

## **Seventh Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty Geneva, 30 August - 3 September 2021**

Statement for General Debate by the Republic of Korea

First of all, the Republic of Korea would like to convey its gratitude for the CSP7 President's efforts during the inter-sessional period to adopt the draft decisions that CSP6 could not adopt through the silence procedure. The WGETI revised multi-year work plans, among others, served as a sound basis for the Working Group discussion in April and the informal consultations in June and CSP7. Our deep gratitude also goes to the Secretariat for its hard work, without which we could never have been able to materialize an efficient continuation of our work.

The Republic of Korea believes that the Arms Trade Treaty community has chartered a new working method during the COVID-19 pandemic. From the decision to carry out CSP6 in written form and to the conclusion to hold CSP7 in a hybrid format, States Parties to the ATT upheld the vital principle of business continuity and inclusiveness within the limits of the pandemic situation. The Republic of Korea welcomes the first-ever hybrid CSP7 and wishes it the best of success.

The Republic of Korea is convinced that the efforts to achieve the goal of the ATT—which is to establish the highest possible common standards of regulating conventional arms trade and eradicate the diversion of illicit conventional arms—should be maintained and reinforced during the COVID-19 times. As a reliable and long-standing supporter of the ATT, the Republic of Korea has been implementing strict export control to prevent the illicit transfer and diversion of conventional arms while respecting the principles of international humanitarian law and international human rights law. We believe that continued and concerted efforts to that end by all ATT stakeholders will contribute to international and regional peace, security and stability,

and the reduction of human suffering.

We warmly welcome the new States Parties to CSP7: the People's Republic of China, the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan, and Niue. The Republic of Korea has translated the ATT Universalization Toolkit and the "Welcome Pack" into ten Asian languages last year to contribute to the universalization efforts toward the Asia-Pacific region. We shared these documents on the ATT website with the help of the Secretariat and hope all stakeholders will find these useful for their own bilateral and multilateral outreach activities. We will continue to work on the universalization effort on our end.

Concerning the CSP7 President's working paper, the Republic of Korea views that the President's recommendations have provided further grounds for a focused discussion on reinforcing the stockpile management of small arms and light weapons and reducing diversion. The Republic of Korea believes these recommendations, with their adoption at CSP7, will be meaningful when incorporated into the current or upcoming work plans of the Effective Treaty Implementation sub-working groups. And we support the President's suggestion.

The Republic of Korea welcomes the discussions in the April online Working Group meeting on the Effective Implementation of the Treaty. In particular, the voluntary draft paper on the elements of a risk assessment process, suggested by the facilitator of the sub-Working Group for Article 11, could serve as another excellent reference paper.

Having concerns about the dropping rates of annual report submissions of the ATT, the Republic of Korea would like to stress the importance of States Parties' reporting obligations and the role of transparency and information exchange in the prevention of diversion, as was highlighted by the Argentinian presidency of CSP6. The Republic of Korea believes that the revised templates for the initial and annual reports add

coherence and clarity and hopes that States Parties approve them. We once again welcome the establishment of the Diversion Information Exchange Forum and look forward to having an inclusive and practical discussion at the forum in the CSP8 cycle.

Last but not least, the Republic of Korea believes it is essential for States Parties to pay their full financial contribution in a timely manner to sustain the work of the ATT. Furthermore, we believe the Voluntary Trust Fund and the Sponsorship Programme are practical tools to incentivize states, particularly developing countries outside the ATT, to join and help implement the Treaty. In this regard, the Republic of Korea is pleased to inform States Parties of its contribution of another 100,000 USD for the Voluntary Trust Fund and the Sponsorship Programme this year.

Once again, the Republic of Korea looks forward to fully supporting and participating in the upcoming discussions of the Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty.

Thank you.

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