



Statement of Georgia
Delivered at the Second Conference of States Parties of the Arms Trade
Treaty
Geneva, Switzerland 22-26 August 2016

Mr. President,
Excellences,
Distinguished Delegates,

At the outset, let me congratulate you, Ambassador Imohe, on your election as the President of the Second Conference of the States Parties to the ATT. I wish you a fruitful tenure on this important job and assure you of the Georgian delegation's full support. Hereby, I would also like to commend the Secretariat for their valuable efforts in organizing our conference. Let me also express our appreciation to the government of Switzerland for the support extended to our conference, as well as for hosting the ATT secretariat.

We all agree that adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty by the UN General Assembly in April 2013 was a landmark achievement as the legal norms on international transfers of conventional arms were established for the first time. Adoption and entry into force of the Treaty was very important first step that has to be followed by further efforts. We are still facing numerous challenges and much work is ahead of us to make the Treaty fully functional and safeguard its effective implementation, which on its turn will contribute to reduction of risks and threats to the global security. In this regard, universalisation of the Treaty bears a particular importance.

Georgia has been a firm and active supporter of the ATT process from its beginning. In December 2006 Georgia as a co-sponsor, together with the other 152 UN Member States, initiated a process aimed at developing the international legally binding Arms Trade Treaty. Since September 2014 it had been among the signatories of the Treaty. Considering the great importance of ATT, Georgia made every effort to expedite the domestic procedures to ratify it. I am proud to stress that just few days ago the Treaty entered into force for Georgia. Subsequently, this is the first conference my country is attending as a State Party to the Arms Trade Treaty.

Finally, I would like to wish all of us a successful and productive work and reconfirm that Georgia stands fully committed to cooperate constructively and contribute to the implementation of the Treaty and its universalization.

Thank you.