



## **European Union**

### **Third Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty Geneva, 11-15 September 2017 Statement for a Thematic discussion on ATT and SDGs**

Mr. President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States. The Candidate Countries Turkey, the former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia\*, Montenegro\*, Serbia\* and Albania\*, the country of the Stabilisation and Association Process and potential candidate Bosnia and Herzegovina, as well as the Republic of Moldova and Georgia align themselves with this statement.

The EU welcomes this thematic discussion on the Arms Trade Treaty and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) bearing in mind the nexus between security and development in building and preserving peaceful societies and the need to promote mutually reinforcing policies.

The EU played a leading role in the process towards the adoption of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We remain committed to implementing in full the 2030 Agenda at home and internationally and accomplishing its 17 Sustainable Development Goals. The SDGs are also a cross cutting theme in the implementation of the 2016 EU Global Strategy, which provides a vision for the EU's foreign and security policy for the years to come.

The SDGs and the Arms Trade Treaty have a lot in common. Both aim at peace-building as a priority for sustainable development. Therefore, universalisation and effective implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty can contribute to better achieving the SDGs, especially targets 5.2 and 16.4.

SDG 5, gender equality, which is at the core of EU values, is critical for achieving peace and security, equitable economic progress and sustainable development. Gender equality is correlated with increased prosperity and stability in many societies. In this respect, the implementation of Article 7.4 of the ATT contributes to eliminating all forms of gender based violence and violence against women and children.

SDG 16, reduction of illicit arms flows and combatting all forms of organised crime, is another important topic given the grave threats they pose to many societies. SDG 16 is most relevant for the ATT in the context of regulating arms trade and preventing the diversion of arms and

ammunition. Goal 16 is also about transparent, responsible and accountable institutions. Together with the UN Programme of Action against the illicit trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons, the ATT is well placed to contribute to the achievement of SDG 16 and bring about effective change.

The need to assess the risk of diversion is one of the eight risk criteria set out in the EU Common Position of 2008 defining common rules governing the control of exports of military technology and equipment of the EU Member States. EU Member States also assess criteria concerning human rights, taking into account the risk of gender based violence, and violation of International Humanitarian Law. We would like to encourage all States to assess all export licences against the risk of diversion, especially with respect to gender based violence.

Finally, allow me to signal that the EU will fund a thematic symposium on Small Arms and Light Weapons and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development that will be organised by the UN Office for Disarmament Affairs (UNODA) and the Small Arms Survey on 25-26 October 2017 in New York. More information will be provided at the side event on Thursday.

Thank you, Mr. President

\*The former Yugoslav Republic of Macedonia, Montenegro, Serbia and Albania continue to be part of the Stabilisation and Association Process.