



REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA

**STATEMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF ZAMBIA DURING
THE GENERAL DEBATE OF THE EIGHTH
ARMS TRADE TREATY CONFERENCE
OF STATES PARTIES**

GENEVA, 22 AUGUST, 2022

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Mr President,

Since it is the first time Zambia is taking the floor, let me start by congratulating your Presidency in the manner the Conference of State Parties for this year has been organised.

Mr President,

The Arms Trade Treaty remains the sole legally binding international instrument regulating arms trade. This trade must be done in a more responsible manner to avoid diversion of arms to non state actors. The more States implement this Treaty, the more transparent and responsible global arms trade will become. We, therefore, urge countries that are not yet Party to the Treaty to join so that together we contribute to a responsible and transparent arms trade that will promote global peace.

Mr President,

Since Zambia became a State Party, we have put in place measures that will make us comply with the Treaty obligations. One such obligation is to put in place a national control system that will ensure effective Treaty implementation. Since Zambia has not yet domesticated the Treaty, an Inter-Ministerial Committee has been put in place to facilitate a smooth process of the domestication process.

I want to announce that arising from the VTF project "Building Capacity to draft a Conventional Arms Control Act" a draft Bill has been developed. The Minister of Defence has approved it and will be submitted to Cabinet for approval. We are hopeful that during the course of this year it will be submitted to Parliament. We want to thank the ATT VTF for facilitating the development of this draft Bill.

Mr President,

Last week from Tuesday to Thursday, we had an opportunity to have an in-person workshop facilitated by the European Union ATT Outreach Program. In attendance on the first day were Permanent Secretaries of Ministries of Defence, and Foreign Affairs and International Cooperation. Also Deputy Defence and Security Commanders were in attendance. This demonstrates Zambia's commitment to the ATT by sending such a high governmental delegation to that meeting. We equally want thank the European Union ATT Outreach Project and BAFA in particular for their untiring support towards our effort to implement the Treaty effectively.

Mr President,

Zambia is in the process of further collaboration with the European Union ATT Outreach Program to hold a Regional Workshop for the Southern African region aimed at not only strengthening mechanisms for Treaty implementation but also contribute towards Treaty universalisation and enhance International Cooperation among the SADC Region on Arms Trade Treaty. This Workshop is earmarked to take place in the first quarter of 2023. The ATT Secretariat will be duly informed about this workshop.

Finally, I want to reiterate Zambia's commitment to the ATT by not only domesticating the Treaty but also collaborating with other Countries in the region and beyond to explore best practices promoting effective Treaty implementation and universalisation.

I thank you, Mr President, and look forward to more collaboration with the ATT VTF and the European Union ATT Project regarding our secondary legislation.