

Statement of Slovakia
to the General Debate
of the
Third Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
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delivered by
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Mr. President,

It gives me a great pleasure to speak on behalf of Slovakia today and let me congratulate you on your election as the President of the 3rd Meeting of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty. Allow me to express my delegation's appreciation of the work that you, the Bureau, and the ATT Secretariat, have dedicated to the preparation of this Conference.

Slovakia fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the distinguished representative of the European Union. In addition, I would like to make some remarks in my national capacity.

Slovakia has been a strong and consistent supporter of the Arms Trade Treaty process from its beginning so it was among the first who signed and ratified the Treaty.

As it was underlined several times, the obligation to implement the ATT falls not only on the exporting States, but on all importing, transit and transshipment States. Having this in mind, all States Parties should adapt their existing arms export control systems and make them fully compliant with the Treaty obligations.

Slovakia attaches the highest priority to the Treaty's implementation at the national level. This includes a wide spectrum of measures and activities in order to maintain the highest possible standards of the national control system of trade with conventional arms. Our national export and import control system is fully functioning and it is being regularly updated and harmonized with the European Union norms and standards. In support of the effective implementation and universalization of the Treaty, Slovakia runs its dedicated outreach program.

We are of the opinion that the implementation and the right support of the Treaty should continue to go hand in hand with all States Parties continuously. The effectiveness and meaningfulness of the ATT will always be directly affected by its members. Therefore, the Treaty obligations should remain all States Parties' priority.

One of the key obligations of the Treaty is information sharing and reporting. Under Article 13 each State Party should come up once a year with a detailed report. Slovakia is not different in this regard. Moreover, Slovakia has decided to increase its transparency and to make its national annual report for 2016 publicly available. Furthermore, we have voluntarily included some additional information to the report, such as the description of items in remarks.

Slovakia calls upon all states that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Treaty. The trade in arms concerns all corners of the world so the rules governing it should also be commonly binding and applied by all. The universalization of the Treaty is hence a key of our endeavours.

Mr. President,

To conclude, allow me to wish the Conference every success and to assure you that Slovakia remains fully committed to its obligations under the ATT. We stand ready to continue to help, assist and work closely with other States Parties, regional and international organizations, NGOs and other relevant partners in promoting and achieving full implementation and universalization of the ATT.

Thank you.