

Arms Trade Treaty 4th Conference of States Parties

Australian Statement: Treaty Implementation

Mr President

Let me start by thanking Ambassador Dallafior of Switzerland for her able leadership of the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation, and the Facilitators of the sub-working groups on Article 5 (National Control Systems); Articles 6 & 7 (Prohibitions and Export Assessments); and Article 11 (Diversion). These Articles, and the obligations within, are at the heart of the ATT and their effective implementation will determine the overall impact of the ATT.

Australia was pleased to be Facilitator of the sub-working group on Diversion. Preventing diversion is one of the core pillars of the ATT, alongside the establishment of the highest possible common international standards for regulating the international trade in conventional arms. Both are necessarily interlinked and self-reinforcing. As part of Australia's defence export control regulation system, the risk of diversion is considered as part of the assessment process, and we invest significant effort in establishing the bona fides of all parties to the arms transaction before approving an export. But diversion is something that can occur at any stage of the transfer process, so preventing this requires collaboration and communication among States.

Thanks to the constructive contributions of States and civil society, we have compiled a draft list of "Measures to prevent and address diversion" and a draft list of "Reference documents on diversion measures". These documents are intended to be useful sources of information for States Parties to draw on and apply to their specific national circumstances. These documents are also intended to be 'living documents', to underpin further discussions and be updated in line with best practice. We hope States Parties will be prepared to endorse these documents at this Conference. We note the issue of information exchange on diversion requires further discussion, and that the co-chairs of the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting have recommended a useful three-tiered approach to this.

We also welcome the constructive discussions and practical suggestions made in the other sub-working groups on national control systems and export assessments. We support the proposed reference documents and believe these will be useful documents to guide further work.

Thank you Mr President.