.

Let me say a few words on each of these three topics.

On **outreach**, excellent results have been achieved over the past year. The milestone of 100 ratifications is certainly cause for celebration. We warmly welcome all countries that have recently joined the Treaty. But our work is far from done. A number of the largest arms exporters and importers remain outside the Treaty, and dialogue with them needs to continue.

Participation also varies between regions. We need regional champions to advance the ATT and its universalisation. All States Parties are called to action. Commitment at a high political level is key to success both in universalisation and in domestic implementation. The civil society provides valuable support in both tasks.

In **implementation**, the decision to broaden the mandate of the working group to cover transit and transshipment is timely. Continued focus on diversion is also called for. We welcome the stakeholders' sessions, which provide an important opportunity for discussing concrete cases of diversion, and thank Japan for their continued engagement on this issue.





Reporting and transparency are essential since they function as the Treaty's sole verification mechanism. Reporting is, as the WGTR put it, a "cardinal obligation" for all States Parties, and needs to be prioritised as such. We welcome the ongoing work to develop practical support mechanisms, and fully endorse the proposals put forward by the WGTR.

Mr President,

As yesterday's discussion clearly showed, the choice of **gender and gender-based violence** as this year's thematic priority was indeed a pertinent one. We support the Presidency's approach and welcome the Draft Actions presented. For us it is clear that gender considerations need to be taken into account in the implementation of the Treaty as a whole, not only in relation to article 7. Nationally we have found it very useful to have gender and human rights experts fully involved in the risk assessment and licensing process.

Both gender and **sustainable development**, our thematic focus at CSP3, are important crosscutting issues that should remain a high priority in our work also in the future.

Finally, Mr President,

We fully support your efforts to tackle the increasingly difficult **financial situation** of the Treaty. It is clear that the only sustainable solution lies in all States Parties complying with their legally binding financial obligations.

Thank you, Mr President.