

**Statement by the Hellenic Republic at the ATT  
Geneva, 11-15 September 2017**

Mr. President

*As it is the first time we take the floor, under your Presidency, allow me to congratulate you on the assumption of your duties and to assure you of our full support in your endeavours as President of the 3<sup>rd</sup> C.S.P. I am confident that given your rich experience you will guide this conference to a productive outcome.*

*The Hellenic Republic fully aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union.*

Mr. President, Dear Colleagues,

*The Hellenic Republic's foreign policy is guided by principles, by adhering to and upholding International Law, as well as by lending its support to United Nations (UN) initiatives. In this vein, we strongly believe that conventions and treaties under the UN auspices guarantee the success and sustainability of our efforts.*

*The Hellenic Republic signed the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) on June 3, 2013 and ratified it on February 29, 2016. While the Hellenic Republic applies stringent guidelines based on the eight criteria of the E.U. Code of Conduct, we also undertook, from the very outset, all necessary legislative measures to have the provisions and the principles of the ATT incorporate in our relevant legislation. The issuance by the Greek authorities of an export or transfer license of military goods is regulated in detail by the abovementioned legislation which provides for the close cooperation of the competent Ministries.*

Mr. President, Dear Colleagues,

*The legally binding nature of the Arms Trade Treaty, a global achievement, could be seen as a way to curtail illicit trade of conventional weapons through charting the course of the legal one. Since its adoption in 2013, the Treaty has been signed by 130 States, 92 of which have already ratified it. However, the fact that the major producers and importers of conventional weapons are not yet part of the ATT family remains a challenge.*

*We so strongly believe that the key is the universalization and effective implementation of the Treaty – intrinsically linked – so as to establish universal common norms for the trade and transfer of conventional weapons and ensure that these weapons will not end up in the hands of proliferators or non – state actors, who in turn could use them to foment instability in volatile regions, violate Human Rights, and infringe International Law and International Humanitarian Law.*

Mr. President, Dear Colleagues,

*The decisions, which adopted during the second C.S.P. on the Voluntary Trust Fund, the reporting templates and the establishment of the three Working Groups (W.G), are of utmost importance. In this regard, Greece supports the continuation of the Working Groups' work in any format and congratulates them on the progress thus far.*

*Mr President, Dear Colleagues,*

*Reiterating the Hellenic Republic's strong commitment to the ATT and the principles it enshrines, we hold the conviction that the Third Meeting of States – Parties will uphold and extend the goals of the Treaty which are, inter alia, to avert the illicit trade of conventional weapons, promote the transparency and co-operation among States on arms sales and more importantly to contribute towards international and regional peace, security and stability, thus fostering social and economic development.*

*Thank you.*