



Kingdom of the Netherlands

Statement of the Netherlands

delivered by

**Sabine Visser, Deputy Coordinator Division Arms Export Controls,
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Kingdom of the Netherlands**

at

**Fifth Conference of States Parties to
the Arms Trade Treaty**

Thematic discussion on gender and gender-based violence

Geneva, 26 August 2019

Thank you Mr. President.

The Netherlands fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and the joint statement to be delivered shortly. In particular, the Netherlands, like the EU and many previous speakers, welcomes your presidency's strong focus on gender and gender-based violence.

The UN, in its Sustainable Development Goals has set us all the task to combat gender inequality and eliminate violence against women and girls. It is right that the ATT not only recognizes the link between conventional arms and gender-based violence but prescribes countries to act on this link by taking gender-aspects into account when deciding whether or not to allow arms transfers.

The 2019 status report of the Sustainable Development Goals shows that more progress can and must be achieved on this subject.

We welcome and endorse your proposals to improve gender equality in participation and representation. The discussions within the ATT will benefit from greater diversity. It is important to track progress towards this goal. With a predominately female delegation, we hope to have contributed to this progress this year.

We also strongly support your proposal for more systematic collection of gender-disaggregated data to enhance our understanding of the mechanics of gender-based violence. This is key to further progress.

We also thank control arms for the particular attention to gender-based violence in this year's ATT monitor, which was launched today and is available at ATTmonitor.org. It is a must-read. We hope this first guidance in the ATT monitor will be followed up in future editions so that we can monitor our progress in taking gender-issues into consideration.

We hope that this work will enable us to more firmly embed gender-aspects in our export control policies and to more thoroughly assess the risks of gender-based violence before licensing exports of conventional arms. This is still work in progress in our daily export licensing practice in the Netherlands and we realize that we can and must do better. We look forward to the continued exchange of best practices on this topic enabling us to learn from other countries. Your decision to put gender-based violence at the center of this year's Conference of State Parties will certainly help us to do so.

Thank you, Mr. President