



Permanent Mission of Italy
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Fifth Conference of the States Parties of the Arms Trade Treaty
Geneva, 26-30 August 2019

General Debate

Statement by Mr. Tancredi Francese
Deputy Permanent Representative of Italy to the Conference on Disarmament

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for all your efforts throughout this year in steering our intersessional work and preparations for this Conference.

Italy aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, as well as with the statement on gender and the ATT pronounced on behalf of a group of countries. I would like to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. President,

As a staunch supporter of the Arms Trade Treaty since the first stages of its negotiations, Italy remains firmly committed to the Treaty's goals of setting the highest possible common international standards to regulate the international trade in conventional arms and ammunition and preventing and eradicating their illicit traffic and diversion.

To achieve such goals, universalization and implementation are key priorities.

We welcome the latest ratifications by Botswana, Canada, Guinea-Bissau, Lebanon, Mozambique, Palau, and Suriname. We also wish to thank you, Mr. President, as well as Amb. Takamizawa of Japan, for your outreach efforts to broaden the ATT membership. More work is needed, however, particularly towards key arms importers, exporters, and transit States that still remain outside the Treaty.

In this regard, we continue to believe that all relevant stakeholders have a role to play, from the ATT Bureau to individual States Parties; from regional organizations to civil society; from parliamentary representatives to industry. All these different actors will allow targeting specific States not yet Party with specific messages, tailored to different institutional, legal and cultural contexts.

Mr. President,

The Working Groups on universalization, effective implementation and transparency and reporting provided a very useful framework to exchange information on Treaty implementation. We found the discussions within the WGETI particularly productive, as they offered the opportunity to exchange information on concrete national policies and practices, implementation challenges and possible solutions, and identified possible sources for implementation guidelines. We welcome the continuation of work on the issue of diversion according to the work plan presented by the Group's chairs, and the beginning of work on transit and trans-shipment controls.

We also support the proposal to continue addressing implementation of art. 7(4) relating to gender-based violence. Italy strongly supported the inclusion of this article in the Treaty, as a concrete way to address the potential risk that arms transfers may contribute to the commission or facilitation serious acts of GBV or serious acts of violence against women and children. In this regard, we believe that exchanges in the Group would be particularly useful to share national experiences in the concrete implementation of art. 7(4), most notably in relation to the elements taken into account during the risk assessment process and possible mitigating measures.

We regret to note that the number of States Parties that submitted their annual reports has been steadily decreasing since the Treaty's entry into force. Initial and annual reporting are core obligations of the ATT; they also pursue the goal of greater transparency in the conventional arms trade, and are central to achieve the Treaty's goals. We therefore continue to urge all those concerned to comply with such obligations regularly and on time.

Mr. President,

Like others, Italy sees with concern the consistent deficit accumulation experienced by the Treaty, as well as the liquidity issues that we have addressed in numerous occasions throughout this year. In this context, we support the proposals submitted by the Management Committee, aiming to improve the liquidity situation.

At the same time, we reiterate that compliance by all States with their financial obligations is the only long-term solution allowing the ATT institutional structures and mechanisms to function effectively, thus adequately support Treaty implementation. Therefore, we renew our call to all relevant States to pay mandatory contributions fully and on time.

Thank you, Mr. President.