**Intervention by the State of Palestine**
**Working Group on Treaty Universalization (WGTU), CSP11**
**27 February 2025, Geneva, Switzerland**

**Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,**

The State of Palestine expresses its appreciation for the efforts of the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on Treaty Universalization, and welcomes the recent accession of Colombia to the Arms Trade Treaty.

The ATT’s faithful implementation by its current members is essential to attracting new States. Yet, some States Parties continue to supply arms to actors engaged in systematic violations of international law, contradicting the treaty’s core principles. No-where is this reflected more than it is in the occupied State of Palestine, where the Israeli illegal occupation forces— equipped with foreign-supplied weapons, weapons imported from States Parties—continue to target civilians, destroy infrastructure, and violate every aspect of international law with impunity.

Hence, the State of Palestine remains concerned that major arms exporters and importers have yet to join the treaty, undermining its credibility and effectiveness. Universal adherence to the ATT is not just a technical goal—it is a moral imperative.Universalization must not be a mere logistical exercise but a commitment to ensuring that arms transfers do not fuel war crimes, crimes against humanity, or genocide for which the ATT was established to prevent in the first place.

The State of Palestine has long been experiencing the consequences of irresponsible arms transfers, emphasizing the human cost of inaction and impunity. Therefore, the State of Palestine has a longstanding commitment to advancing ATT universalization. It has actively promoted adherence to its principles in multilateral forums, urging non-State Parties to accede, and has been working with regional partners, civil society organizations, and international stakeholders to strengthen implementation, foster accountability, and prevent the illicit flow of weapons into war zones.

**Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,**

The State of Palestine reaffirms its commitment to supporting the universalization of the ATT and supports all efforts to expand ATT membership, particularly in the MENA region, where illicit arms flows exacerbate conflicts and humanitarian crises.

The State of Palestine reiterates that true universalization requires not only expanding membership but also ensuring that all signatories uphold their obligations without double standards. The ATT must not serve as a symbolic document—it must be an effective mechanism to prevent arms transfers that enable war crimes and human suffering.