

**Arms Trade Treaty Second Conference of States Parties (Geneva, 22-26 August 2016)
Treaty implementation. Statement of the Kingdom of Belgium**

Mr President,

My delegation is very pleased to discuss the key issue of national implementation of the Treaty here, within the CSP, and is grateful for the contributions of the Costa Rican, Finnish and British delegations on this issue.

It should be clear that implementation of the Treaty is first and foremost a responsibility of every State Party at the national level, but the Treaty itself also provides an important supportive role for all States Parties – through international cooperation – and for the CSP itself – through the task to consider and adopt recommendations regarding the implementation and operation of the Treaty.

In our general statement we already hinted at how the CSP could support national implementation. We referred to the possible clarification of certain notions that are used in the Treaty and more generally to developing guidelines and promoting and exchanging best practices. In the framework of our involvement of implementation support efforts, we have identified other specific topics that could benefit from substantive discussion between States Parties, such as the information exchange provisions of the Treaty, the prevention of diversion, the establishment of control lists and transit and trans-shipment controls.

In order to allow for discussions on such issues within the CSP and to subsequently achieve tangible results, Belgium considers that the establishment of a working group of technical experts as a subsidiary body of the CSP is a good way forward. Such group can gather experts on all matters relevant to effective implementation, mainly legal, licensing and enforcement matters.

With a view to efficiency and effectiveness of its work, we do think that the CSP should provide such group with a clear mandate, with specific and workable tasks and with possible outcomes. The working group should indeed be a forum for knowledge exchange that can lead to its own guidelines, but, where feasible and without hampering our universalisation efforts, the working group should also be able to prepare recommendations on identified issues for adoption by the CSP, in line with article 17 (4) (b) and (d) of the Treaty. This could be part of the mandate.

So as to realise successful output, it might be desirable to also provide in the mandate the possibility for the working group to work intersessionally on the identified issues.

Belgium is ready to participate in such working group and to contribute its expertise on the issues identified for discussion. As to the working group's composition, we also feel that the working group should not only reflect exporting and importing States involved in the transfer of conventional arms, but also transit and trans-shipment States, which is a major concern of mostly non-exporting States. The working group could also benefit from the technical expertise of civil society and industry, as appropriate.

Lastly, our delegation also stresses the role of the Secretariat in ensuring effective implication. For example, in order to facilitate an efficient information exchange between State Parties, beyond the reporting section, the secured part of the ATT website should have a section with the details of all national points of contact and could also have a section to support the work of the said working group.

Mr President, as said, national implementation is the key issue in securing the success of the Treaty. The CSP has its role in that and we do hope to that following this conference it can go to work on that.

I thank you Mr President.