**UNITED KINGDOM OF GREAT BRITAIN AND NORTHERN IRELAND**

**ARMS TRADE TREATY –**

**TENTH CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES**

**19-23 AUGUST 2024**

General Debate

Tuesday 20 August

Mr President,

Firstly, let me begin by reiterating the UK delegation’s sincere condolences to the ATT Secretariat, and to the family and friends of Stefan Ott. He will be much missed in this space.

CSP10 marks a milestone for the Arms Trade Treaty as the 10th anniversary of its entry into force. It is therefore especially fitting that the ATT continues to grow this year. The UK would like to congratulate Malawi and The Gambia for their ratification as the 114th and 115th States Parties, and we look forward to the Treaty’s continued universalisation over the coming years.

To this end, Political Declaration proposed this year provides an opportune moment for States Parties to demonstrate their continued commitment to the Arms Trade Treaty and to look forward to the ATT’s second decade. We invite all States Parties who have not yet endorsed to do so and are grateful to those States who have done so already. We look forward to its discussion in Thursday’s session. For the same reasons, alongside Australia, we have supported the Stimson Center’s ATT at 10 report, to inform reflection and forward thinking at the start of the ATT’s second decade. We look forward to discussing the report and its recommendations at the reception this evening and in the coming months. We encourage other delegations to attend for an evening of reflection and celebration.

It is important that we continue to make progress on the work of previous Conferences of States Parties, including on industry and gender. Earlier this year the UK hosted a Wilton Park event on the role of industry in the ATT. We are pleased to announce that we will organise a follow-up virtual session around First Committee in October to discuss the outcomes from the event and possible next steps within the ATT. As we announced yesterday, the UK is also looking forward to hosting another Wilton Park event earlier next year on this year’s themes.

A focus on implementing the ATT’s provisions to limit gender based violence, as well as more broadly the need to promote the full, equal, meaningful, and effective participation of women in the ATT, remain a priority for the UK. With this in mind, we were grateful to Mexico for coordinating this year’s gender joint statement, and we are very happy to have endorsed it.

It has been the UK’s honour to serve as the Voluntary Trust Fund Selection Committee Chair over the past two years. The VTF makes a vital contribution to the effective implementation of the ATT. We would like to thank the 29 States who have since 2016 contributed 12.4 million USD to the VTF, as well as those States who have applied for funding and engaged with the VTF.  As our term ends, we encourage States Parties to express interest in becoming the next Chair to facilitate its continued success.

The UK is ambitious for the next decade of the Treaty, and keen to work with other States Parties, civil society and industry to further its Object and Purpose, with the expert support of the Secretariat. We would like to take a moment to thank Mr. Dumisani Dladla for his dedication in serving as Head of the ATT Secretariat over the past 10 years and wish him well in his future endeavours. We also express our support for Ms. Carina Solmirano as the next proposed Head of Secretariat and look forward to working with her to continue to strengthen the ATT, its implementation and universalisation.

In closing, as we celebrate the first decade of the Arms Trade Treaty, let us use this momentum to push forward thinking and innovation, revitalising the ATT and preparing it for its next decade, its new challenges and further successes.