



**Statement by Katy Donnelly  
Deputy Permanent Representative to  
the Conference on Disarmament**

**Third Conference of States Parties to  
the Arms Trade Treaty**

**International assistance  
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Thank you Mr President.

I wished to take the floor briefly to register New Zealand's support for the Voluntary Trust Fund and our appreciation for the impressive way it has been run in its first year of operation. The details of this have already been covered in the report on the status of operation of the VTF, which included an update on the funded projects.

It is clear that challenges will be faced in the implementation of some of the approved projects, which is, of course, to be expected at this early stage. We encourage all recipients of Fund assistance to meet the necessary requirements and to be open about the challenges faced so that future applicants, the VTF Selection Committee and the ISU can learn from these experiences.

New Zealand was pleased to make a financial contribution to the VTF and to serve on its Selection Committee this year. In doing so we were privileged to have the leadership of Germany as Chair of the Committee. The Selection Committee was also supported by the ATT Secretariat, and was facilitated by the Secretariat's provision of assistance to applicants in preparing the necessary paperwork, its compilation and circulation to the Committee of all documents in a timely manner, and its swift preparation of analysis of data and trends in the applications it received.

It is clear from this first year of operation that the Secretariat's work is essential to the success of the Voluntary Trust Fund. We note from the

Report on the ATT Secretariat's Activities for the Period 2016/17, however, that although the Secretariat has managed its existing work on the VTF from within its current capacity, this will be stretched by the forthcoming responsibility of monitoring the VTF projects. New Zealand therefore wishes to support all efforts to ensure that the Secretariat is appropriately resourced for its activities relating to the VTF. We know that a number of proposals will be considered in this regard under a separate agenda item tomorrow, but wanted to highlight this issue now while we are considering the substance of the VTF.

Thank you Mr President.