Mr. President,

Distinguished delegates.

Today, as we mark a decade since the adoption of the ATT, we find ourselves at a moment that calls **not for a celebration**, but for deep reflection and urgent action. The ATT was a bonfire of **hope** towards ending the irresponsible trade of conventional arms that contributes to international crimes and **ending human sufferin**g for a peaceful and just world.

This morning the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Romania, the Assistant Secretary-General, the President of the ICRC, and the representative of NGOS, emphasized the risks of not adhering to the ATT. Indeed, many countries, which claim to be the role model of the ATT including the United States and several European countries, violate it by irresponsible trade of arms to the Israeli illegal occupying power, that facilitates its committion international crimes, including genocide. Those ATT role models are ignoring the facts coming out of occupied Palestine, coming out of the International Court of Justice provisional measures on 26 January that Israel is “plausibly” committing genocide in Gaza, coming out of the UN special Rapporteur report on anatomy of Genocide in Palestine and all international documented reports worldwide.

It is shocking that the Biden administration has approved additional 20-billion-dollar worth of arms to Israel. Its beyond believe that we are not even discussing the annual aid that Israel already receives from the united states, we **are talking about the further aid and Additional weapons to Israel to continue its genocide**, despite the US laws that prohibits sending weapons to human rights violators, in a serious dismay of the most basic principles of International Law, including the ATT. Ignoring the overall context of the 76 years of colonialism is in itself a grave illegality that threatens international peace and security in contravention to the UN Charter.

Since October 7th, more than 40,000 Palestinianhave been killed, 72% of whom are women and children, more than 92,000 injured and over 10,000 buried under the rubble. According to the UN reports, there are over 41 million tons of debris caused by Unites States-made weapons and those obtained by the occupying power from other countries. Additionally, 632 Palestinian killed and over 5,400 injured in the West-Bank.

Israeli occupying power is known to experiment its weapons on occupied Palestinians, to then market them as “battletested” in order to then sell them to countries across the globe for profit. This is not only morally repugnant, but also illegal and States have a legal obligation not import arms that have been tested in this way.

We would like to remind you here that reports from military experts indicated that American shells were used in the Tabeen school bombing, on the 10th of this month, which killed more than 112 Palestinian civilians sheltering in the school. All of this demands the ATT States parties to reconsider allowing the colonial occupying power to participate in the meetings of this treaty and not allowing it to use this platform to promote the lies to justifying an ongoing genocide.

We demand the respect of the International Court of Justice advisory opinion on July 19, 2024 in respect of the Legal Consequences arising from the Policies and Practices of Israeli occupation in occupied Palestine which **reaffirms the** peremptory norms prohibiting annexation, settlements, and apartheid and it requires that UN Member States to bring Israel’s occupation to an immediate end. No aid. No assistance. No complicity. ALL states are under obligation to restore the legality by putting an end to arms trade to illegal occupier.

We also recall The Human Rights Council’s resolution adopted on the 5th of April expressed *to cease arms trade to Israel,* It condemns its “use of AI to aid the commission of international crimes”. And *It further Requests* **the Independent International Commission of Inquiry** to report on the Arms Trade to Israel since 7 October 2023, and to present its **report to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-ninth session.”**

Arms manufacturers supplying Israel– must end transfers. Financial institutions investing in these arms companies are also called to account.

\*You cannot afford to be neutral in this moment of moral clarity. Each weapon transferred to the Israeli illegal occupying power is a bullet aimed at the heart of justice, a missile launched against the values we claim to uphold. It is within your power to cut off the supply of arms that prolongs this brutal illegal occupation . It is your responsibility to uphold the integrity of the Arms Trade Treaty, to stand with the victims, and to send a clear message that you will not tolerate the use of force to subjugate and destroy.

We urge you to act with the courage that this moment demands. End all arms transfers to the Israeli illegal occupying power . Stand for peace, for justice, and for the sanctity of human life. The world is watching, and history will remember our choices. Let us be on the side of those who defend, not destroy; who build, not break.

Thank you