

## **United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland**

Mr President, distinguished fellow ATT States Parties,

First, I would like to note how pleased we are to return to the regular in-person format. Thank you to the President, previous Presidents and the Secretariat for working so hard to steer the ATT through all the disruption caused by the COVID-19 pandemic.

The entering into force of the Arms Trade Treaty was a great achievement. While rightly respecting the right of states to acquire arms for self-defence, it seeks to regulate the arms trade into order to contribute to international peace and security, reduce human suffering, and promote cooperation. That is why we are all here today. In the years since the Arms Trade Treaty entered into force in 2014, these aims have never been so important. Article 6.3 requires parties to prevent exports that would be used in attacks against civilians and civilian objects; Article 7 requires parties to stop exports where there is an overriding risk that they would, inter alia, undermine peace and security. There is no more obvious example of such an overriding risk than Russia's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine. The UK welcomes all States Parties that have suspended arms exports to the Russian Federation. We urge any which have not done so to reconsider, in line with their treaty obligations.

Strengthening the Arms Trade Treaty is key to achieving international security, stability and sustainable development. Diversion and the illicit trade in conventional arms remain global problems, requiring a coordinated global response. This response must continue to focus on achieving a universal, effective and well-regulated legal trade in conventional arms.

International co-operation, information sharing and transparency is crucial to the detection and prevention of diversion. The UK therefore looks forward to the inaugural meeting of the Diversion Information Exchange Forum later this week. We will be presenting and hope that participants engage meaningfully in frank, transparent discussion.

The UK recognises that full and effective implementation of the Treaty is bolstered by the work enabled by the Voluntary Trust Fund. We welcome the efforts of the VTF Selection Committee and ATT Secretariat that has driven progress and look forward to witnessing the positive impact of projects provisionally approved for funding in this cycle. The UK has been honoured to serve as a member of the VTF Selection Committee for the last six years and will continue to support the work of the VTF in the future. We are therefore pleased to stand for re-selection to the Committee for the period up to CSP10.

The Treaty is strengthened by each new ratification. We must continue to promote the Treaty and its values, intensifying outreach to potential States Parties. Committing major arms exporters and importers to sign the Treaty will send a strong message about the global importance of the Treaty, and help secure its long-term success. I would like to congratulate the Philippines on its ratification, and welcome their delegation to their first CSP as a state party.

It is also crucial that we understand what prevents states from participating. We must ensure that we do not build unnecessary barriers to full realisation of Treaty objectives and purpose. Requirements, including fixed reporting templates or overly prescriptive definitions of Treaty concepts, must not become onerous, undermining universalisation, effective implementation and efforts to strengthen.

Finally, we remain deeply concerned by the continuing non-payment of contributions by certain states. We must be clear that the future success of the Treaty is dependent on financial stability. We welcome efforts by the Management Committee to create a clear process for States in arrears to enter into an arrangement with the Secretariat to discharge their financial obligations. However, it remains the case that the only way to improve the current financial situation and ensure the long-term stability of the ATT is for all states to pay their contributions in full and on time each year, and for those states in arrears to pay what they owe, in full, as soon as possible.

The UK reiterates its unwavering support to strengthening the ATT and commitment to implementing its Treaty obligations. We look forward to constructive discussions at this CSP and to supporting the next Presidency in their efforts to steer the important work of the Treaty in the build up to and during CSP9.