Mr. President, Mrs. Co-Chair,

The State of Palestine welcomes the recent accession of Malawi and Gambia to the ATT, and commends the ongoing efforts toward its universalization. We also recognize the continued need for significant progress in expanding its reach. We welcome the workplan for ATT universalization and commend the targeted approach being adopted for CSP11 through CSP13, particularly focusing on the Asia region due to its relatively low number of State Parties. However, we reemphasize the importance of prioritizing major arms exporters and importers to ensure adherence to the ATT's principles. The irresponsible arms trade, which facilitates the commission of genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity, highlights the urgent need to address the risks associated with arms transfers. We call for a more robust focus on these key actors to enhance the ATT’s implementation and prevent further violations.

Major arms exporters and Importers who are not yet parties to the treaty are the main violators of its core principles. On August 10 the Israeli occupation forces targeted the Tabeen school in Gaza, killing 100 people, mostly women and children, while they sought shelter. The explosion from U.S.-transferred weapons to Israel destroyed the building, leaving the remains so fragmented that they had to be categorized into weight categories for identification. Imagine for a moment your loved ones—family, friends—being separated into 70 kg bags, each bag representing a person, because the remains are so dispersed they are no longer recognizable as human. This tragedy underscores the urgent need for stringent oversight of arms transfers and a special focus on major arms exporters and importers.

Mr. President, Mrs. Co-Chair,

In conclusion, the State of Palestine reaffirms its commitment to supporting all initiatives aimed at advancing the ATT’s universalization and ensuring the treaty's principles are upheld universally. We emphasize that a double standard approach towards the ATT hinders its universalization. Effective implementation of the treaty is essential for its universalization, and ATT state parties must serve as role models to ensure its global adoption.

Thank you.