

Statement of the Federal Republic of Germany at the Second Conference of States Parties to the ATT, Geneva, 22.08.2016

Delivered by Peter Fischer, Deputy Director General, Federal Foreign Office

Mr. President,

I am delighted to address this conference. Allow me to begin by saying that the German delegation fully aligns itself with the statement of the European Union.

The Arms Trade Treaty is a landmark document. For the first time, it establishes binding international norms on the global trade of arms. Thus it can prevent irresponsible and illicit trade in conventional arms. It can also improve transparency and increase accountability in the international arms trade. I am happy to state that, in the course of past years, we have made considerable progress.

At our conference in Cancún last August we took important decisions defining the institutional layout of the ATT. At our extraordinary meeting this February we found answers to many technical questions. We should use this momentum to achieve an effective implementation and the universalization of the ATT.

Our present meeting should not merely decide on the remaining technical matters. Rather, it should create the necessary procedures leading up to CSP 3 and put us in the position to take up work on matters of substance.

We ought to equip the ATT with the tools it needs to face its key challenges: universalization and implementation. In Germany's view, universalization is essential for the Treaty's success. And one of the key instruments to achieve this is the Voluntary Trust Fund. This trust fund shall provide assistance to States to help them fully implement the Treaty. Hence, Germany proposes to establish the Trust Fund as soon as possible. It would be best to do it at this conference.

Let me come to the issue of reporting. Germany believes that transparent reporting based on universally accepted templates is vital. We highly appreciate the work done under Ambassador Beijer's leadership. It is good that many States have already submitted both their initial and their annual reports. Germany did so as well, using the templates recommended by CSP 1. Still, our work on ensuring really good reporting is not finished. Reporting under this Treaty should be meaningful, readily understood and comparable. We want to avoid a kind of a patchwork. Therefore, we invite States Parties to immediately resume our work towards an agreement on reporting that will be accepted and followed by all States Parties.

Mr. President, we should now start to fill the ATT with life. This includes starting a substantial preparatory process for CSP3. Germany welcomes the proposal to establish working groups towards this ends.

I wish to conclude by reaffirming that Germany remains fully committed to supporting the effective implementation and universalization of the ATT. Our citizens expect us to make further progress against the unregulated arms trade.

Thank you Mr. President.

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