

## **ATT CSP 5: Thematic discussion on Gender and Gender-Based Violence, 26 August 2019**

### **Statement by Sweden**

Mr President,

Sweden would like to thank and commend you, Ambassador Karklins, for your dedication and leadership in applying a strong gender perspective, especially on gender-based violence, with regard to the Agenda of the CSP5. Sweden is also pleased to acknowledge the very active and valuable contributions of civil society organizations on this topic. Our thanks also go to the panelists for their insightful presentations.

These issues are very important to Sweden and we are pleased to have had an opportunity to contribute, in various ways, to the work related to gender-based violence.

As others, Sweden recognizes the importance of and the strong link with the UN Security Council resolution 1325 and the Women, Peace and Security Agenda.

Mr. President,

An important principle is that women should be seen as actors and decision makers and not only as victims.

An integral part of the UN Secretary General's disarmament agenda is to promote gender parity and the full and active participation of women in all decision-making processes related to disarmament and international security. It is certainly not only about equal numbers but about equal opportunities and about providing an equal playing field for participation, on all levels.

Sweden is a champion of actions 36 and 37 of the action plan of the UN Secretary General's disarmament agenda. This is in accordance with Sweden's feminist foreign policy, which is essential for the achievement of our overall foreign policy objectives. Simply put, promoting a gender perspective will help us reaching our foreign policy targets over time.

In this context, Sweden would like to highlight the UNIDIR report *Still behind the curve*, which has provided us with the necessary facts, and the UNIDIR *Gender and*

*Resource Pack for multilateral practitioners*, which provides us with some practical advice on how to act to change the situation for the better.

Continued and deepened discussion is needed between states, industry and civil society to identify challenges and opportunities. When it comes to gender perspective and gender parity, states can learn from civil society and the private sector.

Sweden would like to thank you for the Presidency's draft decision paper. If adopted, it can serve as a guarantor for such continued discussion within the ATT in the years to come.

Thank you, Mr President.