

Arms Trade Treaty  
Fifth Conference of States Parties  
Geneva, 26 – 30 August 2019  
Item 9: International assistance

**Statement by Finland**

Mr President,

In addition to the statement by the EU, let me make just a few comments from a national point of view.

Mr President,

The Voluntary Trust Fund is clearly one of the success stories of the ATT. And rightly so: For the Treaty to produce results, it needs to be implemented in practice, and for that to happen, international assistance is essential.

So, congratulations and thanks are in order: To Ambassador Beerwerth of Germany for expertly steering the work of the Selection Committee over the past year, and to the ATT Secretariat under Mr Dladla for their commitment and hard work in managing the Fund's rapidly growing project portfolio.

With over 4 million US dollars available for projects at the moment, the financing of the Fund is on a very sound basis. Finland, too, has contributed substantively to the Fund, and we aim to do so also in the future. Our funding so far totals some 970 000 dollars, with this year's contribution at 330 000 dollars. I'm very pleased to inform that we intend to contribute this same amount also in 2020.

We are pleased with the way the tasks allocated by CSP4 have been taken forward, and happy to endorse the recommendations presented in the report. The guidance documents on selection of project proposals and on project evaluation are important practical tools for the Selection Committee and the Secretariat, as well as for the State Parties applying for funding.

Going forward, measuring the impact of the activities of the Fund should remain one of our priorities. Ensuring that the activities funded result in concrete outcomes – in value for money spent – is critical for the long-term sustainability of the Fund.

The Voluntary Trust Fund is, of course, not the only source of funding for ATT-related activities. Seeking synergies and – at the very least – avoiding duplication is therefore essential. We encourage the VTF to continue to develop information exchange especially with UNSCAR and the EU Outreach Programme.

Thank you, Mr President.

