



**MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS
AND EUROPEAN INTEGRATION
OF THE REPUBLIC OF MOLDOVA**

STATEMENT
by Mr. Victor Moraru
Head of the delegation of the Republic of Moldova
at the Second Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
Agenda item 5: General Debate
(Geneva, 22-26 August 2016)

Mr. President,

Let me start by congratulating you for assuming the important task of chairing this Conference. My delegation appreciates your personal efforts in guiding the preparatory process.

The Republic of Moldova thanks the Swiss Government for hosting the Second Conference of States Parties, for its important supportive role of the ATT process and, finally, for its generous contribution, as the host country, for the ATT Secretariat.

Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

At the time when the international community is still confronted with many challenges in the area of international peace, security and disarmament, the negotiation, adoption and entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty represents a truly encouraging development. This is indeed a welcome contrast to some other fora in Geneva.

The very fact that in a relatively short period of time the Treaty has been ratified or acceded by 87 countries is highly significant as it marks that States have agreed to eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and to prevent their diversion to the illicit market or unauthorized end users. The new instrument shall help us to counter the widespread insecurity and human suffering caused by irresponsible trade and to contribute to peace, security and stability. It was precisely for these reasons that my country supported the ATT process and ratified the Treaty.

Being a state that is confronted with an irreducible internal conflict, with foreign troops still stationed illegally on a part of its territory, which is not yet controlled by the central Government, where the illegal production and trafficking of conventional and small arms has been registered and where the human rights are being violated by a separatist entity supported from abroad, the Republic of Moldova understands and recognises the ATT's practical value.

As States-Parties, we must ensure universalization not just of the treaty, but of the new international norm it has established, where any illegal or irresponsible trade of conventional arms is rejected and condemned.

Sixty states, including some significant conventional arms producers and exporters, still remain outside of the ATT. Their contribution to the global effort is required in order that the Treaty lives up to its promise. From this perspective, my delegation acknowledges the validity of many suggested approaches by the CSP2 President on how to achieve Treaty's universality. We believe, Mr. President, that your *Paper on Universalization* offers an excellent basis for deliberations under agenda item 9.

Distinguished delegates,

The First Conference and the February 2016 Extraordinary Meeting of States Parties adopted important decisions on implementation architecture and means to coordinate the ATT work. One of the specific tasks at this Second Meeting is to consider additional decisions on the unfinished business, particularly on *reporting* and the *Secretariat*. But the main focus of the meeting is on the Treaty implementation and we expect that a focused exchange of views and lesson-learned under item 8, as provided by *Working Paper 2*, submitted by *Costa Rica* and *Finland*, will offer additional guidance for more recent ratifiers.

The Republic of Moldova has in place an arms control system whose main objective is to prevent exports of arms that might be misused in interstate or internal conflicts, for human rights violations or might result in undesirable spreading or unauthorized re-exports of arms. Despite progress in developing a tighter national regulatory framework for arms control, including SALW, we must admit that additional national efforts are needed to establish a system fully compliant with certain ATT specific requirements pertaining brokering, control lists and some related procedures.

As a State-Party that acknowledges a certain implementation capacity deficit, we welcome the proposal submitted by the *United Kingdom* (ATT/CSP2/2016/ OP.1) to establish, in accordance with Rule 42 of the ATT ROP, a *Working Group on National Implementation*. We agree with the proposed *action, output, outcomes* and *terms of reference* for a regular working group of technical experts that will seek to discuss issues related to effective national implementation and the application of the ATT, in particular Articles 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11 and 12. My delegation concurs with the view that such a Working Group, through its future activity, will not only support the effective national implementation but will also underpin the ATT's universalization.

Having also in mind the national implementation challenges, the Republic of Moldova attaches great importance to further establishment of a *Voluntary Trust Fund* (VTF) in accordance with Article 16. My delegation wishes to express its appreciation to Ambassador Biontino of Germany for proposing the *Terms of Reference for the Voluntary Trust Fund*. We are eager to support the appointment of the VTF Selection Committee during the CSP2 in order to operationalize the Voluntary Trust Fund in support of Treaty's implementation.

We would also like to express gratitude to countries that have supported the *ATT Sponsorship Programme*, in particular to *Germany, Switzerland, UK* and *Australia* whose generous contributions made possible the participation of eligible States' representatives at the CSP2.

Mr. Mr. President,

My delegation thanks the *ATT Working Group on Reporting Templates* and, particularly, the *Facilitator on Reporting*, Ambassador Paul Beijer of Sweden, both for important overall contribution and the submission of Conference Working Papers 5 and 6 (ATT/CSP2/2016/WP.5 and WP.6) which clarify some interpretative issues related to initial reporting deadlines and propose fine-tuned reporting templates for mandatory reporting obligations under Articles 13.1 and 13.3. As a State-Party that has yet to present the initial and annual ATT reports, the Republic of Moldova takes special interest in these documents, as well in the *Swedish Working Paper* (ATT/CSP2/2016/OP.3) on possible national-level measures to facilitate compliance with different international reporting obligations. Still in this context, my delegation welcomes and supports the proposal submitted by Sweden on the creation of a *Working Group on Reporting and Transparency*.

In conclusion, I wish to stress that the Republic of Moldova fully identifies with the EU statement delivered earlier by the distinguished representative of the European Union.

Thank you, Mr. President.