



BANGLADESH

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**Statement of Bangladesh, made by Mr. Rokebul Haque, Cousellor,
Permanent Mission of Bangladesh to the United Nations, New York at
First Conference of State Parties, Cancun, Mexico 24-27 August, 2015.**

Thank you, Mr. President for giving me the floor.

I would like to congratulate you on your election as the President of the **First State Parties Conference of Arms Trade Treaty**. Like the previous speakers, Bangladesh would also like to express its deep appreciation to the government of Mexico for arranging this conference in Cancun, one of the most beautiful city in the earth. Bangladesh would like to commend Mexico for its role as Provisional Secretariat it has been discharging, as laid down in the treaty. Bangladesh would also like to acknowledge with appreciation the facilitators and co-facilitators for their tireless job in making this conference a success.

I assure you Mr. President of the fullest cooperation of my delegation in discharging your responsibilities and hope that your guidance would lead us to a satisfactory outcome for this conference.

Mr. President

One of the major efforts to preserve international peace and security in the twenty-first century has been to control or limit uses of weapons and the ways in which weapons can be used. Two different means to achieve this goal have been disarmament and arms control. Bangladesh remains committed to complete and total disarmament which emanates from her constitutional obligation. Bangladesh is a State Party to almost all the major disarmament treaties including NPT, CTBT, CWC, CCW, BTWC, APMBT. Bangladesh as a first South Asian country signed and ratified the CTBT.

Mr. President

Every day, millions of people suffer from the direct and indirect consequences of the irresponsible arms trade: thousands are killed, others are injured, many are forced to flee from their homes, while many others have to live under constant threat of weapons. The poorly regulated global trade in conventional arms and ammunition fuels conflict, poverty and human rights abuses. Unregulated and irresponsible arms transfers intensify and prolong conflict, lead to regional instability and hinder social and economic development. The problems are compounded by the increasing globalization of the arms trade.

The landmark Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) adopted in 2013 by an overwhelming majority in the General Assembly- delivers on the call to establish international norms for conventional arms trade. Arms Trade Treaty is designated to stop such transfer and to promote responsibility, transparency and accountability in global arms trade. It will therefore, contribute to reducing the sufferings of millions of civilians who are affected by armed conflict and violence. Moreover, ATT is expected to create safer environment to carryout humanitarian assistance, peacekeeping, post conflict peace-building and to attain globally agreed development goals. The ATT has taken **only 18 months from opening for signature to entry-into-force**. This is one of the fastest approval processes for any multilateral arms treaty, and shows the weight of political support the world's nations have shown in the treaty.

UN Secretary General Mr. Ban Ki Moon thus said immediate after the ATT entered into force, I quote 'This is victory for the world's people. The ATT will be a powerful new tool in our efforts to prevent grave human rights abuses or violation of humanitarian law. And it will provide much needed momentum for other global disarmament and non proliferation efforts.' I unquote.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh delegation actively participated in the negotiations of the Arms Trade Treaty, a process that started in 2006. The Hon'ble Prime Minister of Bangladesh signed the treaty on 25 September 2013, during the treaty event in the 68th UNGA. Bangladesh is the first country to have signed the treaty in South Asia. The signing of the ATT has enhanced Bangladesh's profile as a strong advocate for disarmament and nonproliferation both regionally and globally.

Mr. President,

Bangladesh expects ATT will set new standards and enshrine in international law, strict controls on the arms trade, which has been poorly-regulated for generations. **The ATT will transform the global arms business.** It will help to shine a spot-light on the end-user. It will no longer be acceptable to look the other way when arms are transferred to regimes and are used to harm innocent people and violate their human rights.

At the end I would like to say,.. arms and bullets continue to destroy lives. But the world has an instrument to change these phenomenon. Representatives from different countries are assembled here today at this first state party conference of the arms trade treaty where they would take important decisions about how the treaty would be implemented and universalized. We hope that outcome of this historic first Conference of State Parties in Cancun would set standards of highest order so that ATT may be implemented robustly to save lives from arms and bullets to ensure a safer world.

I wish the conference all the success.

I thank you Mr. President.

