**Commentary on a proposal submitted to the Eleventh Conference of States Parties (CSP11) to approve a legal mandate for the development of a five-year strategy for the Arms Trade Treaty, prior to the Twelfth Conference of States Parties**

**Evening session, August 28, 2025**

**Thank you, Mr. President,**

Maat for Peace, Development, and Human Rights would like to express its appreciation to the Government of the United Kingdom for its proposal to develop a five-year long-term strategy for the Arms Trade Treaty. Maat emphasizes that a unified strategic framework would enhance coordination among States Parties and provide a clear tool for directing resources and setting priorities, thus addressing the current challenges of weak compliance, declining reporting rates, and the lack of standardized criteria for measuring progress.

Maat believes that the proposed strategy should focus on a number of key areas, including strengthening national systems for monitoring and combating arms diversion, increasing the number of States ratifying the Treaty, improving the quality and regularity of State reporting, integrating a gender perspective into the Treaty's decisions, and strengthening the Treaty's structure and financial resources. All stakeholders must participate in developing proposals and drafting the strategy. The strategy must have a comprehensive vision, a method for measuring performance, and avoid duplication so as not to conflict with the current multi-year work plans of the working groups. Rather, it must complement and guide them. To ensure that the strategy achieves its intended purpose, **Maat proposes the following:**

1. **Establish a strategy working group:** Instead of relying solely on the treaty office, a dedicated working group could be established comprising representatives from various regional groups, expert groups, civil society organizations, and experts. This team would ensure that the strategy represents the diverse interests of States Parties.
2. **Defining Key Performance Indicators:** The strategy should include specific and measurable key performance indicators (such as "increasing the number of ratifying countries by 10% within 5 years" or "increasing the percentage of timely reports submitted by 20%), with specific mechanisms in place to ensure the implementation of these indicators.
3. **Including a monitoring and compliance component:** The strategy should include clear mechanisms for dealing with countries that do not comply with the treaty's provisions, as well as mechanisms to support and assist them in achieving compliance.
4. **Providing a periodic review mechanism:** The strategy should include a mechanism for review and evaluation at a mid-term (after, say, two and a half years) to ensure it remains relevant and effective. Although the proposal emphasizes the importance of financial stability, it is essential that the strategy include a detailed and sustainable financial plan to ensure its successful implementation.

**This plan should focus on three main axes:**

**First,** identifying funding sources by exploring innovative options such as partnerships with international financial institutions or the private sector, rather than relying solely on traditional budgeting.

**Second,** developing a detailed budget estimate for each of the strategy's objectives, which helps allocate financial resources more efficiently and effectively.

**Finally,** establishing a clear mechanism for monitoring spending and providing periodic and transparent reports, to ensure full accountability and maximize the use of all allocated funds.

Regarding participation mechanisms, we recommend that the Treaty Secretariat develop an interactive online platform to serve as a one-stop shop for submitting proposals, presenting drafts, conducting consultations, and tracking progress. This tool will contribute to enhancing transparency and accountability, while broadening the base of participation from various stakeholders. Consultations should be open to those affected by armed conflict, representatives of industry, youth, women, and civil society organizations, ensuring equitable representation of all groups.

**Mr. President,**

We also emphasize that civil society organizations must be an integral part of this process, not only to submit proposals, but also as active partners in implementation and monitoring.

**Thank you!**