

Statement by Canada
Eleventh Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
Agenda Item 5: General Debate

Mister President,

My delegation congratulates you on your Presidency of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT), thanks you and your team for all the hard work this year, and for organizing this morning's panel on universalization. Canada remains committed to universalizing the ATT, we welcome The Gambia, Malawi and Colombia as the newest State Parties, and we reiterate our call on all States not yet party to join the Treaty.

We would also like to express our sincerest gratitude to Carina Solmirano and the ATT Secretariat for all their efforts to guide and support our work. With their able leadership, we have had a very positive start to the next ten years of Treaty implementation. Specifically, my delegation appreciates the new direction of this past year with more focused and streamlined documents, as well as practical discussions with concrete take-aways for participants. As a result, progress has been made on inter-agency cooperation and national control lists.

Colleagues, as we know, our meeting comes at a challenging time for the entire international disarmament and arms-control framework. Against this backdrop, we must collectively reaffirm our commitment to disarmament and arms-control instruments, including the Arms Trade Treaty. Canada remains committed to the objectives and implementation of the Treaty.

Before we move on to the work in front of us this week, allow me to express Canada's commitment to working with diverse stakeholders, including civil society organizations, and ensuring they have a voice at the table. We prioritize work with partners and CSOs during the intersessional period and are confident that this leads to improved results overall. Further, Canada places strong importance on the gender elements of the ATT, and we join other delegations in reiterating and reinforcing the need for the full, equal and meaningful participation of women in the ATT context. In this regard, we look favourably on Mexico's proposal for the creation of gender focal points in the ATT context, to help sustain these efforts across the ATT's body of work.

Mr. President,

As we have stated in past meetings, my delegation believes that the revised Programme of Work has been working well, and we view it quite positively. My delegation has observed increased

efficiencies at Working Group and Preparatory meetings over the past two years, allowing us to increase our focused and enriched discussions on substantive issues across not only the different working groups, but also on the different presidency themes. We have been encouraged by the reinvigoration of the meetings and attribute this, in part, to the revised programme of work, coupled with the more streamlined documentation. We commend the focus on streamlining our work and prioritizing substantive issues with less time allocated to procedural elements. From our perspective, this new model has achieved all of the objectives we collectively envisioned. Canada fully supports the Management Committee recommendations in this regard.

Mr. President,

My delegation regrets to once again note our strong concern for the year-on-year worsening financial situation of the Treaty, which jeopardizes its sustainability in the long-term. Despite some marginal improvement on the payment of contributions, this trend must increase with all States Parties paying their annual contributions in full and on time. This legal obligation is essential to the survival of the ATT, and our ability to continue our important work in the years to come.

Mr. President,

Looking to the future, my delegation wishes to voice our support for the UK's proposal for a five-year strategy to help harmonize the different Working Group workplans, ATT Presidency themes, and other lines of effort. Without a recurrent review cycle – similar to those that exist in many other disarmament instruments – this approach would address the need for a more strategic and long-term vision to direct the ATT's work. We thank the UK delegation for their work on this initiative and stand ready to support this effort. Similarly, we welcome the UK's initiative to create a "Friends of the ATT" Group, which stands as a constructive and complementary way to help further advance the ATT's work as part of a collaborative effort among all stakeholders to ensure the Treaty's success now and in the future.

Mr. President,

In closing, my delegation looks forward to a productive week of meetings, and you can count on our full support.

I thank you.