



Ministry for Foreign Affairs
Department for Disarmament and Non-Proliferation

Sixth Conference of the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, Geneva, 17-21 August 2020

Statement of Sweden in the General Debate

Mr President,

Sweden wishes to warmly thank you, your team, and the ATT Secretariat for the skilful and efficient way in which the sixth Conference of the States Parties has been prepared in a period marked by extraordinary challenges. Please be assured of the continued full support of the Swedish 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 full and effective implementation remain as important as ever, if not more so.

We join others in welcoming those states who have ratified or acceded to the Treaty since the fifth CSP. We call on others to follow the lead of the now well over 100 States Parties. It remains important to continue our engagement with those who have not yet joined, not least with major exporters and importers.

At the same time, effective implementation remains key to realising the objectives of the Treaty; a more responsible international trade in conventional arms and a significantly reduced scope for illegal transfers.

Sweden wishes to thank and congratulate the chairs, co-chairs and facilitators of the working groups and sub-working groups, as well as the members of the Management Committee, and the ATT Secretariat, who have worked hard, in

challenging circumstances, and helped lay the ground for important progress. We are also pleased to note the continued positive situation with regard to the Voluntary Trust Fund and its excellent management.

In the working groups and sub-working groups, ambitious multi-year work programmes have been prepared. In this context, we consider it important to remain mindful of the principle of national implementation.

Sweden welcomes the theme of the Argentinian Presidency. Transparency and information exchange, with the aim of reducing and preventing diversion, is a key issue. We look forward to forthcoming discussions and cooperation in the new meeting format on diversion information exchange, which has the potential to become a valuable addition to our collective efforts.

In Sweden's view, the focus theme of gender and gender-based violence from last year's Conference of the States Parties remains relevant and in need of continued attention.

Timely submission of initial and annual reports and timely payment of assessed financial contributions, are necessary and urgent. We join others in calling on all States Parties to fulfil their obligations in both respects.

Mr President,

As a longstanding financial supporter of the of Control Arms coalition, Sweden wishes to acknowledge the coalition's very active participation in, and valuable contributions of to, the efforts to promote effective implementation, transparency and universalization. We would like to encourage States Parties in a position to do so, to consider extending similar support to the continued work of civil society in the ATT context.

We are also pleased that contributions from industry representatives have added insights to our discussions in several areas and we hope that this will be the case also in the future.

While the extraordinary circumstances of 2020 have certainly been a challenge, it is gratifying to note that they have not prevented our efforts to promote the Treaty and its implementation from going forward. It will, nevertheless, be important to return to the well-established working methods as soon as the situation with regard to the pandemic will permit.

Thank you, Mr President.