

## **Universalization Item**

Thank you Mr President.

At the outset, the State of Palestine expresses its appreciation to the Co-chairs of the Working Group on Treaty Universalization for their excellent work. We would also like to once again warmly welcome the Philippines and congratulate it for acceding to the treaty.

Mr President,

The State of Palestine supports all outreach activities to promote the universalization of the ATT, which have so far led to a progressive growth in the number of States to 111 States.

However, we reiterate our concern that a number of major arms exporters and importers have not yet acceded to the treaty and we call upon them to do so without delay, as the responsible transfer of arms represents a humanitarian imperative and is an essential step towards maintaining international peace and security.

Universalization of the treaty is critical to building a world where the commission of international crimes is no longer enabled and facilitated by the irresponsible trade of conventional arms. We believe that faithful implementation of the ATT would be the most compelling testimony to its effectiveness and would go a long way in attracting other States to join. We reiterate that States that are party to the ATT must act as role models by putting an end to irresponsible trade of conventional arms that undermines international peace and security, facilitates the commission of egregious crimes and threatens the international legal order.

In addition, we call on all States parties to advocate for the ratification of the ATT in their high-level bilateral contacts. For the ATT to be effective, it must be close to universal.

We recognize the specificities of regional arms flow, and in this regard, we recommend considering the MENA region as a priority when conducting universalization activities for the CSP9 processes. We had the honor to coordinate a meeting between the President of the Fifth Conference of States Parties and official representatives of many States in our region, and stand ready to continue contributing towards universalization efforts in our region.

Mr President,

The co-chair's draft report rightly underlines the importance of dialogue with States not yet party to the treaty, to promote understanding of the ATT's objectives, dispel any misconception and highlight the benefits of accession. We reaffirm that parliamentarians and the media have a crucial role to play in this regard. As elected representatives, and once equipped with the necessary knowledge, parliamentarians can advance universalization activities with their constituency and within their respective countries. The media is a critical tool to promote a favorable public opinion towards the ATT's humanitarian purpose

The State of Palestine supports considering these as priority areas for new universalization activities, as well as the dissemination of arms control and disarmament education to promote the treaty.

In closing, we stand ready to engage with other countries towards successful implementation and universalization of ATT.

I thank you.