



BRAZIL

**Fourth Conference of the State Parties (CSP4)
Arms Trade Treaty**

Statement by H. E. Andre Correa do Lago on the General Debate
Head of Delegation
Tokyo, 20 August 2018

(check against delivery)

Mr. Chairman,

The Delegation of Brazil warmly congratulates you, Ambassador Nobushige Takamizawa, on your election as President of the Fourth Conference of State Parties (CSP4) to the Arms Trade Treaty and pledges its full cooperation to you with a view to a successful outcome of our work.

Brazil commends the Government of Japan for taking the initiative of convening in Tokyo this important meeting and for its resolve in

advancing the sole legally binding treaty related to arms transfers and one with enormous potential to make policies in that field convergent with international humanitarian law and human rights law.

Before going any further, allow me also to recognize the tireless efforts of Ambassador Klaus Korhonen to promote and strengthen the ATT. As we acknowledge the many achievements during his term as President of the Third Conference of State Parties, we underline, with satisfaction, his visit to Brasília in June 2017. On that occasion, the consultations held by Ambassador Korhonen with government officials, members of parliament and representatives of the regional branch of the ICRC and the Brazilian NGOs “Conectas” and “Sou da Paz” were key to broaden national awareness of the ATT’s importance.

Mr. Chairman,

It pleases me to announce to this audience that last week, on August 14th, my Government deposited at the UN headquarters, in New York, the instrument of ratification of the ATT. According to the provisions on entry into force, on November 12th, Brazil will ascend to the category of state party.

With the completion of the legal formalities to become a party of the Treaty, Brazil reiterates its unswerving commitment to its main objectives, namely the establishment of the highest possible common standards for international trade in conventional arms; and the reduction, ideally aiming at eradication, of the illicit arms trade as well as the prevention of their diversion.

Mr. Chairman,

The international community finds itself at a critical juncture marked by heightened international tensions and conflicts. According to available data, global military expenditure has more than doubled in inflation-adjusted US dollars since the end of the Cold War. By the same token, international arms trade has considerably spiked since the early 2000s. This predicament sits ill with the international community's hard efforts to achieve the 17 goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Against this context, former Secretary-General Ban-Ki moon's warning that "the world is overarmed and peace is underfunded" gains even more disturbing currency.

This surge on arms expenditure is compounded by the existence of lax export controls. Due to, among other factors, the gross accessibility of

light and small weapons, armed violence remains worryingly high in international conflict zones as well as in many urban areas, including in my own country. This situation calls for joint efforts at both national and international levels. We need more focus on “disarmament that saves lives”, as stressed by SG António Guterres in his “Agenda for Disarmament - Securing Our Common Future”.

Mr. Chairman,

The ATT is a concerted international response to the uncontrolled and widespread availability of conventional arms. As a result of an effective partnership between Governments, expert communities and the civil society, it seeks to proscribe the international transfers of weapons intended to perpetrate violations of IHL and HRL in situations of conflict and armed violence in general.

Since the early nineties, Brazil has put into force legislation for arms export controls. The current version – the National Policy for Exports of Military Goods (PNEMEM) will be soon superseded by a new one – the National Policy for Exports and Imports of Defense Goods (PNEI-PRODE). To that end, there are consultations afoot among all concerned

institutions in the Federal Government to update the previous legislation, taking also into account Brazil's obligations to the ATT.

Mr. Chairman,

The ATT is predicated upon a balance between the implicit recognition of the legitimacy of arms trade and the moral imperatives to avoid human suffering caused by illegal or irresponsible arms transfers.

As we now embark upon the fourth conference of state parties, we should be vigilant not to damage that balance. It is against this backdrop that measures to enhance transparency, accountability and confidence-building should be taken.

In our view, the effectiveness of the treaty will hinge to a great extent on broadening its membership, particularly among the main actors in the international arms trade. Therefore greater efforts will be needed to strengthen outreach activities.

To close this statement, Brazil vows to contribute for the ATT to be a powerful agent of humanizing international security through the setting

of principled, multilaterally agreed proscriptions in the realm of arms trade, thereby improving regional and national security and stability.

Thank you