



Statement

by

Delegation of Germany

**Third Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty CSP3**

**International Assistance**

Geneva, 14 September 2017

Mr. President,

I would like to align Germany with the statement of the EU and now add some remarks in my national capacity.

Germany has long supported national and multilateral initiatives to promote universalization and implementation of the ATT. These include the EU ATT Outreach Project and national implementation support as well as the two Sponsorship Programmes for government and civil society representatives. Let me now particularly focus on the Voluntary Trust Fund.

At the outset, I would like to stress Germany's delight that the VTF has come to life in such a remarkable fashion over the past year. The Selection Committee has made excellent use of the initial voluntary contributions, and I would like to thank Ambassador Biontino for his expert leadership. We welcome the diversity of regions and actors involved in the projects approved so far. Germany sincerely thanks the applicant parties, including their supporters from civil society and regional organizations, for their diligent work in preparing these proposals.

It is now our shared duty to build on this milestone and maintain the Fund's sound financial basis. I am very pleased to announce that Germany pledges 300,000 Euros for the second project cycle of the VTF. We strongly encourage all State Parties in a position to do so to make a contribution themselves and enable more implementation support in the future.

With regard to VTF administration, Germany approves of a mandate for the VTF to explore the most appropriate and sustainable option to address challenges to management capacity. This is an important issue we need to address better sooner than later. We would like to warmly thank the ATT Secretariat for its vigorous management of the VTF so far.

Moreover, Germany strongly supports the VTF outreach activities envisioned for the coming months. They will foster understanding of the VTF among prospective applicants and most likely improve the quality of future proposals.

Finally, we are looking forward to incorporate lessons learnt from the first project phase and thus enable the VTF to respond more adequately to the needs and priorities of both its donors and its applicants.

Thank you, Mr. President.