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Statement of the Small Arms Survey¹
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Thank you for giving me the floor, Mister President.

The Small Arms Survey is a centre for applied knowledge based here in Geneva. We are dedicated to preventing and reducing illicit small arms proliferation and armed violence. As global exports in small arms and light weapons continue to increase, we welcome efforts to strengthen the universalization of the Arms Trade Treaty. The Small Arms Survey is particularly pleased to be supporting Canada's efforts to promote universalization in the Indo-Pacific region.

While the ATT Conferences of States Parties, and its Working Groups, provide an important opportunity for states to exchange good practices, our recent experiences have demonstrated the importance of *informal* meetings to support universalization of the treaty.

One example is the UK's Wilton Park event held in February. This provided space for ATT stakeholders to reflect on what a longer-term strategy might look like, including ways to revisit past topics, and review progress towards decisions taken at previous CSPs.

In March, we co-hosted a civil society expert meeting with NISEA in Bangkok. This highlighted the need to ensure that ATT-related policy discussions better reflect regional security concerns. Engaging diverse stakeholders, from military officials and industry, to parliamentarians and academics, on topics such as maritime security, arms smuggling, organised crime and climate change could strengthen the appeal of the ATT.

¹An associated program of the Fondation pour l'étude des relations internationales et du développement, accredited to this substantive session (see A/CONF.239/2022/INF/1).

International Geneva also has a crucial role to play. This was evidenced by the fruitful dialogue entitled *Amplifying Pacific Voices in Conventional Weapons Disarmament* organized by Australia and Japan with Geneva-based delegations of Pacific Island States.

Moving forward, the Survey will undertake research on ATT-related topics relevant to both State Parties and non-Parties. This can provide a basis for exchanging good practices and identifying avenues of cooperation, potentially paving the way for further universalization of the ATT.

We also recognise how parliamentarians, national research institutes and civil society can help create the conditions for joining the ATT. For example, gender equality activists, who advocated the inclusion of article 7.4, also lobbied their governments to ratify the ATT. Yet today, virtually no net arms importing countries mention the ATT in their national action plans on Women, Peace and Security.

Strengthening efforts through the ATT to effectively prevent imported arms being used to commit, or facilitate, GBV, could increase the support of women's rights organisations for the ATT in both States Parties and non-Parties. Similarly, initiatives such as Expertise France's partnership with Guyana on the ATT and GBV, Latvia and Control Arms' VTF project on gender-related capacity building, and Mexico's Gender Focal Point proposal could all contribute to wider national buy-in to the ATT.

The Small Arms Survey congratulates the ATT community in welcoming 116 states parties into the fold, and remains ready to support the CSP President, the ATT Secretariat, Regional Organizations and states, in further efforts to boost universalization and effective treaty implementation.

Thank you.