

CSP5: General Debate: UK Statement

Mr Vice President,

The UK supports the statement made on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. I wish to add some comments in a national capacity.

Firstly, we commend the Latvian Presidency for its commitment to the ATT and its engagement with States Parties during the year. I also thank the Working Groups and Management Committee, for their progress in tackling some of the obstacles to effective ATT implementation and exploring solutions to the financial challenges.

The UK reiterates its **unwavering support to the ATT** and commitment to implementing Treaty obligations. We continue to take our arms export controls seriously. We operate one of the world's most robust, rigorous and transparent export licensing systems.

In the coming years, we must maintain our focus on the core object of the ATT: the effective regulation of the international trade in conventional arms. **The UK believes the priorities are consolidation, and implementation of Treaty commitments by all States Parties**, as well as sustained engagement with key stakeholders who contribute to achieving the objectives of the Treaty.

First, on implementation, we encourage States Parties to establish processes to comply fully with their obligations, including the mandatory reporting requirements set

out in the Treaty. Where appropriate, we should refine implementation processes, but avoid imposing unrealistic new licensing or reporting burdens on States.

Second, on engagement, we should continue our outreach to potential States Parties. Engaging **major exporting and importing States** needs to be the priority, seeking their cooperation on important aspects of the Treaty, and encouraging them to align with its provisions. We need to understand what prevents them from participating. In doing so, we should **make concerted efforts to communicate the scope and object of the Treaty – high common standards for regulating the international trade in conventional arms and preventing their illicit trade and diversion**. Raising the profile of the ATT and clarifying the real benefits of universal adherence will encourage ratification. We should use all means to communicate these messages, working through Governments, industry and civil society.

Mr Vice President,

A few comments on our work this week.

First, the UK welcomes the significant work done by the Latvian Presidency this year to drive and refine the thematic debate on gender. **As we made clear earlier this afternoon, the UK supports mainstreaming practical work on gender across the ATT.**

Second, on implementation, we welcome the renewed **focus on diversion**. A well-regulated, legal trade in conventional arms will contribute to reducing diversion. This

requires robust national export licensing regimes, developing international cooperation and including wider stakeholders. In this context, and reflecting the second overarching priority, engagement, we should draw on the **unique expertise and perspective of industry** to boost effective compliance and encourage implementable solutions. It is positive to see increasing engagement with industry at this CSP, including in a number of side events.

Third, none of this will be possible without financial stability. **Action is essential for the future viability of the Treaty.** That begins and ends with States Parties and Signatories: we must all meet our financial commitments. The UK welcomes and fully supports the implementation of Financial Rule 8.1(d). This concrete action is needed to address financial challenges. Once again, we call on States in arrears to meet their financial commitments and make outstanding payments as soon as possible.

Mr Vice President, we look forward to continuing constructive dialogue with all participants, as we consolidate work on this treaty.