

**Statement of Romania**  
**at the Seventh Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty**  
**(Geneva, Switzerland, 30 August 2021)**

Mr. President,

At the outset, please allow me to join other speakers in thanking you for organizing the Seventh Conference of States Parties in this hybrid setting, which allows a broad participation of all the ATT stakeholders. I express my delegation's appreciation for the highly diligent and constructive way you led the preparatory process of this conference and I assure you of our full support and cooperation.

We also extend our gratitude to the ATT Secretariat, to the members of the Bureau and to the office holders, who have worked tirelessly to ensure that, under your able stewardship, progress continues to be made in the ATT even in these exceptional times marked by the COVID-19 pandemic.

While Romania fully shares the points raised in the European Union's statement, we would like to underline some aspects in our national capacity:

Romania welcomes the flag theme chosen by the Presidency, strengthening efforts to eradicate the illicit trade in SALW and ensure efficient stockpile management, and expresses its full support for the proposed set of possible areas that were put forward for States Parties' consideration, for further inquiry and exchange or longer-term implementation.

Romania has constantly developed laws, regulations and administrative procedures to enhance its national export control system, an essential component of our foreign policy that has at its very heart the international and regional peace, as well as stability and sustainable development. The Romanian policy on SALW transfers is convergent with the goals envisaged in the ATT, the UN Programme of Action, the International Tracing Instrument, the UN Firearms Protocol, and in regional initiatives within the European Union, OSCE and Wassenaar Arrangement. We attach great importance to predictability and responsibility in SALW transfers in order to prevent destabilizing accumulation or misuse of such weapons. We stand ready to exchange good practices on the matter with the entire ATT community, in WGETI or other relevant subsidiary bodies, learn from other partners' experience and continue to adapt our export control system to further developments in the area.

Mr. President,

The widespread availability of conventional arms, in particular SALW and their ammunition, is a key enabler of armed violence and conflict. Illicit trade in, diversion and unauthorized use of, conventional arms continue to be among the greatest challenges that the world is facing today, causing unspeakable human suffering and representing a serious threat to international and regional peace, security and stability. Romania considers that the ATT is one of the most relevant instruments that provide an effective framework to counter this threat, promoting cooperation, accountability and responsible action in arms transfers. The Seventh Conference of States Parties

provides an opportunity to reaffirm our commitments to advancing the object and purpose of the Treaty.

In order for the Treaty's provisions to have a real impact on the ground, the ATT community needs to continue its efforts towards achieving the treaty universalization and its full and effective implementation. It remains our firm believe that cooperation at all levels represents a strong pillar in the fight against illicit trade in conventional arms, and we take this opportunity to reiterate our gratitude to the regional organizations, civil society and industry for their contribution to this collective endeavor.

In these exceptional times, tangible progress towards the universalization and implementation of the ATT is even more of a challenge. However, Romania considers that the three working groups have managed to hold meaningful discussions on substantive issues during the CSP7 cycle, within the timeframe that has been allocated to each of them. We look forward to discussing the recommendations contained in the reports drafted by the respective office holders in the upcoming days.

We welcome the States that have become parties to the Treaty since our last CSP, Afghanistan, China, Niue and Sao Tome and Principe. At the same time, we note with regret that a high number of States still remain outside, including some of the major arms exporters and importers. We are of the view that only through universal adherence the Treaty will be able to fully meet its objectives. In this context, Romania welcomes all the universalization efforts undertaken so far by you, Mr. President, as well as by other stakeholders, and we reaffirm our commitment to continuing promoting understanding of the values and norms of the ATT in States that are not yet Parties to the Treaty.

Romania strongly believes that transparency is an essential component of the ATT. If States Parties behave in a predictable and transparent way, including through an open approach to arms transfers, they can build mutual confidence and prevent conflict. Transparency should not only be linked with reporting, but it should also be reflected in all the processes, discussions and proposals aimed at the fulfilment of the objectives of the Treaty. We note with disappointment that a worrying number of States Parties have not submitted their initial and annual reports yet, therefore not living up to their reporting obligation. We consider that the continuously declining rate in annual reporting is a sign of concern and stresses the importance of continuing our collective endeavors to address this situation. We acknowledge that many States Parties may experience difficulties in meeting their reporting obligation, therefore we encourage them to use the available support tools to prepare their initial and annual reports, or to require assistance through the existing mechanisms or bilaterally, from other stakeholders.

We also express our concern with regard to the financial situation. The full and timely payment of national contributions is the only sustainable option for a good functioning of the ATT. We support the proposed procedure that seeks to establish the necessary arrangements for States in arrears to settle their financial obligations.

I would like to conclude my intervention by reiterating my country's availability to help States requiring assistance in implementing the provision of the Treaty, both in a national capacity, as well as part of the team involved in the European Union's ATT outreach program.

Thank you, Mr. President.