

ARMS TRADE TREATY
SEVENTH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES
GENEVA, 30 AUGUST – 03 SEPTEMBER 2021
STATEMENT OF MONTENEGRO

Montenegro aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union, and, in addition, would like to highlight points of particular importance to us.

Widespread availability and illicit trafficking of conventional arms, predominantly small arms and light weapons, affect every corner of the globe, bearing a startling human and economic cost and dangerously compromising international security and peace, as well as sustainable development. These, unfortunately, rather easily accessible weapons, are most often the pivotal means of conflicts, leading directly to a large number of deaths every year.

This kind of reality warns us loudly that there is a clear need and responsibility to achieve tangible progress in strengthening the arms control architecture, for the benefit of peace and security, economic and sustainable development and human rights of millions of people worldwide. The still ongoing pandemic has nothing but deepened the already deteriorated international security environment, lowering the threshold for the use of conventional weapons. It is in these unprecedented times precisely that we have to pay particular attention to the effective implementation of the Treaty and its universalization, as we need more states on board, in this common endeavor, especially those that are among the key stakeholders in global arms trade.

Moreover, we believe it would of great significance to scout further modalities of achieving greater synergy between various international instruments and initiatives in this domain, such as the UN Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons in All Its Aspects (PoA), the International Tracing Instrument, the Firearms Protocol, and other relevant initiatives and forums.

Montenegro remains strongly committed to implementing the Arms Trade Treaty fully and responsibly, at the national and international level, and is a strong advocate for its universalization. We submit our national reports on the implementation of the Treaty regularly and timely, and we encourage all states to do so and thus to show transparency, while contributing, in good time, to the financial liquidity of the ATT, as one of the key preconditions for its successful implementation.

We welcome the enhanced focus on better understanding of the gender impact of armed violence in the context of the ATT, as the first arms-regulation treaty to recognize the link between conventional arms transfers and gender-based violence, thus contributing greatly to the elimination of violence against the most vulnerable groups – the majority of the being women and girls. In this regard, Montenegro is actively working towards increasing the understanding of

gender-specific impacts of the illicit arms trade in small arms and light weapons (SALW), with an aim of improving national policies and programmes.

Montenegro is also undertaking legislative changes in order to bring our laws and procedures even further in line with highest international standards, thus ensuring full compliance with the ATT and other regional and international obligations. In addition, we are working hard to strengthen the stockpile security and management segment, with a number of specific activities realized in this area.

We likewise highlight the Franco-German initiative on SALW, a success story, which has helped countries put in place comprehensive and sustainable mechanisms to identify, prevent, prosecute, and control the illegal possession, misuse and trafficking of firearms, ammunition and explosives. Montenegro has adopted a new strategic document in this domain, with very precise actions and concrete deadlines, implementing, in the meantime, various projects with numerous international, regional and bilateral partners.

Montenegro, as a credible partner, stands ready to add to all efforts aimed at the full and effective implementation of the ATT, as well as to developing relevant policies and highest standards in this domain, in order to make the world a better place for us all.