

Statement by the Czech Republic on the Arms Trade Treaty at the Fourth Conference of State Parties

Mr President,

The Czech Republic fully aligns itself with the statement made on behalf of the European Union. I would just like to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

At the outset, I would like to congratulate you on your Presidency and on your, most transparent and efficient, leadership in the course of preparations for the Fourth Conference of State Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty. I would also like to thank the Government of Japan for organizing the conference in this wonderful venue.

One of our main goals is the universalisation of the Treaty therefore we applaud the idea of holding the ATT conference in Tokyo as the Asian region is one of the most underrepresented in ATT. Our meeting thus provides an excellent opportunity to raise awareness of the Treaty in this region and we certainly hope that more of its countries will join the Treaty soon. In general, the number of States Parties has been increasing and we remain convinced that a broader universal adherence to the ATT will strengthen global security and will positively contribute to conventional weapons trade regulation.

We understand that for many of those States Parties that are not traditional exporters the Treaty's core requirements of establishing national arms control systems and national control lists are quite new and demanding tasks. In this respect, we would like to mention the role of the Voluntary Trust Fund that has been an important instrument for supporting national implementation and has been so far funded by donations from 14 States Parties. The reports of the VTF Chair proved its indispensable role in strengthening the implementation of the Treaty. The Czech Republic has supported the VTF financially by voluntary contributions in previous years and we hope to do so next year again.

We recognise that Working Groups have made good progress and their deliberations contributed to ensuring implementation of obligations under the Arms Trade Treaty. Our common goal is to achieve greater responsibility and transparency in the international arms trade. To this end, it is indispensable to strengthen reporting capabilities of State Parties so that they are able to fulfil their reporting obligations. We are convinced that an effective system of

reporting will help State Parties and their national authorities in the risk assessment process while evaluating individual requests on national level.

However, the latest report by the ATT Secretariat on numbers of reporting States Parties shows that the implementation of this core obligation has not improved. In this regard, we appreciate the initiative of the ATT Secretariat to develop an ATT IT platform, which will enable States Parties to submit their mandatory reports online. We are looking forward to the new ATT website that will also create a new communication channel for States Parties, thus enabling the much desired consultations among national POCs.

Regarding the ATT Sponsorship programme, we support the proposal to transfer its administration from the UNDP to the ATT Secretariat. We are convinced that this decision will increase its cost-effectiveness and enable better use of the donor contributions. The administration of the programme is part of the mandate of the Secretariat. In our opinion, the ATT Secretariat is able to best assess the needs of States Parties and assist them.

Mr President,

The Czech Republic has the opportunity to participate actively in the work of the Management Committee and is ready to continue in contributing to the achievement of the goals of the Treaty.

Mr President,

Let me conclude by wishing you and the Secretariat every success in steering this session to a fruitful outcome.

Thank you for your attention.