



**European Union**  
**Arms Trade Treaty**  
**Fourth Conference of States Parties**  
**Tokyo, 20-24 August 2018**  
**EU General Statement**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

The Candidate Countries the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Serbia\* and Albania\*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, and the EFTA country Iceland, as well as Georgia align themselves with this statement.

The EU would like to thank the Japanese Presidency for its hospitality and for the transparent, inclusive and effective preparatory process for the Fourth Conference of States Parties (CSP4). We stand ready to contribute to a successful outcome of the Conference.

The EU and its Member States reaffirm their strong support for the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The ATT is a key international instrument that has the capacity to make the trade in arms and ammunition more responsible and transparent. It serves the global interest to establish the highest possible common international standards for regulating the international trade in conventional arms, and preventing and eradicating the illicit trade and preventing diversion, thus contributing to international and regional peace, security, and stability and reducing human suffering. It complements other international instruments, such as the UN Programme of Action on the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW) and the International Tracing Instrument, and contributes broadly to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals,

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\* The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.

in particular Target 16.4 on reducing illicit arms flows and Target 5.2 on eliminating gender based violence.

In this context, it has to be recalled that the ATT is the first ever legally binding regime that addresses the negative impact of poorly regulated and illicit flows of arms and ammunition on women and children. This has set a precedent and will help strengthen international norms against actions which could be used to perpetuate acts of gender based violence. This will also contribute to strengthening the commitment of States to ensure respect for International Humanitarian Law and Human Rights Law.

Poorly or unregulated trade and illicit trafficking in arms and ammunition fuels armed conflicts, terrorism and organised crime in many parts of the world. We remain convinced that universal adherence to the global rules enshrined in the ATT would significantly enhance global and regional peace and security. In this regard, the EU very much appreciates the outreach activities undertaken by the Japanese Presidency to promote the universalisation of the ATT. The number of States Parties has steadily risen to close to 100, yet a number of major arms exporters and importers are not yet party. We welcome all States who have recently joined the ATT and call on others to follow suit. In the meantime, we encourage all States to increase transparency and reporting on their arms imports and exports, as called for by the UN Secretary General.

Considerable progress has been made to establish a fully operational and functional ATT, including the consolidation of its institutional structures. The EU would like to thank the Working Group Chairs as well as the Subgroup facilitators for their excellent work in steering more substantive discussions which have resulted in comprehensive guidance documents and concrete recommendations. We welcome the new contributions to the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund that will assist States Parties to build national capacities for effective Treaty implementation.

The EU supports the continuation of work in the three Working Groups on universalisation, effective Treaty implementation, and transparency and reporting. We encourage further sharing of information, experiences and good practices on various aspects related to the establishment and functioning of national arms export control systems, risk assessment, prevention of diversion, the implementation of UN arms embargoes as well as reporting obligations.

The EU will continue to contribute to these exchanges with information on the implementation of the EU Common Position on arms exports and EU's outreach and assistance activities in support of the implementation and universalisation of the ATT. The active and constructive participation of all stakeholders – States Parties, international, regional and non-governmental organisations as well as industry and civil society – will help achieve the objectives of the ATT.

Thank you, Mr. President