

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs  
Republic of North Macedonia**

**Statement by**

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**Chargé d' affaires a.i.**

**Permanent Mission of the Republic of North Macedonia to the United Nations  
and other International Organizations in Geneva**

**General Debate**

**Fifth Conference of States Parties of the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP5)**

**Geneva, 26-30 August 2019**

Thank you Mr. President,

At the very beginning I would like to thank the Latvian Presidency for the substantial and thorough preparatory process that led to the 5th Conference of States Parties, as well as for your dedication to further the implementation and visibility of the Arms Trade Treaty.

I would also like to commend the work of the Management Committee, the working groups and the co-chairs for the inclusive, in-depth and transparent process of drafting well structured reports and documents, which constitute solid grounds for further implementation of the Treaty. We especially greet the drafting of the “Basic Guide to Establishing a National Control System” as an important instrument that will enable faster and universal implementation of the Treaty. In this regard, we welcome the formation of the new sub-working group that will contribute to effective implementation of all its aspects.

My country is happy to note significant progress in the discussions of the working groups about gender and gender based violence and we welcome the proposed practical steps for incorporating the gender perspective in the ATT implementation.

As the first global, legally binding instrument that regulates the international arms trade, the ATT represents an invaluable tool in promoting cooperation, transparency and responsible action by States Parties, thus preventing arms to threaten security, to undermine social and economic development, and violate human rights. Its implementation is directly contributing to the accomplishment of a number of SDGs, notably 16.4. on reducing illicit arms flows and 5.2 on eliminating gender based violence.

With over 100 ratifications, the ATT continues to be an important instrument in establishing the highest possible common international standards for regulating the global trade in conventional arms, including Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). The objectives of the Treaty serve the interests of all States, and efforts to achieve them must continue.

In order to maximize the contribution of the Treaty to international and regional peace, security and stability and to reducing human suffering all ATT States Parties must demonstrate their political will by changing practice and policy, through open discussions and information sharing, as well as unbiased application of all provisions of the Treaty. We have to be aware at all times that there is always room for improvement. We should continue to focus on action-oriented outcomes that can have a real impact in practice. This is why wider adherence to the Treaty is still necessary, especially by large producing and exporting countries.

Regarding the latest domestic developments, I would like to underline that early membership in the Wassenaar arrangement is still a priority for my country. Drafting of a new Law on Development, Production and Trade of Military Items is in its final stages, and we expect to start with the adoption procedure in the following months, no later than December 2019. Additional improvements in the regional cooperation on SALW and on the exchange of experiences and practices have been achieved through the “Roadmap for sustainable solution to the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking in SALW and their ammunition in the Western Balkans by 2024”. The Roadmap was incorporated in the Berlin process and adopted at the 2018 Western Balkans Summit in London. At the national level this Roadmap was incorporated in the revised Strategy and Action Plan on SALW adopted by the Government on February 5<sup>th</sup> 2019.

Finally, I would like to stress, once again, that the Republic of North Macedonia remains a strong supporter of responsible arms trade, non-proliferation and disarmament. We remain committed to the full and effective implementation of the ATT.

I thank you Mr. President.