

Remarks of Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu, High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, delivered by Ms. C. Mélanie Régimbal, Chief of Service, ODA Geneva

Eighth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP8)

Monday, 22 August 2022, Geneva

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Distinguished delegates,

I am honoured to deliver remarks on behalf of the United Nations High Representative for Disarmament Affairs, Ms. Izumi Nakamitsu and partake in the opening session of the Eighth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty. I would like to take this opportunity to appreciate the able leadership of Ambassador Göbel of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament of the ATT process this year.

Today, I wish to offer a few reflections that I hope will ground your efforts and exchanges within the larger context of sustainable development and international peace and security.

The prevention of illicit flow of arms and diversion, a target under the Sustainable Development Goals, can only be effectively achieved through effective cooperation and coordination by the international community. Multilateral solutions are the only way forward, if we are to reverse the trend of staggering and unprecedented levels of military spending - which for the first time exceeded USD 2 trillion this year.

As we accelerate progress towards the 2030 agenda, and embrace inclusion, trust and innovation through initiatives such as the New Agenda for Peace, a cohesive approach by all of us will become ever important. I also note the critical need to enable the inclusion of diverse voices in decision-making fora related to disarmament, including women, youth, civil society and industry.

While at its heart it is a treaty that governs the trade of arms, the ATT also offers opportunities for the consideration of humanitarian and human rights perspectives. For example, the inclusion of an explicit criterion on the risk of transferred arms being used to commit or facilitate serious acts of gender-based violence or violence against women and children, represents the growing recognition of the linkage between gender and conventional arms control.

Excellencies,

The prevention of diversion is a key priority of the Treaty. Here, I place emphasis on the word – “prevention” – as we must move beyond reactive policies and strategies, to sustainable, preventative ones. Effective coordination and information exchange is critical in mitigating the illicit trade of conventional arms and preventing their diversion to the illicit market or for unauthorized end use and end users. To this end, I welcome that the Diversion Information Exchange Forum is meeting for the first time this week, and hope that this forum allows for the exchange of information necessary to identify patterns, as well as for the exchange good practices and areas of improvement.

I also warmly welcome this year’s thematic discussion on post shipment controls. It is a timely one that ensures continuity within the framework of the ATT by building on the theme of previous CSPs and the work of the sub-Working Group on Article 11 of the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation

(WGETI). I have no doubt that these discussions will be enriching and provide concrete ideas for the improvement of existing, and development of future post-shipment control measures. The Office for Disarmament Affairs and its Regional Centres remain steadfast in providing technical assistance to States to bolster Treaty implementation and strategic trade controls.

Excellencies,

In order to ensure this strong, global movement to ensure responsible arms trade, we must accelerate our efforts to universalize this Treaty. In this vein, I warmly welcome the Philippines for ratifying the Treaty, and becoming its 111th State Party. The Depositary of the Treaty, the Secretary-General of the United Nations, will continue to promote and encourage States not- party to the Treaty to join it.

Excellencies,

The fulfillment of the tenets of the Treaty, namely the maintenance of international peace, security and stability and the reduction of human suffering must be a concerted effort. The Office for Disarmament Affairs remains committed to supporting you in achieving these objectives.

Thank you.