



**Statement delivered by South Africa on Agenda item 10  
International Assistance  
25 August 2022**

Mr President,

South Africa aligns itself with the statement delivered by Niger on behalf of the African Group.

South Africa would like to appreciate and commend the very good work done by the Chair of the VTF Selection Committee, Ambassador Dell Higgie, in ensuring that the Treaty's trust fund is implemented in a fair and just manner, more especially fulfilling its mission of assisting lesser-resourced States to put in place their part of the global regulatory framework. We are aware that many States Parties, including those from the developing world, face concrete challenges in implementing their treaty obligations. We have no doubt that buy-in to the treaty by developing countries particularly those with no sizeable arms manufacturing industry would, however, almost certainly have been impaired without the Treaty's provisions on international cooperation and assistance, as such the VTF plays a pivotal role in this assistance. South Africa reiterates the importance of the Voluntary Trust Fund and the Sponsorship Programme as being key to enhancing, without prejudice, developing country participation in treaty awareness that contributes to universalization and effective implementation of the ATT at the national level.

Mr President,

The chair of the VTF selection committee, in her pre-recorded address made reference to a view held by some members of the VTF Selection Committee that a country in arrears - or certainly in more than two years of arrears , of its ATT dues should also

not be eligible to receive VTF funds. South Africa opposes this view point and further wishes to highlight that the VTF mechanism should solely be used, for the benefit of all to advance the adoption of the ATT's common regulatory framework on the basis of Article 16. South Africa therefore supports the Chair's views to not deprive States parties of the opportunity to apply for VTF funding, thereby being precluded from gaining access to VTF funding, solely on the basis of being in arrears on their assessed contributions.

Thank you.