**Arms Trade Treaty CSP11, 25 – 29 August 2025**

**Item 4 – General Debate**

**United Kingdom Statement**

Mr President,

Let me first congratulate Colombia, the Gambia and Malawi for taking their seats as States Parties for the first time. I would also like to congratulate Ms. Carina Solmirano and the ATT Secretariat for their work over the past year. We have been pleased with the progress the Secretariat has made in improving the ATT’s processes and meetings since the last Conference and we look forward to continuing to work with the Secretariat going forward.

Mr. President,

The geopolitical environment continues to suffer significant challenges, to international peace and security across all regions and to multilateralism and broader and long-established norms. Within this environment it remains essential to find ways to cooperate, reduce risks, and build confidence.

In light of this, the United Kingdom remains optimistic about the future direction of the ATT and we are committed to strengthening the effective implementation, universalisation and operation of the ATT. At the start of the Treaty’s second decade, we hope this year’s conference will begin to set a clearer direction.

The mandate for a 5-year strategy we have proposed provides an opportunity for the ATT community to take clear steps towards setting priorities and measuring progress. We look forward to discussing this proposal with delegations throughout the week and believe there is strong support in the room to agree a mechanism to develop a long-term vision for the ATT.

It's important that whilst we progress work on universalisation under the current Presidency’s theme, we must also continue to make progress on the work of previous Conferences of States Parties. Earlier this year, the UK, alongside Romania, hosted a Wilton Park Conference on the next decade of the ATT and the role of interagency cooperation. We were pleased the conference report was published last week. I would particularly like to thank Liz Kirkham of Saferworld and Callum Watson of Small Arms Survey for their time and commitment in drafting this report. We hope all interested stakeholders will take the time to read the report, which provides food for thought on how the ATT community can work together to strengthen interagency cooperation and enhance treaty implementation, universalisation, transparency and engagement for the next decade of the ATT

We are also pleased to announce we are funding a third annual Wilton Park Conference on the ATT, taking place in January 2026, which we hope will bring further fruitful discussions on how to advance the object and purpose of the ATT.

Mr. President,

The effective implementation and universalisation of the ATT is a joint effort – requiring collaboration and coordination among States Parties to ensure its success. In this spirit, a number of states have already referenced [this afternoon] the creation of an informal Group of Friends of the ATT. It might not come as a surprise but the United Kingdom is also pleased to join this venture. This initiative aims to provide an open and inclusive forum outside of the formal Treaty processes for interested States Parties committed to strengthening the Treaty, supporting its implementation and universalisation. The full list of States Parties to have joined initially are Argentina, Australia, Canada, France, Finland, Germany, Italy, Latvia, Mexico, Panama, Romania, and of course, the United Kingdom. We are grateful to them for their shared commitment. The aim of the group is to compliment, not duplicate, existing formal mechanisms, by anticipating challenges, identifying shared priorities and testing new ideas in support of the ATT’s object and purpose. You can find more detail on this initiative in the paper circulated by the ATT Secretariat on Friday and on the ATT website.

We warmly invite any interested States Parties from all regions to join us in this collective endeavour to support the ATT over the years ahead.

Finally, we welcome and are supportive of the further proposals submitted by Argentina and Panama on youth participation, Brazil and France on regional DIEFs, and Mexico on the establishment of gender focal points, and look forward to discussing them in more detail later in the week.