

[This statement is apt to be delivered during the General Statement session or during the National Implementation session]

Your Excellency Ambassador Klaus Korhonen, President of the Third Conference of States Parties; Distinguished Heads of Delegations, Ladies and Gentlemen; Mr. Chair,

It is my great honor and privilege to represent the Philippines in this conference and to share with you the achievements of my country in support of the goals of the Arms Trade Treaty.

The Philippines is committed in achieving a peaceful and secure environment that is free from the constant threat of violence, and recognize the necessity to eradicate the menace of the illegal proliferation of conventional weapons and illicit arms trade, which contribute to human suffering and instability in the region.

Being one of the signatory states of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) since 2013, we look forward to the ratification of ATT which has been forwarded last June 2, 2017 to the Senate floor for deliberation, which will cement our commitment to implement treaty obligations.

Further, even though our country has not yet ratified the ATT, we have initiated to draft a National Action Plan on Small Arms and Light Weapons in which is one of the categories of conventional weapons that the ATT seek to regulate, and in line with the Sustainable Development Goals 16.4.

The Philippines is in the process of implementing recently passed legislation which compliments the goals of the ATT. The Philippines enacted Republic Act 10697 or the Strategic Trade and Management Act of 2015, an Act Preventing the Proliferation of Weapons of Mass Destruction (WMD) by managing the trade in strategic goods.

Consistent with international commitments and national interests, the Philippines holds true to its declaration on the policy to be free from WMD, to take and enforce effective measures, to prevent its proliferation and their means of delivery.

Finally, the Philippines was granted funding under the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund for the project entitled: *“Developing and Implementing a Training*

Course on Licensing, Investigation and Enforcement Policies and Procedures on Conventional Weapons” that demonstrates collective approach and inter-agency collaboration towards the implementation of the ATT. We have convened an inter-agency Technical Working Group and has been working with Nonviolence International, a civil society organization, as our implementing partner in this endeavor. The project was formally launched last August 8, 2017 where members of the TWG and prominent representatives from several relevant agencies gathered to present the ambition of the project proponents and to initially brainstorm its significant to the current situation in the Philippines.

On that note, again I reiterate, we are one with our global peers in making efforts in maintaining international peace and security. Under the present administration, with the leadership of President Rodrigo Roa Duterte and his robust political will together with the Filipinos rallying beside him we are certain that all our reveries of a peaceful and secure world will soon be realized.

Thank you, MABUHAY!