

Thank You Mr President,

As we speak, the Israeli Occupying colonial Power, continues its most sustained and intense bombing campaign of a populated area in history, with the explicit stated intent to continue its genocide. Over 35,000 people have been slaughtered —72% of them Women and Children. This does not account for the thousands trapped under the rubble, presumed dead or dying a slow death suffocated by the remains of their homes. More than 78,000 people have been injured. The blood of hundreds of medical personnel, artists, educators, entrepreneurs, athletes, journalists , UN Staff is spilled on Gaza's streets.

It is in this tragic context, we asked for the ad hoc discussion among ATT States Parties, Signatories, and other stakeholders, on 21 February 2024. This situation is of the utmost urgency and demands the utmost attention. Some states did suspend their arms trade with Israel , but our call for some States that claim to be the role model of the ATT, fell on deaf ears. We deeply regret to hear the United Kingdom's deputy PM saying that "*No single action is a red line on UK arms exports to Israel*" and that "*Britain will continue to approve arm exports to Israel, saying a full-scale Israeli operation in Rafah would not by itself result in a suspension of UK weapons supplies*".

He is saying that while is watching a televised Genocide. the crime of crimes. ignoring the overall context of the 75 years of colonialism is in itself a grave illegality that threatens international peace and security in contravention to the UN Charter.

Israel's crimes in the past seven months were facilitated with the use of a wide range of imported weapons, aircrafts, and other equipment. In light of the facts coming out of occupied Palestine, coming out of the International Court of Justice ruling on 26 January that Israel is "plausibly" committing genocide in Gaza, coming out of the United Nations and countless civil society organisations worldwide, and in light of the law, including Arms Trade Treaty Articles 6 and 7, Common Article 1 of the Geneva Conventions, the International Law Commission's Draft Articles on State Responsibility, the Convention on the Prevention and Punishment of the Crime of Genocide, we are once again reaching out to exporting or transit States to urge them to explain their respective policies on arms exports to Israel.

We remind all ATT States parties that in order to retain to abide by their legal obligations, they must cease all Arms transfer to Israel. Indeed, Israel is known to experiment its weapons on occupied Palestinians, to then market them as "battle-tested" in order to then sell them to countries across the globe for profit. This is not only morally repugnant, but also illegal and States have a legal obligation not import arms that have been tested in this way

In this context , The Human Rights Council's resolution adopted on the 5th of April expressed *to cease arms trade to Israel* , It condemns its "use of AI to aid the commission of international crimes". And *It further Requests the Independent International Commission of Inquiry* to report on the Arms Trade to Israel since 7 October 2023, and to present its **report to the Human Rights Council at its fifty-ninth session.**"

In the same context we recall the UN experts warning on (23 February 2024) – Any transfer of weapons or ammunition to Israel that would be used in Gaza is likely to violate international

humanitarian law and must cease immediately. “ they reaffirmed “The need for an arms embargo on Israel and The Genocide Convention of 1948 requires States parties to employ all means reasonably available to them to prevent genocide in another state as far as possible. “This necessitates halting arms exports” They also reaffirmed that “State officials involved in arms exports may be **individually criminally** liable for aiding and abetting any war crimes, crimes against humanity or acts of genocide,”and “All States under the principle of universal jurisdiction, and the International Criminal Court, may be able to investigate and prosecute such crimes.”

Last but not least, The ATT does not enforce itself,”“All States must not be complicit in international crimes through arms transfers. They must do their part to urgently end the unrelenting humanitarian catastrophe in Gaza.

I thank you

