

Ireland – General Statement

ATT CSP9, 21 – 25 Aug

Geneva

Thank you Madam. President.

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you on assuming the Presidency of the Ninth Conference of States Parties to the ATT. It is worth noting that you are the first woman President of the treaty, an important and positive milestone for all of us here today to welcome. I would like to thank you, Ambassador YOON, and your team, as well as the ATT Secretariat and the working group chairs for the excellent work conducted throughout this CSP cycle. I assure you of our delegation's full support in your endeavours towards a successful Ninth Conference of States Parties.

Ireland aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union, and would like to offer the following remarks in a national capacity.

Ireland reiterates its support for the ATT, and its object and purpose to reduce human suffering through establishing the highest possible common international standards for regulating the international trade in conventional arms, and preventing their diversion. The ATT forms a crucial part of a comprehensive international regime that, when fully universalised and effectively implemented, will help contribute to peace, stability, security, and development, including facilitating the realisation of the Sustainable Development Goals. With this in mind, we should redouble our collective efforts towards improving Treaty universalization rates; ensuring timely, comprehensive and public initial and annual reporting; and realising effective Treaty implementation more broadly.

Regarding universalization, Ireland welcomes the recent accessions of Andorra and Gabon to the ATT, bringing the total number of States Parties to 113, and we thank the WGTU Co-Chairs and Germany in particular for their efforts with regards to the draft proposal on enhancing the work of the ATT Working Group on Treaty Universalization. We fully support the paper's recommendations, and hope that a refreshed approach to universalization activities can reinvigorate treaty accession and ratification rates, in particular in regions with low membership.

Madam President,

We thank you and welcome your paper on the Role of Industry in Responsible International Transfers of Conventional Arms and share your view that the practical experience of those in the arms industry as well as relevant private sector entities would be a highly valuable asset to the ATT's work. We believe the engagement of industry and the private sector can support our efforts to prevent the diversion of conventional arms, and advance our collective goal of ensuring a responsible international arms trade.

In this vein, Ireland was pleased to work alongside our distinguished colleagues from Austria and Mexico to develop a working paper on Responsible Business Conduct and the ATT. We believe the existing synergies between the ATT and the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights provide a valuable opportunity for states, international organisations, industry and civil society to exchange best practices and develop relevant guidance towards ensuring responsible business conduct with respect to the international trade in conventional arms.

Madam President,

We also wanted to take this opportunity to thank the Management Committee for their dedication and efforts, in particular with regard to their draft proposal on the review of the ATT programme of work. We believe the paper has captured the sentiment in the room throughout the intersessional process, including by highlighting that form should follow function in this exercise, and the desire to shift from theoretical discussions to practical implementation challenges, and the 'real impact that the Treaty makes'. We look forward to discussing the recommendations in further detail throughout the week.

Madam President,

As always, Ireland would emphasise the importance of a gender-responsive approach in arms control. The disproportionate gendered impacts of armed violence and conflict have been widely recognised at the international level in various human rights, humanitarian and disarmament frameworks, among others. There is clear evidence highlighting the correlation between illicit arms flows and the rate of violent crimes and intimidation against women and girls, in both conflict and non-conflict affected states. We know that gender-responsive arms control policies and programmes have proven to be more successful and sustainable. We must learn from this experience, and strengthen efforts to ensure women's

full, equal and meaningful participation, and ensure a gender-sensitive approach to programming. Effectively ensuring this is key to helping to achieve gender equality, sustainable development, and lasting peace and security. The importance of an age-sensitive approach to programming, must also be highlighted – noting the distinct impact of armed conflict upon children and youth.

Importantly, the ATT, through its gender-based violence risk assessment criteria, formally recognises the link between the arms trade, ammunition, and gender-based violence. The Treaty obliges States Parties to assess the risk of whether the conventional arms and ammunition covered by the Treaty may be used to commit or facilitate serious acts of GBV or serious acts of violence against women and children. In this regard, and in the spirit of encouraging knowledge sharing, we encourage States Parties to collect and share gender-disaggregated data to better inform licensing officials when considering the ATT's GBV criteria, as per the decision taken at CSP5. In this light, we welcome the Argentinian working paper and questionnaire, and envisioned good practice guide, which will be a valuable resource in preventing GBV linked to the use of conventional weapons. We also welcome the working paper submitted by Mexico, Spain and the Small Arms Survey entitled "Mitigating the risk of armed violence against people on the basis of their actual or perceived sexual orientation, gender identity, gender expression and sex characteristics (SOGIESC) through the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)", and look forward to discussing it in detail.

Thank you Madam. President.