

NATIONAL STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

**7th CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO
THE ARMS TRADE TREATY**

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 30 AUG – 3 SEP 2021

Mr President,

Distinguished Colleagues,

1. Singapore expresses our appreciation to Ambassador Lansana Gberie of Sierra Leone, President of the 7th Conference of States Parties (CSP7), and Mr Dumisani Dladla, Head of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Secretariat, for their work in steering the preparatory process for the 7th CSP despite the challenges of COVID-19.

Mr President,

2. Singapore recognises the importance of regulating international trade in conventional arms in order to prevent and eradicate its illicit trade and diversion. Besides participating in the CSP annually since 2015, we have consistently contributed to other international efforts to combat the illicit trade in arms, such as the Programme of Action (PoA) and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW). We have also contributed to efforts to promote arms transparency, with regular annual submissions to the UN Register of Conventional Arms (UNROCA) and our participation in the UNROCA Group of Governmental Experts in 2019. Singapore looks forward to more opportunities to engage and work with the international community to prevent illicit trade in conventional arms.

3. As a global transit and transshipment hub, Singapore is cognisant of the role we play in the regulation of the international arms trade. Singapore has in place a robust export control regime underpinned by our Strategic Goods (Control) Act and Regulation of Imports and Exports Act. Singapore also complies with all UN Security Council arms embargoes to prevent the direct or indirect supply, sale, or transfer of arms to unauthorised users. We will continue to review and update our export control regime regularly to ensure that we are compliant with our international obligations on arms transfers.

Mr President,

4. Singapore firmly holds the view that States must work towards the eradication of illicit arms trade. At the same time, we also believe that the interests of States in the legitimate international trade in conventional arms cannot be disregarded. Every State has the sovereign right to acquire conventional arms to exercise its right to self-defence. We must therefore strike a balance between fulfilling the obligations under the ATT and not impeding the legitimate international trade in conventional arms.

Mr President,

5. As the ATT enters its seventh year, Singapore reaffirms our continued commitment to its objectives. While the pandemic has forced us to change some working methods, we are glad that it has not disrupted the momentum of our work. We look forward to resuming in-person engagements with other States at the CSP as soon as practicable.

Thank you.