



Statement of H.E. Ambassador Thórdur Aegir Óskarsson, Special Envoy for Arms Control, Disarmament and Non-Proliferation, Ministry for Foreign Affairs Iceland, at the 5th Conference of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, Geneva, 26 – 30 August 2019.

Mr. President, Distinguished colleagues,

Iceland salutes you Ambassador Karklins and your team for providing excellent Latvian leadership in furthering the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty during the past twelve months.

Iceland joins other state parties in emphasising the importance of the Arms Trade Treaty as a key international legal arrangement for regulating global arms trade in conventional arms.

The fact that the ATT is progressively being implemented is of particular importance in the current circumstances where existing rule based disarmament regime is facing unprecedented challenges and where constructive and productive measures to tackle the inertia in solving global and regional security threats are few and hard to find.

In this context it is very important to face this headwind in global security by redoubling efforts to implement the ATT and secure its universalisation in a speedy and effective manner.

Iceland sincerely welcomes the new state parties to the ATT and looks forward to even stronger universalisation during the incoming presidency while keeping in mind that universalisation effort is the responsibility of all state parties.

Mr. President

Gender based violence, whatever form it takes, is the most extreme form of discrimination and constitute a serious human rights violation. Making success of the Arms Trade Treaty in meeting for its part this immense challenge of preventing gender based atrocities would certainly be a great and shining achievement for global humanitarian efforts.

This humanitarian promise was what drove Iceland to be the first country to ratify the Arms Trade Treaty

Iceland welcomes your effort, Mr. President, in putting gender and in particular gender based violence at the forefront of this gathering and the incoming Presidency has its full support in furthering this important task. The Group Statement led by Argentina and Ireland, which Iceland was pleased to join, provides us with excellent impetus for further work.

Iceland wholeheartedly supports you proposed draft decision on gender and gender based violence.

I would be remiss not to mention the extensive and excellent contribution by the NGOs to the work of the Arms Trade Treaty. For that they deserve our unreserved gratitude. Hopefully the industry will repeat that achievement.

Finally let me join others in urging participating states to fulfill their commitments when it comes to financial contribution and reporting.