

**Statement by the Fiji Permanent Secretary of
Defence Mr Osea Cawaru in the 4th ATT Conference of
State Parties in Tokyo Japan from 20-24 August
2018.**

Madam Chair

This is the first time Fiji is taking the floor. Let me begin by joining other distinguished delegates in congratulating Ambassador Takamizawa in his presidency for the 4th CSP in such a beautiful country. I would like to express our gratitude to the Government of Japan for inviting us especially the diligent preparation of this conference. The sterling leadership in this week's deliberation would no doubt advance this important agenda to another level of engagement in establishing a robust platform for conventional arms trade. You have our full support and cooperation in making this conference a successful one by achieving tangible outcomes.

Madam Chair

Fiji, likewise with my colleagues in the Pacific have vast maritime boundaries and these proves to be susceptible to security challenges like arms smuggling, drugs and including transnational organised crime. With other immediate priorities in developing countries in the Pacific like climate change etcetera, we believe that ATT is equally important as it defines the adverse effects of illicit arms trade globally and the subsequent human sufferings. We hugely appreciates international commitment towards universalisation of the Treaty. We welcome assistance available to Small Islands Pacific States for developing respective robust platforms in procuring funds from the UNSCAR and Voluntary Trust Fund in putting in place systems and processes such as pertinent software and robust laws consistent and in alignment to the intricacies of the ATT. We acknowledge the tremendous support rendered by the Australian Government, directly and

indirectly through the Center for Armed Violence Reduction and the Pacific Small Arms Action Group.

Madam Chair

Fiji believes that the purpose of the ATT is to reduce human suffering, by establishing the highest international standards and regulations which promote accountability and transparency in the international trade of conventional arms. This can only happen if State parties implement the Treaty with a view to enhancing peace, justice, and human rights. Fiji stresses that each and every arms transfer must be weighed against the risks highlighted in the ATT, such as potential human rights and international humanitarian law violations.

Madam Chair

As Fiji moves towards acceding the ATT in the near future,

we are certain that there is much work to be done at the yearly Conference of State Parties to ensure that transparency through comprehensive, public reporting is achieved. Not with standing transparency measures, Fiji firmly believes in the core objective of the ATT to first and foremost, protect human rights, prevent armed violence and armed conflict, and enhance peace and security globally. Thus, Fiji condemns in its strongest terms any arms transfers that violate and undermine the Treaty.

Madam Chair

Fiji looks forward to valuable discussions in this week conference and we are eager to learn from those State Parties in terms of best practices and information sharing at least to mention a successful outcome at the end of this conference.

I thank you Madam Chair.