

**NATIONAL STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF SERBIA
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AT THE MINISTRY OF
TRADE, TOURISM AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS OF THE REPUBLIC OF
SERBIA**

Arms Trade Treaty
Fifth Conference of State Parties
Geneva, 25-30 August 2019.
AGENDA ITEM No.5 – GENERAL DEBATE

Mr. President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished Delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

Let me first express the gratitude to Latvia and Switzerland for presiding and hosting the Arms Trade Treaty Fifth Conference of the State Parties. We highly appreciate great efforts of the President in the course of preparations for this Fifth Conference. We consider very important active engagement in the work of ATT of all other Coordinators, State Parties, international organizations, civil society and industries. I wish to use this opportunity for a special gratitude to the Secretariat for the committed and dedicated work on assistance in the effective implementation of the Treaty.

The Arms Trade Treaty is our common instrument of universalisation of the measures of the arms export control. It should be the common interest for all of us here to establish the highest possible international standards for international arms trade regulation, and prevent the illicit trade and diversion in order to contribute to international peace, safety and security, as well as to reduce human deaths and suffering.

As the ATT is going to be stronger, as the number of Member States increases, we will have more security and more confidence, better dialogue, and more opportunities of exchanging information about measures in this sensitive areas of arms

export control. We encourage the thematic work of Working Groups, especially on Effectively Treaty Implementation, its Universalisation, Transparency and Reporting. Also, we would like to stress that the Voluntary Trust Fund is of the great importance in the terms of improvement of the implementation of the Treaty, and we are very thankful that Serbia is one of the countries selected for the project financing.

Mr. President,

Republic of Serbia is highly devoted to the full and effective implementation of the ATT. In that sense, our legislative framework is fully aligned with the criteria and principals of the Treaty and EU standards, and our Military Items List are updated in a timely manner. In accordance with our foreign policy goals and our priorities, the Republic of Serbia closely follows international standards and practices in these areas and regularly reports on fulfillment of international obligations. We consider that transparency and reporting is of the great importance, and we are very dedicated to that work. We are one of the greatest producers of the arms in our region, and we have significant export of these goods. Having in mind mentioned circumstances, we hardly working on raising export controls on the highest possible level in order to contribute to international security. We are very proud that we are in the first five countries in the world for past few years according the Transparency Barometer of the Small Arms Survey regarding transparency in reporting. We encourage further exchanging of information and good practices with active participation of all stakeholders – from State Parties to civil society and industry in order to achieve the goals of the Treaty.

Mr. President,

Let me reassure you that we are making great efforts in Treaty implementation, and we see the Treaty as the key instrument for dealing with the risks of security and safety. At the end, I would like to stress that delegation of the Republic of Serbia will give the full contribution to the work of this Conference.

Thank you.