



**State of Palestine**  
**Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates**

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Mr. President, Distinguished Delegates,

The State of Palestine expresses its appreciation for the dedicated and ongoing efforts of Ambassador Foradori and Ambassador Russo in advancing the universalization of the ATT and bringing the number of States Parties to 116. We warmly congratulate and welcome Colombia as the latest State to join the ATT.

Mr. President,

While we welcome this growth in membership, we note with concern that several Signatory States have yet to complete their accession after many years. We strongly urge these States to ratify the Treaty without further delay. Achieving universalization is not a mere formality; it is a humanitarian imperative that would tangibly mitigate the devastating consequences of irresponsible arms trade.

In this regard, we reiterate our profound concern that a number of major arms exporters and importers remain outside the Treaty's framework. We call upon them to accede to the treaty as their participation is indispensable to maintaining international peace and security. The irresponsible transfer of arms facilitates genocide, war crimes, and crimes against humanity. It is therefore urgent to strengthen the focus on these key actors to ensure strict adherence to the ATT's principles and prevent further atrocities.

This urgency is clearly illustrated in the MENA region which remains one of the world's largest importers of major arms, accounting for over a quarter of global arms imports between 2020 and 2024. This massive flow of weapons into a region already fraught with conflict and political tension demands attention.

Your excellency,

The State of Palestine has endured firsthand the catastrophic human cost of irresponsible arms transfers. We have repeatedly witnessed how weapons exported by States Parties and



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signatories in blatant contravention of the Treaty's principles, are used to target civilians, destroy vital infrastructure, and entrench a culture of impunity. This reality underscores our firm belief that true universalization requires not only expanding membership but also ensuring that all signatories—especially major exporters and importers—uphold their obligations without double standards.

The ATT must not be a symbolic document. It must be an effective and non-discriminatory mechanism to prevent arms transfers that enable war crimes, crimes against humanity, and immense human suffering.

Lastly, the State of Palestine reaffirms its unwavering commitment to supporting all initiatives aimed at advancing the ATT's universalization, with particular focus on the MENA region. We stand ready to engage constructively with all partners to ensure the Treaty's principles are universally and consistently upheld.

Thank you.