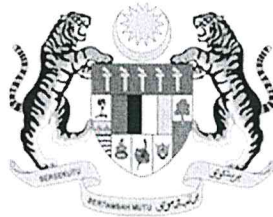


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**STATEMENT BY MR ZAHID RASTAM,
DEPUTY PERMANENT REPRESENTATIVE,
PERMANENT MISSION OF MALAYSIA TO THE UNITED NATIONS OFFICE AND
OTHER INTERNATIONAL ORGANISATIONS IN GENEVA,
AT THE GENERAL DEBATE
OF THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES (CSP3)
TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY, 11 SEPTEMBER 2017**

Mr. President,

My delegation would like to express our appreciation to you, Ambassador Klaus Korhonen, on the leadership and commitment that you have exhibited in steering this Third Conference of States Parties process. My delegation also extends our appreciation to the Management Committee, the respective chairs of the working groups and the Secretariat for their contributions, and to Switzerland as the host country, in the joint efforts to ensure the success of this Conference.

Mr. President,

2. Malaysia remains committed to, and supports, the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). Malaysia believes that the Treaty will strengthen national policies on conventional weapons, while at the same time, assisting in setting the global norm to prevent, combat and eradicate the illicit trade of conventional weapons. The Treaty requires States to review the spectrum of transfer of such weapons, and to ensure that the weapons will not be used in violation of the situations contained in the Treaty provisions.

3. The Conference of State Parties has shown that all States, whether they are State Parties, Signatories, or Observers, are keen to see the Treaty develop and evolve. As the CSP process moves forward, it is hoped that the common understandings and interpretations made would lead to more effective implementation, at the national level and internationally through cooperation and assistance. Countries need to hold fast to the principles of ensuring that the Treaty is implemented in a consistent, objective and non-discriminatory manner. This would ensure that all countries would be able to work together to close any gaps, remove any loopholes, and bring interpretations and implementation closer to the ultimate goal of having the highest possible common international standards for regulating the international trade in conventional arms.

4. We will continue to support international efforts in this regard, and we are ready to work with members of the international community in this regard.

Mr. President,

5. Malaysia remains committed towards ratifying the Treaty. In realising this goal, our Ministries and agencies have participated in various capacity building programmes, dialogues and workshops.

6. Malaysia is continuing its internal review towards ratification of the Treaty, and exploring different options with regard to ensuring that our domestic legislation is in line with the Treaty provisions – whether involving amendments to our existing legislation, or enacting new ones. This is an inter-agency process involving a wide range of ministries and agencies, and our Attorney-General's Chambers. This notwithstanding, we have adequate and stringent domestic laws – such as our Strategic Trade Act, the legislation that controls the export, transshipment, transit and brokering of strategic items and technology, including arms and related material, as well as activities that will or may facilitate the design, development, production and delivery. These laws assist to effectively control the circulation of conventional arms and to prevent arms from being diverted into the illicit market. Thus, while we are not yet a State Party, we subscribe to the Treaty provisions.

Mr. President,

7. Universalization of the Treaty remains a significant element of our work. In this regard, we welcome the universalization outreach activities led by you and your team, as well as other states and civil society, particularly in the Asia-Pacific region. We hope that the incoming President would continue with these efforts as continued engagement with Signatory States and Non-State Parties to the Treaty is vital in ensuring that the Treaty's objectives are achieved.

8. Universalisation is interlinked to the development of the Treaty. It is clear that States are at different levels of national implementation – some have legislation in place and are implementing it, some are starting to develop strategic control systems, and some require more assistance. In this respect, development of the Treaty needs to ensure that pathways for states to become party are not made more difficult through wide-ranging interpretations. We know States are mindful of this, and this helpful in bridging gaps.

Mr. President,

9. My delegation looks forward to the constructive engagement in the deliberations of this Conference.

I thank you, Mr. President.