

*Mr. President,*

*At the outset, allow me to express our sincere gratitude to you personally and the Japanese Presidency for hosting this conference and for the efforts in advancing the Arms Trade Treaty in general.*

*We align ourselves with the statement delivered by the EU.*

*Mr. President,*

*Germany would like to reaffirm its principled support for the establishment of international standards in arms trade in order to abolish the illicit flow and diversion of conventional arms and ammunition. In this regard, the ATT has become a true success story. Due to the combined efforts of all stakeholders, almost 100 States have become States Parties. Despite this impressive progress, universalization remains our key priority in order to*

*effectively establish the highest common international standards. We call on all those who have not yet ratified to do so as soon as possible.*

*Furthermore, Germany supports the manifold activities undertaken by the ATT Secretariat, the permanent working groups and the States Parties to promote treaty universalization and to improve effective treaty implementation.*

*Through our Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA), we have supported universalization efforts by dedicated outreach and expertise in the EU framework.*

*The Voluntary Trust Fund has become an essential tool for supporting universalization. With the second project cycle already under way, the fund provided invaluable assistance to a considerable*

*number of States Parties to implement their Treaty obligations.*

*Germany advocated strongly for the establishment of the Fund and has since provided essential contributions. We are honored by the opportunity to chair the Fund's Selection Committee.*

*While we are impressed with the support by many States Parties for the Fund we strongly encourage additional contributions. We particularly encourage donations from States that have not yet contributed, to further strengthen the credibility of the Fund. Even smaller or symbolic contributions will be most appreciated.*

*In addition, we would like to extend a cordial invitation to a side event hosted by Germany and organized together with the ATT Secretariat tomorrow, Tuesday, at noon.*

*During the previous Conference of States Parties, we announced the implementation of a new element in our national arms export control policy: post-shipment controls for certain arms and weapons. After a three years introductory phase, we will present and discuss our experience with this important instrument during a side-event on Thursday to which we warmly invite you.*

*Mr. President,*

*In closing: We are delighted that the ATT has become a comprehensive and reliable framework that plays an important role in conflict prevention, peace and security, but also in protecting women and children from serious acts of violence. Yet only if States Parties meet their transparency and financial commitments will the ATT be able to prosper and grow. In this spirit, we call on all States Parties to fulfill their obligations.*

*Thank you.*