

German Statement on Sexual and Gender-Based Violence

Geneva, 26 August 2019

Mr President,

1. Since this is the first time Germany takes the floor during the Fifth Conference of States Parties to the ATT, I want to underline that we are looking forward to fruitful discussions and a successful conference. Allow me to express our gratitude to Switzerland for hosting this conference, and in particular for its generous material support for the ATT Secretariat.
2. Germany welcomes the Presidency's initiative to highlight the issue of sexual and gender-based violence. We thank the President for the substantial input, as well as for organising very useful discussions during the preparatory meetings and a workshop with civil society in Riga.
3. We would like to underline the importance of two of the issues discussed: a) the gendered impact of armed violence and conflict and b) the assessment of risks in accordance with ATT articles 6 and 7.
4. In regard to the **first point – the gendered impact of armed violence and conflict** – we would like to support the suggestion to collect disaggregated data on victims of armed violence. Further research is needed to increase our understanding of the gendered impact of armed violence in the context of the ATT, as well as the gender and arms control nexus. We believe under-reporting and a lack of ample statistical data are among the main challenges.
5. In 2018, France and Germany launched a joint initiative in the Western Balkans titled "A Roadmap for the control of SALW by 2024". The Roadmap was developed based on a gender analysis of SALW control in the region. Women and men contributed equally to its development, and it should be noted that a gender and age disaggregated analysis is part of its key performance indicators.
6. Looking at the **second point, risk assessment in accordance with Art. 6 and 7**, we highly support continued exchange on States' best practices in interpreting the terms used in Art. 7 (4) and how these are being implemented.

For us, assessing the risk of an export against ATT's Article 7(4) is very important, but this can be quite challenging at times. Acts of GBV usually occur in situations marked by serious human rights violations or during humanitarian emergencies. Thus far, Germany has had good experiences with applying ATT article 7(4) by means of invoking the EU Common Position's criterion 2 on human rights and international humanitarian law, which includes an assessment against GBV-specific violations. Overall, we are interested in discussing different approaches, and we welcome the various inputs provided by states parties, civil society and academia.

7. **Thirdly**, we agree with the President on the important **complementarity between the ATT and other relevant instruments, such as the SDGs and the UN Security Council's Women, Peace and Security resolutions**. During its Security Council membership, Germany has prioritised implementation and normative development of the Women, Peace and Security agenda and seeks to enhance mainstreaming of both women's participation in peace processes and protection of women and men from gender-based violence into the Council's relevant deliberations and resolutions. With UNSC resolution 2467 on Women, Peace and Security, adopted this April under the German presidency of the Council, we've put this principle into practice by reinforcing Art. 7(4) of the ATT and recalling the direct correlation between the misuse of small arms and light weapons and gender-based violence. The resolution also calls for the UN Sanctions Committees to apply targeted sanctions against those who directly perpetrate gender-based violence. As co-chair of the Security Council's Informal Expert Group on Women, Peace and Security, we will continue to address gender-based violence and its root causes in country-specific settings.
8. In concrete terms, men and women affected across all regions are at the core of Germany's efforts to tackle the illicit arms trade, while we are also integrating gender equality within our projects on SALW control.
9. As a founding member of the Network of Gender Equal Arms Control, we particularly aim to include more diverse gender perspectives, as well as a gender-sensitive design, in the implementation of SALW controls. Lessons learned on gender in SALW controls in the Western Balkans shall be cross-linked to arms control efforts on the African continent and to the African Union "Silence the Guns" initiative by 2020.

10. Lastly, Germany would like to thank all stakeholders involved in the discussion so far and invites States Parties as well as civil society to continue their engagement – be it at UN level or in the framework of the ATT.

11. Thank you, Mr President.

