



Oral Statement on Sideline of Arms Trade Treaty Preparatory Meeting

Thank you, Mr. President

During its participation in Arms Trade Treaty Informal Preparatory Meeting, Maat would like to express gratitude to Conference Presidency for its efforts in ensuring Treaty effective implementation. It also calls upon countries to take more decisive steps to enforce Treaty, including refraining from exporting weapons to countries that violate international human rights and humanitarian law principles.

Mr. President,

Irresponsible export of weapons to Ethiopian government has resulted in human rights violations committed by Ethiopian authorities during armed conflicts in country. Ethiopian forces have carried out indiscriminate military attacks on civilians, causing numerous deaths and injuries, using various conventional weapons, including drones. For instance, in January 2022, Ethiopian forces conducted air strikes in the Dedebeit region of the Tigray region using drones obtained from certain countries. These strikes resulted in the deaths of over 50 people and injuries to 100 others. Such unlawful and deadly attacks demonstrate Ethiopia's continuous disregard for international humanitarian law principles, amounting to war crimes and crimes against humanity.

Multiple human rights reports indicate that weapons imported by Ethiopia from abroad, such as Turkish Bayraktar TB2 plane, Iranian Migrant 6 plane, and weapons from American, Chinese, and Russian sources, have been used in violations of International Humanitarian Law.

Despite the documentation and reporting of security forces' violations against civilians, including extrajudicial killings, many countries, including state parties to Arms Trade Treaty such as Germany, Russia, China, United States, France, Turkey, Iran, the Israeli occupation forces, Ukraine, Poland, and Britain, continue to supply weapons and military support to Ethiopia.

Mr. President,

Mere symbolic expressions of condemnation are insufficient to end the suffering of ethnic minorities in Ethiopia. Maat urges countries that have provided or continue to provide weapons and military assistance to Ethiopia to uphold their international legal obligations, including Articles 6 and 7 of Arms Trade Treaty. Maat also calls for urgent and strict action to prevent Ethiopia from further committing international crimes and serious violations of international law.

Thank you, Mr. President