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

**ARMS TRADE TREATY –**

**TENTH CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES**

**19-23 AUGUST 2024**

Treaty Universalisation

Tuesday 20 August

Firstly, the UK would like to thank Ambassador Rusu and Ambassador Yoon for facilitating the Working Group this year and for their report.

As we commemorate a decade of the ATT and look forward to its next ten years, the UK welcomes the efforts of the Working Group to help increase universalisation efforts. We would like to again reiterate our congratulations to The Gambia and Malawi for ratifying the ATT.

Ten years after a Treaty enters into force, we know that new ratifications are harder to secure, and we should celebrate them accordingly. However, we should note with hope that since the ATT entered into force in December 2014, over 50 States have joined the Treaty, and there has been just a single year – 2021 amidst the challenge of Covid – where we were unable to welcome a new State Party.

We hope too that efforts to reinvigorate our collective commitment to the ATT, to better understand the ATT’s successes, and address its challenges, will increase the prospects for future ratifications.

The UK welcomes the draft workplan for ATT universalisation, particularly the focus on Asia-Pacific States. The ATT is only effective as its States Parties allow, and we welcome the draft workplan’s encouragement of all ATT stakeholders to undertake or support universalisation efforts. The UK has taken a forward leaning approach to this, raising ATT ratification in various bilateral conversations with a number of signatory and non-signatory states over the past year.

Finally, we would encourage ATT stakeholders to use the event of the ATT’s 10th anniversary to call on states in their region to seek to ratify the ATT, as well as signposting them to the support available including the VTF. As we enter the next decade of the Arms Trade Treaty, we hope that we can further rally around our collective goal and look forward to congratulating further States on their ratifications in the years to come.