

**Statement to be delivered by the Co-operative Republic of Guyana at the  
General Debate of the Ninth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade  
Treaty**

**Geneva, Switzerland**

**August 2023**

**Madame President,**

Thank you for giving me the floor.

I wish to express my gratitude to you for convening this Conference and to the ATT Secretariat for their continuous role in supporting and assisting States Parties in implementing the Treaty. Guyana welcomed the thematic discussion on the 'Role of Industry in Responsible International Transfers of Conventional Arms' and found it most insightful.

As the second country globally and the first from the Americas to ratify the Treaty, Guyana reaffirms its commitment to preventing and combatting the illicit flow of arms. We have maintained a strong position in support of the Treaty, which included playing an active role in the negotiating process leading up to its adoption and in continuing advocacy for the universalization of the Treaty. Guyana takes this opportunity, therefore, to welcome the acceptance and ratification of the Treaty by Gabon and Andorra in September and December 2022, respectively. We call upon other States to join the Treaty.

Regarding the implementation of the Treaty, Guyana has focused on combatting the illicit trade in small arms and light weapons, which poses a serious threat to public safety and security and to international peace and security. We have taken several measures to address this issue, which have included strengthening of key legislation, enhancing border control, implementing a marking and tracing system for firearms to enhance accountability and traceability, implementing disarmament programmes to encourage

individuals to voluntarily surrender their illegal firearms, and participating in regional and international initiatives to combat the illicit trade of these conventional arms.

**Madame President,**

Recognising the transnational nature of this issue, Guyana has been actively involved in collaborative efforts to strengthen regional cooperation and seek assistance from international partners. International cooperation and assistance play a crucial role in combatting the illicit trade of small and light weapons. As Guyana continues to implement the ATT, we avail ourselves of any international assistance provided by the ATT Secretariat and offered by other States Parties.

On the point of contributions, Guyana is pleased to report its fulfillment of the financial obligations under the Treaty with the payment of its assessed contributions.

**In conclusion, Madame President,** Guyana remains committed to efforts to implement the ATT, including through engagements with regional and international partners. We also look forward to having fruitful discussions during this Conference and participating in the ‘Diversion Information Exchange Forum’.

I thank you.