

Arms Trade Treaty
Fourth Conference of States Parties
Tokyo, 20 – 24 August 2018
Item 8: International assistance

Statement by Finland

Mr President,

In addition to the statement by the EU, let me make just a few comments from a national point of view.

Mr President,

The Voluntary Trust Fund is clearly one of the success stories of the ATT. And rightly so: For the Treaty to produce results, it needs to be implemented in practice, and for that to happen, international assistance is often essential.

So, congratulations and thanks are in order: To Ambassador Biontino of Germany for expertly steering the operationalisation of the Fund, and to the ATT Secretariat under Mr Dladla for their commitment and hard work in managing the Fund's rapidly growing project portfolio. With the workload still increasing, we're very pleased that the staffing shortages discussed at CSP3 are now being addressed.

With over 4 million US dollars available for projects at the moment, the financing of the Fund is now on a very sound basis – thanks to a large extent to the very generous contribution by Japan.

Finland, too, has contributed substantively to the Fund, and we aim to do so also in the future. Our funding so far totals some 640 000 USD, with this year's contribution at 370 000 USD. I'm very pleased to inform that we intend to contribute this same amount also in 2019 pending political decision later this year.

Thanks are also due to Germany and the ATT Secretariat for their excellent side event on the VTF on Tuesday. We agree fully with the future priorities outlined by the Secretariat on that occasion: ensuring sustainability of the Fund, improving its governance, and measuring the impact of the activities of the Fund. These are indeed key tasks for the coming period.

We are also pleased with the way the tasks allocated by CSP3 have been taken forward, and happy to endorse the recommendations presented in the report. Having expressed our interest to serve on the Steering Committee, we look forward to assisting in putting these into practice over the next two years.





The Voluntary Trust Fund does of course not have a monopoly on ATT-related funding. Seeking synergies and – at the very least – avoiding duplication is therefore essential. We encourage the VTF to continue to develop information exchange especially with UNSCAR and the EU Outreach Programme. Existing tools such as the SIPRI online database for mapping ATT-related funding should also be fully utilised – by the VTF and donors alike.

Thank you, Mr President.