



## **Fifth Conference of the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, Geneva, 26-30 August 2019**

### **Statement of Sweden in the General Debate**

Mr President,

We would like join others in warmly thanking our Swiss hosts and the ATT Secretariat for the excellent arrangements and you, Mr President, for having led the preparations for this meeting in a very skilful and effective manner. Please be assured of the continued full support of my delegation.

In addition to the statement of the European Union, we would like to make the following brief remarks in a national capacity.

The Arms Trade Treaty, its universalisation and effective implementation remain as important as ever. The challenges to achieve the full potential of the Treaty will remain for the longer term, and we need to maintain the momentum in our work.

We join others in welcoming seven new States Parties since CSP4. We call on others to follow the lead of the now more than 100 members of the ATT community. It is important to stay engaged with those who have not yet joined, not least with major exporters and importers.

Effective implementation, of course, remains key to realising the Treaty's objectives of a more responsible international trade in arms and a significantly reduced scope for illegal transfers.

Sweden wishes to thank and congratulate the chair and co-chairs of the working groups as well as the members of the Management Committee, who have worked hard since CSP4. The working group structure has proven to serve us well. The discussions have been rich and constructive.

We are also pleased to note the continued positive situation with regard to the Voluntary Trust Fund, with thanks to its current chair and with confidence in equally excellent stewardship by its incoming chair.

In addition to its contribution to the VTF, Sweden is pleased to support the ATT sponsorship programme. Having experts from capitals in all regions attend our meetings is crucial for effective implementation.

In terms of the topics of the working groups, the proposal to look more closely into Article 9 on transit and trans-shipment is welcome and has our support.

Mr President,

Among the issue areas that have been discussed during the year, and here at the CSP, we would like to highlight, in particular, the focus theme of gender and gender-based violence. It has given us all excellent opportunities to underline the importance of these questions and to discuss what can be done in the context of the ATT. Under the ATT, gender-based violence rightly takes its place among factors that need to be taken very seriously when transfers of conventional arms are being assessed.

Sweden is pleased to acknowledge the very valuable contributions of civil society organizations on this theme, as well as on others. We are also pleased that contributions from industry representatives have added insights to the discussions in several areas.

Sweden further welcomes the important dialogue on the question of preventing *diversion* and looks forward to its continuation.

Also, it has become increasingly urgent to address the Treaty's financial situation, including problems related to liquidity. We commend your efforts, Mr President, also in this area, aimed at much-needed improvements in the inflow of the funds that are necessary for our work.

Lastly, Mr President, we would like to take this opportunity to cordially invite colleagues to a side event on Thursday, at which the important role played by parliamentarians in promoting the ATT will be discussed.

Thank you, Mr President.