



Arms Trade Treaty

1st Conference of State Parties, Cancún, Mexico,

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Statement by Ms. Hadas Meitzad

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(check against delivery)

Mr. Chairperson

At the outset please allow me to thank the Government of Mexico for hosting us in this wonderful setting, and for its contribution to the ATT preparatory process and its role as the Provisional Secretariat. Special thanks go out to you for your relentless efforts and your hard work.

Mr. Chairperson,

Centered at the heart of the Middle East, Israel is unfortunately witness and is exposed, on an unrelenting basis, to the consequences of illicit and irresponsible trade and transfer of arms. Arms, in unparalleled quantities and qualities, are sold, diverted, exported, transferred and looted in our region with little regard to acceptable standards or moral imperatives. Arms are deliberately transferred and proliferated or end up through inadequate controls in the hands of terror organizations, terror sponsoring countries and oppressing regimes, who make use of these weapons to



maintain their aggressive control and abuse the civilian population. This is a threat of the highest magnitude to regional and global stability.

Israel, for its part, has long recognized the importance and merit of controlling the export of arms as a mean to curbing and preventing the irresponsible spread of arms and of diminishing the threat posed by hostile and belligerent regimes as well as non-state actors. Israel maintained for many years a robust set of legal norms and regulations aimed at regulating the sale and export of arms, their munitions, parts and components, and related technologies, including production and manufacturing knowhow as well as the relevant services. In 2007, several years prior to the negotiations on the ATT, Israel embarked on a reform process aimed at updating and addressing more fully the challenges associated with the maintenance of its export control regime. Israel regards its export control regulations as a key instrument for preventing conventional weapons and dual-use items and technologies from falling into the hands of unauthorized end users as well as a vital contribution in the effort to curb the proliferation of WMD and their means of delivery.

Mr. Chairperson,

Israel has been an active and constructive actor throughout the negotiation of the ATT and has voted in favor of the Treaty's adoption in the UN General Assembly - Israel was pleased to be able to sign the ATT at the end of December 2014, and become a signatory state to this important instrument.



Mr. Chairperson,

Israel believes that many issues remain to be addressed and ironed out in the context of the Treaty and its implementation. Israel supports an inclusive process, which will allow varying views to be brought forward, so that states can be made aware of the full scope of issues and opinions on the table. We assure you our full cooperation and wish for a successful outcome of this important and historic conference

I thank you.