

**Statement of Slovakia
To the High Level Segment
Of the First Meeting of States Parties
Of the Arms Trade Treaty**

Cancun, Mexico, 24 August 2015

Mr. President,

At the outset, let me express my Government's thanks and appreciation to the Government of Mexico for the role it played throughout the whole preparatory process and especially in hosting this very important Conference. Investing the human and material resources into the process, Mexico has rendered a great service to international community in nearing the Treaty to its practical life. In this regard, we commend the contribution of the United Nations and its Secretary General in assisting the process from its beginning.

Slovakia as a member of the European Union closely supported and participated in the Arms Trade Treaty process. We were guided by a strong conviction that the absence of common international standards on the import, export and transfer of conventional arms was a contributory factor to conflicts, displacement of people, crime and terrorism, thereby undermining peace, reconciliation, safety, security, stability and sustainable development. This gap was closed by the adoption of the Treaty and we are proud we could have been a part of it. Living up to its commitment, Slovakia signed and ratified the ATT among the first and thus contributed the Treaty could have entered into force last December.

The moment of entry into force has turned the treaty provisions into active international obligations to be implemented by its States Parties. The parameters of this implementation started to make their contours through the preparatory process, however, certain very important work still has to be done right here at this conference. We all must strive to bring it to a successful conclusion. The wisdom and spirit of compromise must prevail in setting up the treaty regime as our highest priority. All other questions, although perceived by many as crucial, are just a part of this regime's architecture.

Slovakia calls upon all states that have not yet done so to ratify or accede to the Treaty. Its universalization to the maximum extent possible is essential. The trade in arms concerns all corners of the world so the rules governing this trade should also be commonly binding for and applied by all. We must intensify our effort on global and regional levels to reach out the strong message about the norm that has set the highest common international standard for the regulation of international trade in conventional arms. To this end, Slovakia is lending its support for the work and cooperation with other States Parties, NGO family and the industry. We all together can achieve the change towards the elimination of illicit trade in conventional arms to make our world safer and more secure.

Thank you.