

**NATIONAL STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE**

**8<sup>th</sup> CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO  
THE ARMS TRADE TREATY  
GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 22 – 26 AUG 2022**

Mr President,

Distinguished Colleagues,

1. Singapore expresses our appreciation to His Excellency Thomas Göbel of Germany, President of the 8<sup>th</sup> Conference of States Parties (CSP8), and Mr Dumisani Dladla, Head of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Secretariat, for steering the preparatory process for CSP8.

2. Singapore recognises the importance of regulating international trade in conventional arms in order to prevent and eradicate illicit trade and diversion. Besides participating in the annual CSP since the inaugural Conference in 2015, we consistently contribute to other international efforts to combat the illicit trade in arms, such as the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat, and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons and its International Tracing Instrument. We are also committed to promoting arms transparency through regular submissions to the UN Register of Conventional Arms (UNROCA), as well as our recent participation in the 2022 Group of Governmental Experts on UNROCA, which saw robust discussions on enhancing the UNROCA's relevance. We look forward to other opportunities to engage and work with the international community to prevent the illicit trade in conventional arms.

3. As a global transit and transshipment hub, Singapore is cognisant of the role we play in the regulation of the international arms trade. We have in place a robust export controls regime to combat the illicit arms trade, underpinned by the Guns, Explosives and Weapons Control Act, Regulation of Imports and Exports Act, and the Strategic Goods (Control) Act. Singapore also complies with all UN Security Council arms embargoes to prevent the transfer of arms to unauthorised users. We will continue to review and update our export controls regime to enhance its relevance and compliance with our international obligations on arms transfers.

Mr President,

4. Singapore firmly holds the view that States must work towards the eradication of the illicit arms trade and this has to be a collective effort, given that the illicit arms trade is a transnational issue that undermines international and regional peace and security. At the same time, we also believe that the interests of States in the legitimate international trade in conventional arms cannot be disregarded. Every State has the sovereign right to acquire conventional arms to exercise its right to self-defence. We must therefore strike a balance between fulfilling our obligations under the ATT and not impeding the legitimate international trade in conventional arms.

5. As the ATT enters its eighth year, Singapore reaffirms our continued commitment to its objectives, and we are confident that CSP8, the first in-person Conference since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, will be a successful and productive one.

Thank you.