

**Ministry of Foreign Affairs
Republic of Macedonia
Statement by Mrs. Svetlana Geleva
Deputy Director for Multilateral Affairs**

General Debate

Third Conference of States Parties of the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP3)

Geneva, 11- 15 September 2017

Mr. President,

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I would like to congratulate you Mr. President for your commitment to the ATT and your tireless efforts over the last year, as well as to all those who have worked hard on the preparation of the 3rd Conference of States Parties. I would also like to compliment the Management Committee as well as Working Groups and co-chairs for their valuable work and well structured reports that give us solid orientation for the deliberations on all the crucial issues this week and beyond. We look forward on agreeing on substantial conclusions and encouraging outcomes.

The Republic of Macedonia has aligned with the EU statement made this morning. Considering the importance of the conference for the future of the Treaty, let me present a number of views in our national capacity.

The Arms Trade Treaty represents a milestone in the regulation of global arms trade, designed to prevent arms to threaten security, destabilize countries and

entire regions, undermine social and economic development. Thus its implementation is instrumental to the accomplishment of a number of SDGs, not only 16.4.

We live in a complex security environment in which one of our primary responsibilities is to protect individuals from atrocities inflicted by illegal and uncontrolled spread and accumulation of conventional arms, including SALW. This requires establishing, accepting and fully implementing the solid rules of arms trade. With 92 ratifications, the ATT has already proven itself as a precious instrument with clear advantages in the spectrum of overall international arms control and disarmament efforts. However, wider adherence is necessary for the Treaty to be truly effective, especially by large producing and exporting countries. True, we have achieved progress, but there is no room for complacency. Much needs to be done to translate treaty obligations into action on the ground and save lives.

Univerzalisation and implementation must be the focus of our future action in respect of the ATT. The success will depend on whether the "critical political will" on its universalisation will be reached and how the states parties will develop and implement national export control regimes. Outreach, cooperation, sharing of the already existing expertise are key to complementing the individual states efforts. In this regard, we welcome the important work being done by the Voluntary Trust Fund.

Furthermore, we need to provide coherence and convergence of multilateral, regional and individual state efforts and policies. All these three tiers are indispensable. Let me in this context express our appreciation for the

sustainable and continued efforts by the civil society in promoting the goals of the Treaty and working with great commitment on its universal adherence.

Transparency is crucial for the success of the Treaty. In this regard we commend the States that have submitted initial and annual reports. We believe that reporting based on universally accepted templates is absolutely necessary. In that direction we support any further improvement of the reporting system that will be accepted by all member states.

Let me conclude by underlining that the Republic of Macedonia remains a staunch supporter of responsible arms trade, non-proliferation and disarmament and is particularly committed to the full and effective implementation of the ATT the principal aim of which is to put an end human suffering fueled by armed conflicts of different nature worldwide.

Thank you Mr. President

