



IRELAND

Thematic discussion on Gender and Gender Based Violence

Statement by

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Permanent Mission of Ireland to the United Nations and Other
Organisations in Geneva

at the

Fifth Conference of States Parties to the

Arms Trade Treaty

Geneva, 26 August 2018

President,

Ireland aligns itself with the statement to be delivered by the European Union and would like to make the following remarks in a national capacity.

At the outset, I would like to thank you for your leadership and I can assure you of the full support of my delegation in your work.

I would also like to thank the distinguished panellists who have provided food-for-thought for us all to consider further in our work this week.

President,

Every day around the world, conventional weapons exacerbate power imbalances and facilitate acts of violence, including those rooted in gender discrimination. As the first international agreement to recognise the link between the arms trade and Gender Based Violence (GBV), the effective implementation of the ATT provides an important opportunity to reduce incidents of GBV. To this end, my delegation welcomes your decision to select the thematic focus of gender and GBV for the CSP5 work cycle. The papers that you have prepared have informed our discussions on the issues of gender equality, the gendered impacts of armed violence and GBV in the ATT context, and Ireland fully supports the Decisions as laid out in your draft paper. The draft Decisions form a strong basis for practical, tangible work designed to increase gender equality, and reduce gender-based violence.

President,

A focus on gender and GBV in the context of discussions on the implementation of the ATT is an important priority for Ireland. This thematic focus on gender provides a valuable

opportunity for States Parties to share experiences and learn from each other on effective implementation of Article 7.4 on GBV risk assessments. At the same time, this focus also offers space for State Parties to explore means by which the implementation of the Treaty can be strengthened, including through encouraging the equal participation of women and men in all aspects of the Treaty, and by enhancing States Parties' understanding of the gendered impacts of armed violence as relevant to the ATT.

President,

In recent years, Ireland has strived to inject further impetus into our work on gender.

At the Third Conference of States Parties to the ATT, Ireland presented a working paper on Article 7(4) and GBV Assessments and we are pleased to see that a number of the recommendations from this paper have been taken forward in your decision paper. In particular, we support continued discussions in the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation on the language and standards in Article 7(4), and toward the development of a training guide to assist States Parties in implementing the GBV risk assessment provision.

In 2018, we were pleased to support Control Arms in developing *A Practical Guide for Risk Assessment*, which outlined useful sources of information and indicators for assessing GBV risk criteria for States Parties to consider in their export control regimes. This year we were pleased to work with our co-chairs of the International Gender Champions Disarmament Impact Group to develop a factsheet that presented ideas for action in the ATT framework and at the national level.

Most recently, Ireland, together with the Women's International League for Peace and Freedom, held a workshop that explored how the implementation of Article 7(4) can be further strengthened. The workshop drew on the experience of experts working on GBV in disarmament and human rights frameworks.

We are hopeful that these various initiatives and learning outcomes can contribute to informing the implementation of your Draft Action decisions in ATT meetings to come.

President,

In June this year, we launched our Third National Action Plan on UNSCR 1325, which features new initiatives and strengthened commitments that prioritise gender analysis and perspectives in disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation discussions.

We firmly believe in the need for an integrated approach to conflict prevention, forged on the basis of rights, equality and inclusion. The implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty is one avenue through which we can achieve these goals and Ireland looks forward to continuing our efforts alongside States Parties and partners going forward.

Thank You.

ENDS.