

## **STATEMENT OF MONTENEGRO**

### **FIFTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY**

**Geneva, 26-30 May 2019**

#### **-General Debate-**

Mr. President,

I would like to begin by thanking you for your excellent leadership and commending the Secretariat for its hard work in conducting the CSP5 preparation process and its professional engagement in the strengthening of the Arms Trade Treaty. Montenegro aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.

Mr. President,

The ATT is the key international instrument which serves the global interest to establish the highest possible common international standards for regulating the international trade in conventional arms. Montenegro remains committed to promoting, improving and safeguarding the regime and values established by the ATT, recognizing its role in preserving the peace and security and preventing the human suffering. We reiterate the importance of having the inclusive character of the ATT meetings for all stakeholders.

We recognize the prevention of armed violence against civilians, particularly, against, women, children, and persons with disabilities, as a very important step in strengthening the respect of the International Humanitarian Law and the Human Rights Law.

We welcome the enhanced focus on better understanding the gendered impact of armed violence in the context of the ATT, and also towards ensuring more gender-balanced representation in the future activities within its framework.

Being convinced that the ATT has a key role for establishing the globally ruled based regime of trade of conventional weapons we reiterate our strong support for its full universalization. We encourage all non-member states to make a step forward and become new members, and also remind about the significance of the role of civil society and industry in universalization efforts.

To ensure effective implementation of the Treaty, besides its responsible implementation at the national level, it is of the utmost importance strengthening the international cooperation and assistance through sharing information, knowledge, and experience and providing other forms of assistance. The prevention of diversion has to be addressed with special attention, not just during the transfer of arms but also after its delivery to end-users. We recognize the Voluntary Trust Fund as an important tool to ensure effective implementation of the Treaty.

Regular and transparent reporting builds confidence and ensures the full and effective implementation of the Treaty. In that regard, Montenegro has submitted all annual reports and made them public, with a strong belief that that transparency is one of the crucial pillars of the ATT.

Financial liquidity of the ATT is of the key importance and we thank to the Management Committee for its efforts and proposed options for achieving it. The proposed options, including the establishment of the ATT Voluntary Reserve Fund, in any manner, cannot be a substitution for the regular and timely payment of contributions by all member states.

Mr. President,

Montenegro reiterates its full commitment to implement the Arms Trade Treaty responsibly, at the national and international level and advocate for its universalization.

In the end, allow me to reiterate my country's full readiness to contribute to the successful outcomes of this conference. We express our readiness for constructive engagement during the next Presidency.

I thank you.