

CSP5: Thematic Discussion on Gender: UK Statement

Mr President,

The UK supports the statement made on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. I would like to offer a few brief comments in a national capacity.

The UK is a global leader on the **Women, Peace and Security Agenda**, and committed to tackling gender-based violence, particularly violence against women and girls, the most prevalent form of GBV. We welcome the thematic focus on gender through this CSP, as well as the productive discussions that have helped to develop the President's non-paper.

We welcome **the active and meaningful participation of women** across all aspects of Treaty implementation, particularly in leadership roles. It is women's active participation in national and international arms control that will mean their expertise is evident at ATT meetings. We encourage all States Parties to explore opportunities to increase women's participation in varied roles. We also consider the VTF to be a useful platform to encourage further practical efforts on gender mainstreaming, for example, through the systematic inclusion of gender considerations in project proposals.

The ATT aims to establish the highest possible common standards to regulate the international trade in conventional arms, and to universalise those standards. The **UK is fully committed to robust implementation of the provisions of Article 7(4)**. It is

right that the Treaty establishes that, as part of pre-export risk assessment, States shall take into account the risk of gender-based violence, as well as serious violence against women and children. We encourage all States Parties to adopt a similar approach, and where feasible, to exchange best practice and voluntary guidance, to help overcome the challenges in implementation. We support the proposal set out in the President's non-paper to develop a voluntary training guide.

The UK supports **mainstreaming gender** across our work on arms control and peace and security. The thematic discussions this year have laid the foundations for discussion within existing treaty structures, with the aim of realistic and practical outputs. In an ATT context, we will continue to consider a wide range of relevant reporting and data, so far as this realistically informs our national risk assessment processes. It is through effective implementation of provisions of the ATT in their totality that we can work towards the purpose of the Treaty.

Thank you, Mr President.