

THE FIRST CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

MINISTRY OF FOREIGN
AFFAIRS OF DENMARK



Denmark's Statement at the General Debate

Cancún, México, 24 August 2015

Thank you, Chairman, and warm thanks and congratulations to our Mexican hosts and all involved in the preparations of this First Conference of State Parties for their diligent work to ensure that the Arms Trade Treaty will evolve into a model for effective, pragmatic, and ever closer international cooperation.

Denmark has been a firm and active supporter of the ATT process all along the way, and Denmark aligns itself fully with the statement [to be] made by the European Union. The adoption of the Treaty in the General Assembly in 2013 was historic – and a much-needed success for the multilateral disarmament machinery. The swift entry into force of the treaty at the end of last year highlights the continued international commitment.

And gathering here today at this First Conference of State Parties we can channel this commitment into action, into real implementation of the provisions of the treaty. We can increase responsibility and transparency in the international trade in conventional arms and boost our common efforts to combat unregulated and illicit transfer of particularly small arms and light weapons. They have a devastating impact on peace, security, and development in many regions. The ATT will make a real difference for millions of people around the world provided that we agree on robust results at this conference.

Denmark wishes to thank and acknowledge the civil society organizations that have worked tirelessly to promote the Arms Trade Treaty. Your dedicated work has contributed to every positive step along the path and I am pleased to see so many representatives here today.

Much work and preparations have been done through the four preparatory meetings to enable us to finalize and make crucial decisions on the way ahead during these four days in Cancún. Let me emphasize 4 points of great importance to Denmark:

- We must agree on Rules of Procedure that are effective, inclusive, and transparent; thus Denmark opposes a decision-delaying deferment clause that may undermine the effective functioning of the CSP and we support the inclusion and standing invitation of civil society.

- We must commit to Financial Rules and establish a sustainable mechanism that will ensure the work of the ATT Secretariat;
- The reporting templates must be finalized and we thank Sweden for all the work done so far. State Parties must agree on how to balance the urgent need for full, transparent reporting with the necessity of making reporting tasks as smooth and convenient as possible; Denmark recognizes the differences of opinions about public reporting during the negotiating phase of the Treaty, reflected in the treaty text. However, it is important that we work towards the highest possible degree of transparency in reporting.
- And State Parties must now agree on the location and the procedure for appointing the head of the Secretariat.

This to-do list will need our full attention in the coming days, but we must not forget that we have further tasks, and we must continue to work on how to increase the number of State Parties and how to convince major arms sellers to sign, ratify, and implement the treaty.

Denmark looks forward to help solving these challenges.

Thank you, Chairman