

Statement of Germany – Treaty Implementation - CSP9

Madam President,

Let me begin by thanking the chair of the WGETI, Ambassador Sanchez de Lerin, and Mr. Rob Wensley of South Africa for facilitating the discussions of WGETI and its sub-working groups. Germany fully aligns itself with the statement made by the European Union.

Mr. Chair,

Allow me to highlight two topics of particular importance to Germany:

First, by joining the ATT, States Parties have committed to take effective measures to prevent the diversion of conventional arms. We believe that post-delivery cooperation is a most effective tool in the toolbox of measures aimed at doing so -- building confidence between importing and exporting states at the same time. Therefore, we fully support the proposal of adding concrete operational steps on introducing and implementing post-delivery cooperation as a living document of a voluntary nature to existing guidance on preventing diversion. Germany believes that preventing diversion and post-delivery coordination in particular should remain an important focus in future discussions on treaty implementation. We welcome that the draft proposal on the configuration and substance of the WGETI explicitly includes post-delivery measures.

Mr. Chair, please allow me to now take a few moments to speak about the Annex D of your paper. We commend your work on this important issue as you comprehensively describe what we believe is necessary for setting up the ATT's program of work for the years to come.

While the current work with its focus on specific articles has led to most valuable contributions in the past, we are convinced that only a holistic approach to practical Treaty implementation prepares the Treaty for the challenges ahead.

Therefore, Germany fully supports the proposal tabled. Allow me to underline some aspects of the approach we deem particularly important:

Firstly, focusing on practical implementation of the Treaty by State Parties may not only provide best practices to be drawn from. It may also identify implementation challenges to be tackled through targeted support from ATT internal support mechanisms.

Secondly, discussions in previous meetings on treaty implementation have highlighted many crosscutting topics that the WGETI may look at in greater detail in future. With the focus on the internal processes during the first decade, we will now need to look at the whole life-span of weapons and their respective ammunition and therefore expand our view to the connecting programs and processes outside of the Treaty as well. In addition, we believe there is a seamless transition starting from a State's interest in joining the Treaty towards Treaty implementation -- both require individual, tailored support for States. Therefore, establishing an in-depth exchange between WGETI and WGTU to sequence and streamline the support to States in an optimal way is essential.

Third, the proposed working arrangements may offer the flexibility needed to have structured discussions while allowing time to discuss ad hoc implementation issues.

Madam President, Mr. Chair, the proposal stipulates that now is the appropriate time to "shift gear" and re-calibrate the Treaty implementation discussions. This process, however, is not like an automatic transmission. It will require manual input of us all to fill the proposal before us with substance and translate it into a multi-year work plan - to keep the engine of change from stalling. Germany is committed to actively participating in this joint effort.

Thank you, Madam President.