

STATEMENT

by

Ambassador Branimir Filipovic, Assistant Minister for Security Policy
Ministry of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Serbia,
At the Arms Trade Treaty Third Conference of States Parties
Geneva, 11-15 September 2017

Mr. President,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

As I am taking the floor I would like to extend our condolences to all countries affected by hurricanes and recent earthquake. Allow me, on the behalf of the Government of the Republic of Serbia, to express the gratitude to Finland, as the presiding state, and Switzerland, as the host state, for organizing and hosting the Third Conference of the Arms Trade Treaty State Parties.

We can note with pleasure that since the entrance into force of the ATT, major issues regarding building of its structures are defined and more time can be devoted to discussions on substantive matters. In this regard we would like to commend tireless efforts made by You, Ambassador Korhonen, as President of the CSP3, in conducting preparatory process for the CSP, as well as the efforts made by the distinguished co-chairs of the ad-hoc working groups which, in our opinion, framed the respectable basis for the future work within the ATT.

The Republic of Serbia aligns itself with the statements made on behalf of the European Union at this Conference. In my national capacity, I would like to use this opportunity to inform the Conference briefly about position of my country on various aspects related to the ATT.

We do consider that the exchange of information and experiences between Member States may be beneficial for countries which have already built their export and import control systems as well as for those who are starting this challenging process. Accordingly we look favorably to the continuation of the work set out by the ad hoc working groups with the aim of improving the Treaty's implementation, preventing diversion and combating illicit arms trade.

Mr. Chairman,

The Republic of Serbia will remain committed to the process of information sharing with other States Parties with the focus on the challenges encountered in the implementation of the ATT. We can note with satisfaction that more and more countries are acceding to the ATT. Thus, we should maximize efforts to keep this momentum going. All States Parties to the Treaty ought to make necessary steps to make the Treaty universal as well as to focus more on the regions that are underrepresented within the ATT. In that respect we commend the meetings of the Working Group on the Treaty Universalization, held in February and May in Geneva, as well as the development of the working documents and plans for the future activities of the Group.

We also welcome the start of the discussion on the relationship between the Sustainable Development Goals and the ATT during the preparatory process and we appreciate putting this topic as a thematic discussion in the Program of Work of this CSP. It would provide an opportunity to directly address the issue of reducing the illicit arms flows by 2030.

Furthermore, we are pleased to note that the Voluntary Trust Fund which was established during by the CSP2 quickly became operational and already engaged with those parties that have submitted proposals. On this point we would like to commend the work done by H. E. Ambassador M. Biontino, the chair of the VTF and to the Selection Committee for the work they have done so far. We hope that the effects of the projects financed by the VTF will be reflected in terms of the improvement of the implementation of the ATT worldwide.

Mr. Chairman,

As we all know the ATT already faces great challenges in maintaining its financial sustainability. We call on all State Parties to pay their mandatory contributions in timely manner in order to avoid budgetary deficit and enable smooth functioning of the ATT structures.

I would like to conclude by underlining that the Arms Trade Treaty is our common project and the common response to the evolving risks and challenges of security and safety. We are confident that this Conference will further pave the way

for successful and effective implementation of the Treaty and its universalization. In that sense, the delegation of the Republic of Serbia is ready to give its full contribution.

Thank you.