**Statement 4: Presidency Topic on Universality of Arms Trade Treaty**

**"Civil Society Efforts to Promote Universality of Arms Trade Treaty"**

Civil society organizations around the world play a crucial role in promoting the universality of Arms Trade Treaty through a variety of activities aimed at raising public awareness, building capacity, and enhancing political commitment to joining and effectively implementing ATT.

These efforts include organizing awareness and educational campaigns that highlight the importance of ATT in reducing armed violence, protecting human rights, and promoting international peace and security. Organizations employ various tools to reach diverse audiences, including social media, traditional media, as well as organizing workshops and training sessions targeting government and parliamentary representatives, journalists, and students, to deepen their understanding of ATT provisions and its implementation mechanisms.

In this context, Maat for Peace, Development, and Human Rights organized a training course for students at October 6 University in Egypt, providing them with the necessary knowledge about ATT and its significance, thereby enhancing their ability to contribute effectively to advocacy efforts.

Civil society organizations also prepare and disseminate multimedia informational materials—such as brochures, brief reports, articles, and videos—in multiple languages to facilitate access to information and increase community awareness about ATT. Some organizations prioritize direct communication with government officials and parliamentarians to encourage them to study ATT provisions, consider accession, and incorporate it into relevant national legislation.

These organizations also contribute to producing analytical reports that document the humanitarian and security impacts of irresponsible arms trade and assess the progress made towards the universality of ATT, offering practical recommendations for states to enhance their commitments. Additionally, they work on building alliances and partnerships with national, regional, and international organizations and networks to unify efforts and increase the effectiveness of advocacy campaigns.

On another front, these organizations play a monitoring role by tracking states' compliance with ATT provisions, including annual reporting and adherence to export standards, as well as monitoring arms transfers that may violate ATT terms or exacerbate conflicts and violate human rights.

Some organizations pay special attention to building the capacities of activists and workers in other civil society organizations through training programs aimed at developing their skills in awareness-raising, advocacy, monitoring, and documentation related to arms trade.

However, these efforts face significant challenges, foremost among them is the lack of qualified and specialized personnel in arms trade issues, international law, and international relations, which negatively impacts the quality of research outputs and awareness activities. Additionally, the limited funding allocated to this area poses a major barrier to implementing sustainable initiatives, alongside difficulties in accessing reliable information on arms trade at both national and international levels.

Therefore, we emphasize the urgent need for international support, including from national and international donors, for civil society organizations working in this field, by providing sustainable and long-term funding and offering specialized training programs that enhance the skills and capacities of personnel in areas such as legal research, political analysis, advocacy, media, and strategic communication.