



**Statement delivered by South Africa during the 11<sup>th</sup> Conference of  
States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)**

**29 August 2025**

**Draft Presidency Vision Statement for CSP12**

Mr President,

As we prepare to assume the Presidency of the Arms Trade Treaty, South Africa wishes to extend her heartfelt congratulations to you, Ambassador Foradori, and your team for your sterling leadership throughout the Eleventh Conference of States Parties. Your stewardship has been marked by professionalism, inclusivity, and a steadfast commitment to the Treaty's objectives.

We commend your efforts in fostering constructive dialogue and advancing the ATT's implementation during a particularly complex global context, including the theme of your Presidency.

Mr President,

I also take this opportunity to express my appreciation to the African States Parties to the Treaty for nominating South Africa to this position. As the incoming President of the Twelfth Conference of States Parties, our approach will be guided by principles that Africa holds in high regard,

that is, continuity, inclusivity, and a focus on strengthening practical implementation of the Treaty.

To this end, we will seek to build on the work of previous presidencies, ensuring that CSP12 consolidates progress and reinforces the Treaty's enduring relevance, including to promote its universalisation and effectiveness. Treaty universalisation remains a core principle that promotes global regulation in the context of imports and exports of conventional arms.

During the course of discussions this week we heard from young people on the devastating impact of conventional on them, causing direct physical harm (injury, death), psychological trauma, displacement, and reduced access to education. We also know that these weapons if found in wrong hands increase vulnerability to exploitation, including recruitment into armed forces and groups for dangerous roles like human shields.

We also heard that these weapons have a significant multiplier effect on gender-based violence, especially on girls and young women. The widespread presence and misuse of arms also undermine socio-economic development, leading to exclusion and hindering long-term peace in many parts of the world.

It therefore remains of central importance that as a key part of South Africa's Presidency we continue the effort towards universalisation of the treaty, and its effective operationalisation.

South Africa welcomes the establishment of Gender Focal Points as a positive and necessary step towards addressing this ever-growing scourge. Their role will be instrumental in ensuring that gender considerations are meaningfully integrated across ATT implementation and decision-making processes.

Furthermore, we have taken note of the Conference views on the status of financial contributions to the budgets as it is an integral to the functioning and sustainability of the ATT and how this could be improved.

Our Presidency will remain committed to fostering dialogue, deepening cooperation, and ensuring that the Treaty continues to serve as a practical and responsive instrument, particularly for those States that stand to gain the most from strengthened implementation.

I assure of South Africa's commitment to the Treaty and working constructively with all of you to in the next year as we build up to CSP 12.

I thank you