



**THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO GENERAL STATEMENT
DELIVERED AT THE NINTH CONFERENCE OF
STATES PARTIES (CSP9) TO THE ARMS TRADE
TREATY – GENEVA, SWITZERLAND
21 – 25 AUGUST 2023**

States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty,
Signatory States,
Observer States,
International and Regional Organizations,
Civil Society, Industry,
NGOs,
Distinguished delegates,

Madam President,

At the onset, allow me on behalf of the Government of the Kingdom of Lesotho's delegation, to congratulate you, on your election as the President of the 9th Conference of States Parties (CSP9). The Kingdom of Lesotho affirms her unwavering support as you lead us towards a successful outcome of this Conference and applauds the commendable preparatory work done by different working groups.

The Kingdom of Lesotho aligns itself with the statement delivered by Nigeria on behalf of the African Group.

Madam President,

As 2023 marks the 10th anniversary of the entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty, it is necessary for all States Parties to continue to show dedication towards full and effective implementation of the Treaty. The milestones reached in the period leading to the 10th anniversary are commendable and these would not have been possible had it not been for the hard work and commitment by all stakeholders in their various responsibilities towards the effective implementation of the ATT.

Madam President,

Yet again, in this CSP as well, we wish to express our gratitude to the ATT secretariat, its partners and all donors for providing financial and

technical assistance to States, more particularly the Least Developed Countries like Lesotho. It is these initiatives that led to the submission of the initial report as well as all pending annual reports by Lesotho in June this year. Lesotho benefited from the ATT sponsorship programme during the CSP9 cycle and that opportunity played a big role in fulfilling her reporting obligations under the ATT as well as being exposed to other areas of assistance within the ATT. Lesotho is also among States that have applied for assistance from Voluntary Trust Fund aimed at creating ATT awareness to stakeholders, strengthening national authorities as well as developing ATT Implementation Roadmap.

Madam President,

Currently Lesotho is beset with a challenge of high rates of small arms proliferation. (This situation) is really testing the country's stability and peace. It is therefore incumbent on us as States to renew our commitment in promoting the universalisation and effective implementation of ATT, so that we can curb this major security challenge, which remains a threat to human lives, especially among women and children.

Madam President,

Lesotho is committed to the principles of maintenance of international peace and security, as well as to promote accountability and transparency towards responsible transfers of conventional arms. These will be achieved by establishing comprehensive regulations regarding export and import controls of conventional arms.

Madam President,

My country welcomes any form of technical assistance to succeed in the effective implementation of the ATT and in addressing challenges that impede its implementation. Strengthening capacities of developing

States like Lesotho, will undoubtedly go a long way in assisting them to achieve their ATT obligations.

Finally, **Madam President**, my delegation looks forward to fruitful deliberations and successful outcome of this Conference and offer our support in your work towards its outcome.

I thank you for your attention.