



BOTSWANA STATEMENT AT THE FIFTH CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES

TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

26-30 August 2019, Geneva, Switzerland

Mr. President

1. I wish to congratulate you on your hard work and leadership in preparing for this Fifth Conference of State Parties. Let me assure you of my delegation's unwavering support and cooperation.
2. As promised at the Fourth Conference of State Parties held in Tokyo, Japan in 2018, Botswana acceded to the Arms Trade Treaty on the 7th June 2019 in New York. My country joined the Arms Trade Treaty because of its main objective of establishing the highest possible common international standards for regulating international trade in conventional arms.
3. This goal aligns with our commitment to promoting global peace and security. For Botswana, the Treaty is important because controlling illicit trade in conventional arms will eliminate the unnecessary human suffering caused by **ever ongoing** conflicts.
4. Notably, the underlying importance of the Arms Trade Treaty that, we wish to underscore is our strong conviction that its robust and effective implementation and universalization is the solution to fostering international and regional peace and security.

5. The Arms Trade Treaty recognizes the link between gender based violence and the international arms trade in line with commitments arising from various human rights instruments and United Nations peace and security agenda as well as the Sustainable Development Goals. Therefore, effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty will also contribute positively to the attainment of our global developmental agenda. As new members to this Treaty we are keenly aware of the daunting work ahead to promote universalization of the Treaty in order to ensure its success. In this regard it is our hope that all state parties will remain fully committed to effective and full implementation of the Treaty.
6. Further the requirement for risks assessment as provided for under Article 7, meant for regulation of the transfers of arms, comprehensively addresses the potential risks associated with the illicit transfer of firearms intended to be used to facilitate human rights violations.

Mr. President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

7. Botswana intends to honour all her obligations to the Arms Trade Treaty and in this regard, our Arms and Ammunitions Act was revised to be in consonance with the treaty. This will enable us to deal effectively with illicit conventional weapons.
8. The Botswana Delegation looks forward to enhanced cooperation and technical assistance in implementing the Treaty from the Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat, fellow State Parties, observer states and other local and international partners.
9. We will also be reaching out to seek support in the implementation of the ATT through training, capacity building, information exchange and benchmarking initiatives. With your support, we remain confident that Botswana will achieve our collective objective of ridding the world of the scourge of unregulated illicit trade in arms that is currently fueling crime, terrorism and acts of aggression.

I thank you.