



## STATEMENT

BY

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MINISTRY OF POLICE AND PUBLIC SAFETY

HEAD OF THE LESOTHO DELEGATION

AT THE

SECOND CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ARMS TRADE  
TREATY (ATT)

22-26 AUGUST 2016  
GENEVA

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**Mr. President,**

**Excellencies,**

**Ladies and Gentlemen,**

Allow me, at the outset to align myself with previous speakers in thanking the Government and people of Switzerland for the warm welcome and hospitality extended to my delegation. We also equally commend Switzerland for graciously hosting this august Conference and for housing the Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat. We further extend most profound appreciation to you **Mr. President** and the Secretariat, for a job well-done in preparation for this Conference.

**Mr. President,**

Lesotho has been closely following and participating in the negotiations process of the ATT and remains committed to the spirit and objectives of the Treaty. Lesotho signed the Treaty on 25 September 2013 during a treaty event in New York and subsequently deposited her instrument of ratification on 25 January 2016. This bears testimony to our commitment to international and regional peace and stability. The ATT entered into force, in respect of Lesotho, on 24 April 2016. We are therefore, proud to participate at this Second Conference as a fully-fledged State Party.

Being a State Party, however, marks the beginning of a long and arduous journey. The real challenge lies in the effective implementation of the Treaty, particularly at the national level. We are, therefore, looking forward to fruitful discussions in this Conference and eager to learn from the experiences of other State Parties, who already have the necessary implementation framework and infrastructure. The need for discussions on appropriate technical assistance in the implementation process cannot be overemphasized.

It is also our expectation that discussions at this Second Conference of State Parties will have a positive impact on the implementation and universalisation of the ATT. The fundamental decisions we are to take over the next few days should aim to operationalise this Treaty, and turn it from mere words on a page into a reality that will make a difference around the world.

**Mr. President,**

As the text of the Treaty suggests, having a legally binding document without universal application will derail the efforts of the international community in achieving the objectives of the Treaty. To this end, we would like to urge signatories to the ATT to finalize their impending ratification processes, and further call upon State Parties and civil society organisations to redouble their efforts in promoting universalisation of the Treaty.

In conclusion **Mr. President,** Lesotho attaches paramount importance to the successful implementation of the provisions of the Treaty and unequivocally believes it will contribute in reducing violations of international human rights and humanitarian law. The Treaty is not an end in itself, but is a tool that we can use, to effectively address problems of armed conflict that continue to plague our world today.

**I thank you Mr. President.**