



European Union

Third Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty Geneva, 11-15 September 2017 Statement on Universalisation

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.

First of all, let me thank Ambassador Klaus Korhonen of Finland as well as the previous ATT President, Ambassador Emmanuel Imohe of Nigeria, for their valuable efforts to promote universal adherence to this important Treaty. We also appreciate the outreach efforts conducted by members of the Bureau, other States Parties as well as regional, international and non-governmental organisations.

The European Union would like to reiterate its call to all UN Member States to sign, ratify or accede to the Arms Trade Treaty as soon as possible to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and ammunition and prevent their diversion. We are convinced that a broader universal adherence to the Treaty will increase global security and positively contribute to sustainable economic development. We welcome the latest ratifications by Benin, Cabo Verde, Honduras, Madagascar and the Republic of Korea as well as the announcement by Haiti, Malaysia, Angola and Kazakhstan that it intends to ratify the Treaty soon. We encourage all Signatory States to advance their ratification processes.

The EU and its Member States continue to make an active contribution to universalisation through bilateral demarches and various outreach and assistance activities. In the context of the EU's outreach programme implemented by the German Federal Office for Economic Affairs and Export Control (BAFA), five regional seminars were organised in 2014-15. A total of 113 countries participated in these seminars which focused on showcasing regional best practices, encouraging regional cooperation and strengthening regional arms control structures.

The new EU Council Decision adopted on 29 May 2017 foresees similar activities for regional outreach purposes, to be held both in the nine countries with whom a long-term partnership has already been established under the Outreach Programme and in further nine new countries and involving both regional organisations and neighbouring countries.

We encourage the incoming President and all actors to continue to promote the Arms Trade Treaty with the aim to further increase the number of States Parties, including in regions such as Asia where the number of ratifications is currently low. We recall that EU Member States, France and Italy, put forward a proposal at the Second Conference of States Parties to consider a troika system for the ATT Presidency in order to enhance the coherence and efficiency of universalisation efforts.

Thank you, Mr. President

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