



**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF
THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE**

**ARMS TRADE TREATY
8TH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES**

Geneva, 22-26 August 2022

CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

Thank you, Mr. President,

- Since this is the first time we take the floor during the 8th Conference of State Parties under your Presidency, we would like to begin by congratulating you.
- We appreciate Your Excellency's and the Secretariat's dedication and relentless efforts in ensuring that the Treaty continues to fulfill its mandate and objectives.

Mr. President,

- Conventional arms, especially excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW), pose a significant threat to peace and security as well as to the economic and social welfare of the international community at large.
- There is also a direct relationship between the illicit trade in SALW and terrorism.
- Promoting international and regional peace, security, and stability with responsible and transparent trade in arms is of utmost importance for our country.
- Türkiye is among those countries that have been most affected by uncontrolled transfers of arms and is a country best placed to appreciate what the Arms Trade Treaty offers in terms of transparency and preventing illicit transfers of arms.
- From this perspective, we acknowledge that the Arms Trade Treaty is a significant achievement.

- It defines the highest common international standards governing conventional arms exports, and fills an important gap concerning transparency and code of conduct concerning global conventional arms trade.
- We believe that the implementation of the Treaty will complement the aims of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically Goal 16.
- With this in mind, we have been either co-sponsoring or supporting many resolutions at the UN General Assembly in this field.

Mr. President,

- As you know, although Türkiye signed the ATT in 2013, it is not yet a State Party. The ratification process still continues.
- With this being said, Türkiye continues to observe the objectives and principles of the Treaty, and attaches importance to the sharing of best practices.
- As a dedicated supporter of disarmament, arms control, and non-proliferation, Türkiye is a responsible member of the major export control regimes.
- We meticulously implement our commitments stemming from international export control regimes, including those related to conventional arms.
- We are committed to the effective implementation and strengthening of the Program of Action to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade in SALW in all its aspects and the International Tracing Instrument.
- We have been annually submitting reports about the transfers, including both import and export, of major conventional arms and SALW to the UN Register of Conventional Arms (UNROCA), Wassenaar Agreement and the OSCE.
- We enjoy a robust national export control system, regulated by the relevant national laws with a functioning interagency dialogue.

Mr. President,

- Once again, we thank you for your efforts for the successful conduct of the Conference and We look forward to its outcomes that will further the object and purpose of the Treaty.

Thank you.