**Statement 3: Efforts to Promote Universality of Arms Trade Treaty in the Arab Region**

**Submitted to:** **Working Group on Universality of ATT**

**Thank you, Mr. Facilitator,**

Maat for Peace, Development, and Human Rights believes in the importance of enhancing the universality of the Arms Trade Treaty as a key means to reduce illicit arms flows and prevent their negative impacts on regional security and stability. In this context, Maat is actively working in the Arab region through a comprehensive set of activities aimed at raising awareness, building capacity, and promoting dialogue among stakeholders.

In February 2025, Maat organized a high-level roundtable titled "Enhancing Universality of ATT in Arab States" at Geneva International Conference Centre, on the sidelines of the first CSP11 Informal Preparatory Meeting. This event brought together representatives from civil society organizations and international experts specialized in disarmament, providing a platform to discuss the challenges hindering Arab states' accession to the ATT and to explore opportunities for building regional consensus to enhance its adoption.

In this context, Maat published a comprehensive analytical study in September 2024 titled "Facts, Challenges, and Opportunities for Promoting Universality of Arms Trade Treaty in Arab States." The study addressed the current status of Arab states' accession, the political, legislative, and institutional obstacles that impede it, and provided practical recommendations to facilitate progress toward ratifying and implementing ATT at the national level.

Furthermore, Maat launched the initiative "Regulate Death Trade: Towards Effective Implementation of ATT," aimed at raising awareness of the Treaty provisions and encouraging states in the Middle East and North Africa to join it. This initiative includes producing various educational materials such as brochures, articles, and videos targeted at both policymakers and local communities.

As part of its efforts to build the capacities of stakeholders, Maat organized several workshops and training courses for civil society organizations, students, and researchers in the Arab region. One example is a training course conducted on October 6 University in Egypt to enhance students' understanding of the treaty and related monitoring and advocacy mechanisms.

Maat calls on the Arab League to activate its leadership role in encouraging member states to join the treaty and to develop a unified Arab protocol aimed at curbing the irresponsible proliferation of arms and enhancing transparency and accountability mechanisms in this area.

Despite the challenges faced by Maat in its work, such as limited funding, Maat remains steadfast in its commitment to contributing to the global objectives of the treaty. It welcomes collaboration with the Treaty Secretariat, States Parties, and civil society organizations at the international level to move forward toward achieving this vital goal.

**Thank you.**