

A Political Declaration for the next decade of the Arms Trade Treaty

1. *We States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty recognise the significance of 10 years since its entry into force.*

2. *We recognize that the negotiation and adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty was the culmination of years of discussion between governments, civil society, international and regional organisations, and industry sharing a similar vision, and demonstrated what States and other interested parties can achieve through dedication and cooperation.*

3. *We recall the Object of the Arms Trade Treaty to:*

- *Establish the highest possible common international standards for regulating or improving the regulation of the international trade in conventional arms; and*
- *Prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and prevent their diversion.*

for the purpose of:

- *Contributing to international and regional peace, security and stability;*
- *Reducing human suffering; and*
- *Promoting cooperation, transparency, and responsible action by States Parties in the international trade in conventional arms, thereby building confidence among States Parties.*

4. *We recognise the Arms Trade Treaty is a key instrument in within the international security architecture which helps to prevent transfers of conventional arms which could be used to commit or facilitate serious violations of international law, including international humanitarian law and international human rights law, and to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms. The Treaty is the first and remains the only international treaty creating legally binding international standards to regulate the international trade in conventional arms and offers a unique platform for cooperation and exchange. It is also the first legally binding multilateral instrument to require States to take into account the risks of conventional arms being used to commit or facilitate gender-based violence (GBV).*

5. *We reaffirm the sovereign right of any State to regulate and control conventional arms exclusively within its territory, pursuant to its own legal or constitutional system and recognise that implementation should be undertaken in a consistent, objective, and non-discriminatory manner.*

6. *We welcome the continued strengthening and universalisation of the Arms Trade Treaty, with [113] States Parties. We further welcome the continued efforts of States Parties towards the full and effective implementation of the Treaty as well as to promote transparency including through the submission of Annual Reports. The adoption of voluntary guides and the establishment of the Diversion Information Exchange Forum and of the Information Exchange Platform were important achievements in this regard. This has contributed to strengthening the capacities of States Parties to control the export, import, transit, trans-shipment and brokering of conventional arms, thereby reducing the risks of conventional arms, their parts, components, and munitions from being diverted.*

7. *We recognise the complementarity of the Arms Trade Treaty to other, relevant, instruments that contribute to our shared ambition to effectively regulate international transfers of conventional arms and we encourage coordination between these instruments and the Arms Trade Treaty, wherever appropriate.*

8. *We recognise the need to promote the full, equal, meaningful, and effective participation of women and stress the importance of their involvement in all decision making and implementation processes relating to the Arms Trade Treaty.*

9. *We acknowledge that there is still work to be done. the Arms Trade Treaty will be most effective when all States join the Treaty and implement its provisions fully and effectively. and **we emphasize the desirability of achieving universal adherence to the Treaty.** To this end, we commit to working tirelessly to fulfil the Object and Purpose of the Arms Trade Treaty, including by establishing and maintaining a national control system in order to implement the prohibitions and obligations of this Treaty relating to international law, including assessing the potential risk of serious violations of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. We further commit to the regular and timely submission of annual reports to the Secretariat, reporting publicly wherever possible.*

10. *We commit to take action, and as relevant, explore new ways to promote the universalisation and full implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty. We acknowledge the different capacities of States Parties and the value in helping States to build and maintain effective and sustainable national capacity including through the Treaty's Voluntary Trust Fund.*

11. *We acknowledge the value of recognising the Arms Trade Treaty's successes and better understanding the challenges in its first 10 years, and the benefit of setting a strategic direction for the Treaty's next 10 years, including potentially defining sets of goals and actions to prioritise collective activity to achieve our shared vision of an effective Arms Trade Treaty.*

12. *We commit to work collectively and collaboratively together in this endeavour, working with the Treaty Secretariat, civil society, international and regional organisations, and industry.*

13. *In doing so, we are confident that the Arms Trade Treaty will continue to contribute to international and regional peace, security and stability, reduce human suffering, and promote cooperation, transparency and responsible action by States Parties in the international trade in conventional arms.*