

The Arms Trade Treaty

Third Conference of States Parties

Geneva, 11-15 September 2017

General Debate

## **SWEDEN**

### **General statement delivered by Ambassador Paul Beijer**

Mr President, excellences, colleagues, ladies and gentlemen,

Sweden fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union, but we would like to add the following in a national capacity.

The Arms Trade Treaty is now moving into a substantive phase. As many of the previous speakers have noted, this is only the beginning of a very long road. The benefits make the journey worthwhile, however: (1) a more responsible legal trade in conventional arms, (2) less unregulated trade, and (3) better possibilities to detect and interdict illegal trade. Reaching these goals will require effective implementation of the Treaty at the national level, and maximizing the number of States Parties. We share a responsibility to focus on these goals, and in Sweden's view even the smallest country can make important contributions to the task - thereby at the same time contributing to peace, security and development in their respective regions.

Efforts have so far been focused on three areas:

The first is outreach, promoting universalization of the Treaty, and here the Finnish Presidency has set a high bar for coming presidencies. For this they deserve our special thanks.

The second is implementation assistance, for which many sources now exist. Both with respect to expertise and in terms of funding we are in as good a place as we could hope for, and Sweden will be continuing to contribute to these efforts.

The third area is transparency and reporting. Here the Working Group assigned to these issues has provided the Conference of States Parties with a number of substantive proposals which we hope will be adopted, and I am convinced that the group will continue to work as effectively in the years to come.

On the Swedish side, we have recently been focusing on a different aspect of Treaty work – the question of how to encourage and broaden active participation in Treaty work.

Experience from this year's preparatory process shows that participation by experts from capitals is required in order to move forward on substantive topics. Participation from the Global South is particularly important. The expertise that these countries can bring to the table is related to the fact that they are often closest to the problems caused by unregulated arms flows, and to the various techniques used to divert weapons to destinations where their effect will be harmful. At the same time, active participation will also increase the sense of ownership and commitment in capitals. So the issue of increasing participation is well worth the effort. Sweden has contributed a working paper on this issue to the CSP-3. It contains three concrete proposals, and it is our hope that these proposals will be seriously considered by the CSP-3 participants.

On a personal note, I am firmly convinced that the ATT has the potential to be a real game-changer in the task of controlling destructive flows of conventional weapons globally, and of contributing to the fulfilment of the Sustainable Development Goals that the international community has set for the period up to the year 2030. The very interesting discussion we had at the third preparatory meeting on the linkages between the ATT and the SDGs has, to my mind, clearly shown that this is about much more than just indicator 16.4.2. Stability, the absence of armed conflict and armed violence, is a basic pre-requisite for development.

As Mr Peter Maurer put it during the high-level segment of this meeting, it is now up to us to make full use of the structures that we have set in place for the ATT.

In the longer term, it is Sweden's hope that the ATT will provide a platform for active cooperation, particularly for countries that are primarily importers or transit states. While producers and exporters already have such fora, other countries do not. When all is said and done, improving the international community's control over damaging arms flows is not something that can be done by each State Party in isolation. Cooperation between States Parties almost on a daily basis is an essential ingredient if we are to achieve the goals that we have set for ourselves.

Thank you.