

Statement of Romania
General Debate
The Third Conference of States Parties to the
Arms Trade Treaty
Geneva, Switzerland, 10-15 September 2017

Mr. President,

Excellencies,

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Romania fully shares the views expressed by the distinguished representative of the European Union.

In my national capacity, let me start by expressing Romania's appreciation to Ambassador Klaus Korhonen for his committed work during his tenure as President of the Third Conference of States Parties. We also thank the ATT Secretariat and its Head, Mr. Dladla, for their continued support. Our gratitude also goes to our host, Switzerland, the Vice-presidents, the co-chairs of the subsidiary bodies, and the members of the Management Committee, for the excellent work they have done in preparing this Conference.

Romania considers the ATT one of the international community's greatest achievements in recent years. In less than 3 years since its entry into force, we have managed to develop institutional capacity and start implementing the Treaty's provisions. Now it's time to concentrate our efforts on further consolidating the regime in order to ensure the proper implementation of this legal instrument and its universalization, which are preconditions for the Treaty's success.

The security situation on regional and global level remains precarious. Conventional arms, in particular SALW, have devastating impact on peace and development. Only an effective implementation of the ATT will result in a significant reduction in the number of victims of illicit trade in conventional arms and, at the same time, will lead to strengthening international security by reducing the risk of diversion of legal arms flows to terrorist groups or other unauthorized end-users, while safeguarding legitimate trade.

In order to prove its relevance, the ATT must become a norm applied by every country in the World, irrespective of its size or its place in the arms supply chain. Romania was among the States that supported the adoption of the ATT since early beginning and remains committed to further promoting its principles and objectives.

Mr. President,

We commend the excellent work you have undertaken in conducting universalization outreach activities in different parts of the World and we express our hope that the future Presidency will continue this long term endeavor. We also pay tribute to the civil society, UN agencies and regional organizations for their valuable contribution to this end.

We believe that one of the most significant achievement since our last CSP is the operationalization of the Voluntary Trust Fund, which, in our opinion, is a very useful instrument that can help us achieve a wider adherence. We welcome the high number of projects approved under the VTF and note that among the applicants there are also Signatory States, which represents an important step towards universalization.

Mr. President,

Having participated in the preparatory process for CSP3, we share the views expressed by Sweden in its national paper, that a greater participation, in particular of experts from capitals, could be beneficial to the process. We express our confidence that CSP3 will address this subject and find possible solutions to broaden the participation in the ATT meetings.

We welcome the States that have ratified the Treaty since our last meeting in this format, last year, and we urge Signatories to speed up their ratification process. We know that, in order to ratify the Treaty, States first need to build their capacity to implement its provisions, hence I take this opportunity to reiterate Romania's availability to share its national experience and expertise with those States requiring assistance in implementing the Treaty's provisions, both in our national capacity as well as part of the team involved in the European Union's ATT outreach program.

The openness and transparency shown by the States Parties could also influence the universalization of the Treaty. A strong level of transparency is a key element to build confidence among States and ensure the Treaty's full and effective implementation. Fulfilling the reporting obligation should be seen as an indicator for the trustworthiness of a State as credible partner on the international arms trade market. We are pleased to see that the majority of States Parties which have submitted their initial and annual reports have chosen to make them publicly available. However, we note that a significant number of States Parties who should have done so, have not yet submitted their reports. Therefore, we call upon all States Parties to comply with their obligations under the Treaty, in a timely and effective manner.

Mr. President,

The three working groups created after CSP2 have made considerable progress in addressing the aforementioned issues, thus we support the continuation of discussions in this format and we look forward to debating the terms of reference and the work plans of the standing working groups later this week.

Please allow me to conclude my intervention by assuring you of the Romanian delegation's full support to the work of this conference. We look forward to a productive and positive conference!

I thank you.