



EU Statement
Treaty Universalisation
Arms Trade Treaty
Ninth Conference of State Parties
Geneva, 21-25 August 2023

Madam President,

I have the honour to speak on behalf of the European Union and its Member States.

[Alignment clause]

The EU warmly welcomes Gabon and Andorra as new States Parties to the ATT. As the rate of ratifications and accessions decreases, we must redouble our efforts on universalization. It is clear that low-hanging fruits have already been picked, and as challenges evolve, so must our approach.

In this light, the EU thanks the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on Treaty Universalization, Ambassador Seong-mee YOON of the Republic of Korea and Ambassador Thomas GÖBEL of Germany, for presenting their recommendations to enhance the work of the Working Group. We fully support the recommendations and encourage CSP to endorse them. The switch to a multi-year program of work is a necessary and realistic way ahead. A proposal to build primarily on the political will of States which already signed the ATT to pursue ratification and national implementation, is also viable. At the same time, focus should be also kept on countries which play a leading role in arms trade, whether exporters, importers, or transit countries, given the political visibility of their accession as well as real impact on arms trade worldwide. The EU calls on these to ratify the ATT as soon as possible. As a regional organization, the EU fully appreciates the recognition of role of such organizations in supporting universalization efforts. We also believe that the concept of a network of regional champions brings tangible additional value in enhancing bilateral confidence and understanding of regional conditions.

The EU and its Member States continue to pursue actively ATT universalisation through EU outreach programmes and in bilateral dialogues. The Third Phase of the ATT Outreach Project funded by the EU, and implemented by BAFA and Expertise France, explicitly focuses on outreach to states that are not yet party to the Treaty. In the same vein, EU outreach programme on the promotion of effective arms export controls, currently closing its 5th iteration and about to be extended, covers Eastern and South-Eastern Europe, Caucasus, Central Asia, North Africa, Mediterranean, and Southern Neighbourhood of the EU. We believe that solid national framework for arms export controls will effectively bring those states closer to the purpose and objective of the ATT and in the future may prompt decisions to accede the Treaty.

Given multiplicity of dimensions and tools, the EU stands ready to seek and support synergies between EU's own outreach activities and other individual, regional, cross-regional and global initiatives, including VTF, ATT sponsorships, and works of the ATT Secretariat.

Thank you, Madam President.