**Fourth Statement**

**Integrating Violence against Women into Conventional Arms Export Risk Assessments**

**Item: Effective Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty**

**Thank you, Mr. President.**

Irresponsible or illicit arms transfers fuel the commission of crimes of violence against women in many conflict zones around the world. The flow of arms to the Israeli occupation forces has fueled sexual and other violence against Palestinian women since October 2023.

In Sudan, the diversion of arms to the Rapid Support Forces has contributed to their commission of crimes of sexual violence, including rape. These crimes constitute war crimes and crimes against humanity. Maat has documented field testimonies of women subjected to physical violence at gunpoint.

Under Article 7(4) of the Arms Trade Treaty, States Parties are required to assess whether arms exports may facilitate the commission of serious acts of gender-based violence against women. Despite the clear evidence, arms exports continue to flow to parties implicated in such violations, including the Israeli occupation forces.

Article 11 of the ATT prohibits the diversion of arms to non-state actors. However, weapons have reached the Rapid Support Forces in Sudan and have been used to commit crimes of sexual violence.

In this context, Maat welcomes the draft resolution submitted by Mexico to establish gender focal points under the Arms Trade Treaty, as an important step toward integrating a gender perspective into all treaty processes and promoting its effective implementation.

Maat calls on States Parties to integrate risk assessments of violence against women into their national monitoring systems, based on clear criteria, including:

* The importing country's record of violence against women and girls, including data on homicide rates and sexual violence.
* Patterns of attacks on civilians, hospitals, and critical infrastructure.
* The importing country's history of diverting or re-exporting arms to conflict zones.