



Permanent Mission of Italy
UN - Geneva

Seventh Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

General Statement

Geneva, 30 August 2021

Mr. President,

At the outset, I would like to thank you for your commitment to steering out intersessional work and preparations for this Conference throughout this year despite the difficulties and challenges that the COVID-19 pandemic continues to pose.

Italy aligns itself with the statement of the European Union. I would also like to add a few remarks in my national capacity.

Mr. President,

As a staunch supporter of the Arms Trade Treaty since the early stages of its negotiations, Italy remains firmly committed to the Treaty's goal of setting the highest possible common international standards to regulate the international trade in conventional arms and ammunition, as well as preventing and eradicating their illicit traffic and diversion.

We continue to believe that the way towards these goals remains the Treaty's universalization and implementation.

We also wish to thank you, Mr. President, for your outreach efforts to broaden the ATT membership, as well as your appeal to international cooperation and assistance mechanisms aimed at overcoming technical hurdles and barriers existing in some cases. More work is needed, however, particularly towards key arms importers, exporters, and transit States that still remain outside the Treaty.

In parallel, we continue to believe that all relevant stakeholders have a significant role to play, from the ATT Bureau to individual States Parties; from regional organizations to civil society; from parliamentary representatives to industry. Their contribution will allow reaching specific States not yet Party with specific messages, tailored to different institutional, legal and cultural contexts.

We strongly support the efforts aimed at enhancing openness and transparency in the implementation of the Treaty. In this vein, this year for the first time Italy has decided not to avail itself of the Art 13.3 clause, allowing States to exclude from their annual reports commercially sensitive or national security information, and to provide the ATT Secretariat with any data concerning countries of origin and destination of all categories of weapons.

Mr. President,

We uphold this year's thematic focus on eradicating the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons and ensuring adequate stockpile management, as we consider it a positive input in a view to tackling human rights violations, terrorism and gender-based violence.

We support the efforts made in the context of the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation in order to address the phenomenon of diversion, issues related to transit or trans-shipment and more generally to promote information sharing and best practices.

Furthermore, we welcome constructive steps emerged from the Working Group on Transparency and Reporting, towards improved reporting mechanisms encompassing training initiatives, confidence-building measures, and the use of a clear and uniform terminology when completing the annual reports. Initial and annual reporting are core obligations of the ATT and all should comply with such obligations regularly and on time.

Mr. President,

Like others, Italy once again express its concern about the financial situation of the Treaty. In this regard, we welcome the work on the proposed procedure that seeks to establish the necessary arrangements for States in arrears to settle their financial obligations.

At the same time, we renew our call to all relevant States to settle their arrears without further delay, as we consider the financial stability of the Treaty the only long-term solution allowing the ATT institutional structures and mechanisms to function effectively.

Thank you, Mr. President.