

## **General Statement by GERMANY at ATT's CSP 7 opening, Geneva, 30 August 2020**

Mr President,

Germany fully aligns itself with the general statement made on behalf of the European Union.

What could illustrate more clearly than recent political developments, which have triggered international concern that preventing the diversion of conventional arms is of the utmost importance? We, the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, must effectively contribute to preventing not only large-scale diversions – such as those the world witnessed in mid-August – but also smaller scale deviations of arms, which usually take place without media attention.

In this context, the ATT plays a pivotal role within the international framework to comprehensively address the problem of diversion and destabilise transfers of conventional weapons and ammunition. We need to take a holistic view of those problems and seek to reinforce the complementarity of the ATT with existing instruments, such as the UN Programme of Action on SALW and, particularly, the International Tracing Instrument.

Due to the ongoing pandemic, since CSP6 the ATT and all States Parties to the ATT as well as the Presidency, the Secretariat, the ATT's working groups, the VTF Selection Committee and the Management Committee have had to perform their tasks under difficult conditions. Germany would like to thank the Presidency of Sierra Leone, in particular H.E. Ambassador Gberie, as well as the Secretariat of the ATT, Mr Dladla and his team, for their very effective work in steering the ATT under the conditions of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Despite these difficult conditions, Germany is pleased to report that the Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control has been able to continue its outreach activities on treaty implementation with partners in States Parties to the ATT. We are happy to announce that these outreach activities, which are co-financed by the EU, will continue despite the challenges posed by the pandemic. Online and hybrid event formats will be made available to the partner countries in future, as well as the traditional in-person formats. Experience drawn from these events will be used to foster regional and cross-regional networking and to strengthen the South-South Cooperation, thus supporting the universalisation of the ATT.

The ATT benefits considerably from the participation, experience and recommendations of civil society. Germany highly appreciates these contributions and stands ready to continue sponsoring some of these activities. With a view to the upcoming CSP cycle, Germany has initiated project partnerships with eminent organisations such as SIPRI, Control Arms, UNIDIR and others. We look forward to

presenting some of the project findings to the representatives of States Parties of the ATT during CSP7 and during the CSP8 cycle.

Germany has taken note of the fact that no amendments to the text of the ATT have been proposed. This could be interpreted as an expression of satisfaction by States Parties with the treaty as it stands. Germany would also like to retain the current text of the Treaty and rather focus on implementing its existing obligations.

Reporting is one of the keystones of the ATT, since it allows for greater transparency regarding authorised transfers of arms, including the respective national export control systems. Germany would like to appeal to all States Parties to submit their initial reports as well as to comply with the annual reporting obligations. The Stimson Center has made very useful suggestions for improvements in the field of reporting.

Germany has always supported all efforts regarding the universalisation of the ATT and will continue to do so. The accession of the People's Republic of China to the ATT should inspire other countries in South and South-East Asia also to become States Parties to the ATT. In its bilateral contacts with other states outside the ATT, Germany will promote accession to the Treaty and offer assistance to potential candidates to prepare to join. Being a State Party to the ATT may in the future become the "gold standard" for both arms exporters and importers in order to demonstrate their sense of responsibility and awareness of the risks associated with the arms trade

Thank you, Mr. President