

**Statement of Romania
at the Fifth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
(Geneva, Switzerland, August 2019)**

Mr. President,
Excellencies, Ambassadors,
Distinguish delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Please allow me to congratulate amb. Karklins of Latvia for his appointment as President of the Fifth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty and to express Romania's appreciation for his committed work during his tenure. We would also like to extend our gratitude to the ATT Secretariat, to the members of the Bureau and to the co-chairs and facilitators of the working groups for their continued support in the preparatory process leading up to this Conference.

While Romania fully shares the points raised in the European Union's statement, we would like to underline some aspects in our national capacity:

Romania welcomes the flag theme of the Presidency, gender and gender-based violence, and expresses its full support for the draft decision put forward on this topic. We genuinely believe that a decision of the CSP encouraging the representation and participation of women in future ATT meetings could improve the perspective on the role of women in disarmament, non-proliferation and export control. We commend the President for choosing a holistic approach to raise awareness on this very important matter by encouraging all working groups' chairs and facilitators to consider how gender aspects could be explored within their sessions on an ongoing basis. This provides a great opportunity to better understand the gendered impact of armed violence in the context of the ATT and to assess how gender perspectives could be incorporated in the Treaty implementation. The ATT community must continue to focus on the prevention of serious acts of gender-based violence, which can be achieved through effective implementation of the robust Treaty provisions on risk assessments. To this end, Romania is of the opinion that cooperation of all stakeholders in developing the necessary tools and guidance to implement Article 7.4 is crucial and we would like to take this opportunity to thank regional organizations, academia and civil society for the input they have constantly provided in this area and for their active role in raising awareness on GBV. In this vein, I would like to bring to your attention that Romania took part in the Central and Eastern European Regional Training on the GBV Criteria in the ATT organized in Riga by Control Arms with funding assistance from UNSCAR and support of the Latvian Ministry of Foreign Affairs. The event provided an excellent opportunity for the States' experts in the region to learn in detail about GBV in relation to arms transfers and to exchange views, experience and best practices. We would like to thank Control Arms for organizing this event and to announce CSP5 participants that on Wednesday there will be a side event presenting the outcomes of the regional training, during which Romania will share lessons learned and will present challenges and experience in the development of the GBV risk assessment criteria at national level. Everybody is welcome to attend!

Mr. President,

I would like to reiterate Romania's strong support for the full implementation and universalization of the ATT. Illegal and irresponsible flow of conventional arms is among the greatest challenges that the world is facing today and pose a serious threat to peace and stability. As the international arena is marked by numerous internal and regional conflicts and by the recrudescence of terrorist phenomenon, it becomes more stringent the need to reach the universalization and to strengthen the effective implementation of the ATT. While we welcome the States that have become parties to the Treaty since our last CSP and we recognize that the `100 States Parties` milestone is an important achievement for the ATT, which entered into force less than five years ago, we also note with regret that some of the major arms exporters and importers still remain outside. Only through universal adherence will the Treaty be able to fully meet its objective to reduce human suffering, prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and prevent their diversion, thus improving international and regional security and stability.

Romania will continue to promote the norms and values of the ATT both in States that are not Parties to the Treaty and internally, to the Romanian industry and other national stakeholders. In this regard, I would like to inform the audience that last year, the Romanian authorities part of the national export control system organized `PROTECTOR`, an outreach program to raise awareness on the risks arising from non-compliance with the national export control regime and the international sanctions. The program was divided into eight regional seminars, which were attended by more than 1000 participants from the private sector, research institutes and local branches of the institutions involved in export controls (e.g. local custom officers). The program was destined both to companies already registered with the national authority for export controls, as well as to other companies which may be involved, directly or indirectly, in the manufacturing, trading or marketing of strategic goods. During the regional seminars, The Ministry of Foreign Affairs delivered presentations which focused, *inter alia*, on the international obligations stemming from the ATT.

Mr. President,

Romania strongly believes that transparency is a fundamental element for a good functioning of the regime, leading to confidence building among States, and reporting is a cornerstone of the Treaty. We note with disappointment that a worrying number of States Parties have not submitted their initial and annual reports yet, therefore not living up to their legal commitments. Acknowledging that many of them may have difficulties in meeting this obligation, we express the availability to share our national experience and expertise with them. In addition, we express Romania's willingness to help States requiring assistance in implementing any other provision of the Treaty, both in our national capacity as well as part of the team involved in the European Union's ATT outreach program.

Let me conclude my intervention by assuring you of the Romanian's delegation full support over the next week. We wish all a productive and successful Conference!

Thank you!