



Statement

by

H.E. Ambassador Michael Biontino

Permanent Representative of Germany to the Conference on Disarmament and

**Chairman of the Voluntary Trust Fund Selection Committee
to the 1st Preparatory meeting ATT CSP3**

Geneva, 16 February 2017

1. I would like to express my words of thanks to the President of the Third Conference of States Parties for skillfully steering the work of the ATT and to the ATT Secretariat and the VTF Selection Committee for their support with the work of the ATT Trust Fund.
2. Mandate VTF SC
 - Article 16 (3) of the ATT states, that a Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) shall be established by States Parties to assist requesting States Parties requiring international assistance to implement this Treaty. Each State Party is encouraged to contribute resources to the Fund.
 - The VTF was established in August 2016 by the Second Conference of States Parties to the ATT to operate under its approved Terms of Reference. In order to immediately operationalize the ATT VTF, the Conference decided on the appointment of Argentina, Chad, Cote d'Ivoire, El Salvador, Germany, Guinea, Japan, Mauritius, New Zealand, Nigeria, Sweden, Switzerland and the United Kingdom to serve on the Selection Committee of the VTF for the period of up to the Fourth Conference of States Parties.
 - Immediately after CSP2 the ATT VTF Selection Committee met on 26th August 2016 and, in line with the provisions of the Terms of Reference, selected Germany to chair its deliberations.
3. Activities of the VTF SC under its of Terms of Reference
 - The VTF Selection committee met on 4th November 2017 to consider and adopt the VTF's Administrative Rules and the VTF's Call for Contributions, which were circulated to all stakeholders through the first VTF Selection Committee Chairman's Communication of 15th November 2016. This was done in order to enable governments and private sector donors to provide contributions and donations to the Fund already from their 2016 budgets.

- In his second Communication of 20th December 2016, the VTF Selection Committee Chairman issued the VTF Call for Project Proposals that included the Grant Application Form as Annex 1 and the Budget Breakdown Form as Annex 2 respectively.
- On 9th February 2017 the VTF Standard Donors Agreement Document was published in the third Chairman's Communication which also included an additional Call for Contributions to the VTF. This was done in accordance with the VTF's adopted Administrative Rules which provide that voluntary financial contributions to the VTF can be made throughout the year. In practice this will enable governments and private sector donors to provide contributions and donations to the Fund, now from their 2017 budgets for the 2017/2018 cycles.

4. Currents status of VTF Contributions

- It gives me pleasure to advise you that since the first call for contributions was made in November last year, the VTF has received a total contribution of 1 245 475. 22 USD from six states namely: Czech Republic, France, Germany, New Zealand, Sweden and Switzerland. In addition, the amount of 645 704. 65 USD has been pledged to the VTF by Finland and the United Kingdom.
- The VTF Selection committee and the ATT Secretariat are very grateful to the States that have made voluntary contributions to the VTF thus far. This gives the VTF a sound financial base for supporting a sizeable number of successful Project Proposals still being submitted in response to the Call for Project Proposals issued on 20 December 2016, with a set closing date of 31 March 2017.

5. Encouragement of "experts in ATT implementation activities" (e.g. civil society) through partnership, assist States in preparing and submitting sound project proposals and implementing such projects.

As of today, the ATT Secretariat has been approached by several non-governmental organizations and a few states posing questions about the VTF application procedure but no Project Proposal has been handed in so far.

- We suspect that possible reasons for the current state of Project Proposal could - inter alia – be that:
 - States are still working on the Project Proposals and will hand them in by 31st March 2017.
 - States do not have adequate capacity to correctly set up Project Proposals and manage projects and hence do not dare to start doing so at all.
 - States have not yet made definite appreciation of their ATT implementation challenges or deficits and thus cannot direct the VTF's assistance to remedy the deficiencies.
 - States are not in a position to prioritize their needs or to select a suitable project that fits into the VTF's scope of assistance.

- Concerning the last three reasons mentioned above, States might need further assistance in setting up meaningful Project Proposals. In this respect the ATT Secretariat has prepared a special ATT VTF Information Brochure that will be circulated to all delegates in this room and is posted on the ATT website. Further to that we are organizing a VTF Promotion Meeting on 23 February from 10:00 to 12.00h at the WMO premises. The purpose of the meeting is to promote the VTF through detailed explanation of the VTF application procedure. The meeting will further provide an opportunity for Questions and Answers on the VTF and to encourage all organizations that have established contacts to States Parties or Signatories or have already gained experience in assisting national ATT implementation to approach such states to assist them in setting up Project Proposals as foreseen by the VTF.
- All interested States, International Organizations, Regional Organizations, NGOs and Civil-Society Organizations are invited to attend this meeting.

6. Closing remarks

Mr President, dear Colleagues, thank you very much for your attention.