

BOTSWANA STATEMENT ON TRANSPARENCY & REPORTING (CSP9) TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY (ATT)

(Thursday, 24th August 2023, Geneva)

Thank you Madam President, Botswana aligns itself with the statement by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group, however Botswana would like to make a statement in its national capacity.

1. As we are taking the floor for the first time, on behalf of my delegation, allow me to congratulate you, Your Excellency, on assuming the Presidency of the Ninth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty.
2. Additionally, Botswana wishes to thank the Secretariat of the ATT and all stakeholders, both State and Civil Society, who continue to work tirelessly to ensure continuity of the work of the Treaty.
3. We also wish to congratulate Gabon and Andorra for becoming new State Parties to the Convention, thus bringing the total of members of to 113. Botswana is a strong proponent of the universalisation of the Treaty and is very pleased to see the numbers growing though at a slow pace.

Madam President

4. The Republic of Botswana is strongly committed to full adherence and implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty. This we believe can only be attained through transparency and timely annual reporting by state parties. It is our fervent hope that transparency & reporting will play a profound role in confidence building among states.

5. In conclusion, Madam President, in June 2019 Botswana ratified the Treaty becoming the 104th state to join the ATT. We did not submit our initial report in 2020 as was expected and only did so in 2021. Since then Madam President Botswana has committed to timeously submit reports annually and where we lack in our reporting, we shall seek appropriate assistance.

I thank you, all for your kind attention