

German General Debate Statement at CSP 5 Geneva, 26 August 2019

Mr President,

1. First, allow me to sincerely thank you for all your efforts towards preparing this session. We deeply appreciate your leadership and initiatives for this 5th Conference of States Parties – in particular, your focus on gender-based violence, but also on effective implementation of the Treaty.
2. Germany fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU.
3. Only a few years have passed since the Treaty entered into force. However, with 104 States Parties so far, the Treaty is going strong. On this occasion, we congratulate Canada for its recent accession and for becoming the 104th Member State. As illicit and unregulated arms trade remains a major contributor to conflict, fuelling armed violence, terrorism and instability, the Treaty stands out as the first global instrument that establishes common standards for restraint and responsibility in this sphere.
4. Although the ATT already stands out as a success story, universalisation is our key priority. Universal adherence and global implementation of the Treaty's standards remains the goal, and it is essential that particularly the major arms exporters and importers commit to its rules, while transit and trans-shipment countries are equally important. Therefore, Germany will continue its outreach efforts – as part of the EU, but also by raising the issue in bilateral talks. We are pleased to see the EU Outreach programmes, implemented by Expertise France and the Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA), continue and grow. Regarding the institutional progression of the ATT, Germany would like to applaud the ATT secretariat for having successfully taken the sponsorship programme back under its auspices.
5. Germany will conclude its time as chair of the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund Selection Committee by the end of this conference. The VTF has become a key institution for assisting new members in their efforts to adopt the Treaty's standards, and for prospective members to ease their accession. This is thanks to the kind support of all parties to the Selection Committee, the various contributing States, the project implementers, the outstanding work of the ATT secretariat and, last but not least, the resourceful project

applications from States. We strongly encourage all States to contribute to the fund's work – and would like to emphasise that smaller contributions also send a strong message of support.

6. We are convinced that, four years after its entry into force, the Treaty has reached the next stage. Besides universalisation, we have to increasingly focus on effective implementation. The ATT subsidiary bodies have proven that they substantially contribute in this regard. However, the ATT will not continue to advance if States do not fulfil their reporting obligations. Transparency and reporting are central pillars of the Treaty. In the same vein, the Treaty – obviously – cannot do without sufficient financial resources. We therefore urge all States to fulfil both their reporting and financial obligations.
7. Last year, Germany, together with Switzerland, organised a fruitful exchange on post-shipment verification. This year, we would like to continue the discussion on this important tool as Germany is currently evaluating its pilot phase. Together with Switzerland, we invite all of you to join the discussion at a side-event on Wednesday, 28 August, at 1 pm in Room 3.
8. In closing: We very much look forward to open and productive exchanges during this year's conference of States Parties, which we hope will make the Treaty even stronger.

Thank you.