

**GHANA'S STATEMENT ON TREATY UNIVERSALIZATION AT
3RD CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES (CSP3) TO THE
ARMS TRADE TREATY (ATT) ON 14TH SEPTEMBER, 2017
AS DELIVERED BY JOHNSON ASANTE-TWUM**

Madam Vice President, we associate ourselves with the statement delivered by ECOWAS yesterday as well as the statement made by Sierra Leone and wish to make the following brief comments and suggestions on Treaty Universalization;

At the outset, permit me to greatly appreciate the tireless efforts of the Co-chairs of the Working Group on Treaty Universalization— Ambassador Korhonen of Finland who also doubles as the President of the CSP3 and Ambassador Imohe of Nigeria- especially your efforts in the regional visitations to ensure that more states ratify the treaty as well as the inter-sessional meetings that have led to the draft working paper before us today. You may not see most of the States that you have visited ratify the Treaty immediately but there is ample evidence, from what we are hearing in this meeting that the seeds you have sown will bear fruit in the not too distant future. We also wish to acknowledge the technical support from the Head of the Secretariat Mr. Dumisani Dladla and the rest of the staff even on your travel across the various regions to get States to ratify the ATT.

Madam Vice President, whilst the regional approach to the treaty universalization is excellent and commendable, we wish to suggest that a great deal of attention be given to the other Sub-regional Blocs in Africa to ensure that they emulate the good example of ECOWAS Member States and become party to the treaty. From the

statistics shown by the Secretariat relative to the treaty universalization, it is imperative that a lot more need to be done in the other regions as well.

We remain convinced that the Arms Trade Treaty is a robust and effective international instrument which, when universalized and effectively implemented will be the highest possible common standard for regulating international trade in conventional arms and ammunition, prevent their diversion, prevent needless killings of innocent civilians and ensure global peace and security as well as reduce poverty. We are also not oblivious of the negative impact of illicit arms trade on women, children and the vulnerable especially in marginalized societies.

On the strength of the above, Madam Vice President, we will like to suggest a multifaceted approach to the treaty universalization which we believe when adopted, will ensure that a maximum number of Non-State Parties will be brought under the fold. We therefore wish to propose that in addition to the approach already outlined in the draft paper, the Co-Chairs should, in consultation with the various regional organizations identify what we will call ***Regional ATT Champions***.

The identified "Champions" would have to be sensitized and tasked with the mandate of universalizing the treaty in their respective regions or beyond within a specified period.

These proposed ***Regional ATT Champions*** could be sitting Heads of States who have earned the respect of their peers and who have signed and ratified the Treaty, or former Heads of States,

former Secretaries-General of the United Nations, former or current Heads of regional organizations.

This way, there will be simultaneous approach or efforts targeted at treaty universalization to ensure that a maximum number of Non-State Parties ratify the Treaty within the shortest possible time for all of us to enjoy the benefit we anticipate in a robust, balance and effective international instrument that will ensure transparent and responsible global trade in conventional arms and ammunition.

Madam Vice President, in the African Region, Ghana already boast of 3 former Heads of State and one former Secretary General of the United Nations among a host of others from the other countries and continents who could be engaged for the purpose of becoming ***Regional ATT Champions*** as we are proposing.

We gladly welcome Benin, Cape Verde, Madagascar, the Republic of Korea (South Korea) and Honduras and encourage States who have not yet ratified the treaty to take the needed steps to do so.

I thank you for the opportunity
