

Statement by the Africa Group, during the General Debate at the Fifth Conference of States Parties (CSP5) of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), by H.E. Mr. Penda Naanda, Ambassador/Permanent Representative of the Republic of Namibia, and Coordinator of the Africa Group on Disarmament, on 26 August 2019

Mr President,
Your Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,

I have the honour to deliver this statement on behalf of the Africa Group. We join others to congratulate you Mr President for the work undertaken thus far in preparation for this Fifth Conference of States parties to the Arms Trade Treaty. We would also like to thank the Secretariat for hard work and support they continue to provide to the States Parties.

Mr President,

We welcome the new States Parties who have joined the ATT over the last year, including Guinea Bissau; Botswana and Mozambique from the African Region, now taking our membership over the 100 mark. This milestone of over 100 States Parties is an achievement for the universalization of the ATT and the strengthening of the norms to effectively regulate the international trade in conventional arms and to prevent their diversion. We call upon those who have not joined to consider joining.

Mr President,

Our common objective is to establish the highest possible common international standards for regulating the international trade in conventional arms and to prevent and eradicate their illicit trade and diversion. Through the full and effective implementation of the ATT we will achieve our common objective that will also contribute to promoting, socio-economic development as well as reduce human suffering thereby providing a firm basis for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, as well as the African Union's Agenda 2063, which includes the Resolution to 'Silence the Guns' by 2020. The illicit proliferation of arms destabilizes communities, negatively impacts security and compromises developments. The ATT complements the regional initiatives and instruments to combat the illicit of flow of arms to the region and beyond.

The Africa Group welcomes substantive discussions held during the preparatory process and envisages that through these discussions and sharing of experiences States Parties would be in a better position to strengthen their control system and effectively implement their obligations. We welcome the establishment and operationalization of the Voluntary Trust Fund as an internal mechanism to give effect to international assistance and to support states in their national effort to implement their obligations under the ATT. We also welcome the ATT Sponsorship Programme for making a contribution towards a representative and participatory discourse within the framework of the ATT.

Mr President,

The Africa Group considers the ATT as being an important part to realize international peace, security and stability, and reduce human suffering. The Africa Group call for the universalization of the ATT and its effective implementation. You can be assured of our continued support.

I thank you

Penda A. Naanda
Ambassador/Permanent Representative
Permanent Mission of the Republic of Namibia to the
United Nations Office at Geneva, WTO and other
International Organizations in Switzerland