



Arms Trade Treaty
4th Conference of States Parties
Tokyo, 20-24 August 2018
Agenda Point 4: General Debate

General Remarks

Mr. President

First of all, we wish to thank you for your chairmanship of the ATT over the past year. Your tireless efforts have enabled us to make progress in taking the ATT forward. We also would like to thank you for your hospitality and for bringing the 4th Conference of States Parties to Japan. We welcome holding this session in the Asian region as a strong contribution to the Treaty's visibility and universalisation.

We also wish to express our gratitude to the Secretariat for the very effective preparation of this Conference.

The Arms Trade Treaty is a common endeavour, to which States Parties, Signatories, Observer States and Civil Society all need to contribute. Looking at today's attendance, the Programme of Work and the Side Event Schedule, I am confident that this Conference will take us forward in the effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty.

Since 2003, the volume of international transfers of major weapons has grown steadily. According to SIPRI's database, the volume of transfers between 2013 and 2017 was 10 per cent higher than in the period 2008–2012. In addition, contemporary conflicts have become more complex. In order to reduce the humanitarian impact, a robust implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty is a necessity.

Universal adherence to the Treaty is critical to the realisation of its object and purpose. Continuing our efforts to bring more states to join the ATT has to remain one of our core priorities. We are just three states short of 100 States Parties, and in that regard, we wish to congratulate Kazakhstan, Palestine, Chile, Cameroon and Brazil for becoming Parties to this Treaty since CSP3. We are also grateful to the Presidency and the Secretariat for all their efforts in this domain.

We also welcome the work performed in the different working groups over the past year. Our efforts have become more focused and results-oriented, with a number of practical outcomes submitted to this CSP. For the upcoming work cycle, Switzerland considers it important to take forward the work conducted in the working groups over the past year. While a number of steps have been taken to improve the methods of

work of the working groups, this matter should remain under consideration. We should remain flexible regarding the allocation of time for each group and take into account their individual workload. Additionally, the possibility of taking issues forward as part of an informal process before or between working group meetings could be considered to improve our efficiency.

Furthering our collective implementation efforts will only be possible if States Parties fulfil their financial obligations. Switzerland is concerned about current trends in this area and calls upon states to comply with the Financial Rules as adopted by the first Conference of States parties by consensus. We believe it is important to fully address this issue and to rapidly take the necessary steps to guarantee the Treaty's sustainable future.

Mr. President,

We have come a long way since the entry into force of the ATT in December 2014. The Treaty is operational and States Parties are working on its effective implementation. Only by continuing this work, we can contribute to achieving the ATT's objectives. Let me assure you that Switzerland will continue its engagement in support of this endeavour.

Thank you, Mr. President.