

**NINTH CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES TO THE ARMS TRADE
TREATY BY THE REPUBLIC OF NAMIBIA**

AGENDA ITEM : TREATY IMPLEMENTATION

Thank you once more, Madam President for the floor, to make a statement on the Treaty Implementation

Namibia wishes to thank Ambassador Seong-mee YOON, Permanent Representative of the Republic of Korea to the Conference of Disarmament in Geneva, and equally we want to thank the Chair of the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation Ambassador Ignacio SANCEZ DE LERIN of Spain for the excellent work done in the exchange of information and the identification of Treaty implementation priority areas for endorsement by Conference of State Parties. Furthermore, we wish to thank Argentina for outlining the elements of a process for assessing the risk of diversion and we are pleased to welcome the document.

Madam President,

Namibia became a State Party to the Arms Trade Treaty in 2020 and has taken note of the importance to regulate international trade of conventional weapons, especially small arms and light weapons within our region and also making sure that they don't end up in the wrong hands.

With the assistance of the Voluntary Trust Fund of the ATT, a Capacity Building Workshop was held in Namibia in March 2023 with the aim to build capacity and expertise of key stakeholders. Namibia also benefited from the Regional Export Control Conference EU Arms Trade Treaty Outreach Project which was held in Livingstone-Zambia in June 2023. The Outreach Project was funded by the EU and co-funded by the German Federal Foreign Office, BAFA, the Government of the French Republic and Expertise France.

We are thankful for these engagements because we have gained expertise and the necessary tools to establish and govern a competent National Authority that will ensure effective implementation of the ATT in Namibia, and the review of the legal framework for regulating arms transfer in Namibia.

As per the Treaty obligations Namibia has taken note of the following that requires immediate action:

- Establishment of the National Competent Authority to serve as the implementation forum.
- Formulate the National Control List and gazette it into law.
- Reviewing the existing legislations or enactment of a stand-alone legislation for Arms Control and make reference to other national legislation.
- Identifying Contact Point in various Ministries for better coordination and communication on specific matters regarding the ATT.

To this effect, Namibia has taken the following measures towards the implementation of the Treaty:

- Submission of a Cabinet Memorandum for the establishment of the National Competent Authority has been drafted, which is to be endorsed by Cabinet with clear Terms of Reference (ToR).
- Namibia is in the process of organizing an Inter-Ministerial meeting to follow up on the formulation of the national control list and conduct detail research in order to get a National Control list benchmarked on international standards.
- We have begun the process of reviewing existing legislation or enactment of a stand-alone legislation for Arms Control and make reference to other national legislation.

Ultimately, implementing the Arms Trade Treaty in Namibia is a collective effort. It requires cooperation between the government, civil society organizations, and international partners. By working together, the aforementioned collective efforts would ensure that the trade of arms is carried out responsibly, with the ultimate goal of promoting peace and security. As we continue to “**seek to promote the establishment and maintenance of international peace and security with the least diversion for armaments of the world’s human and economic resources**” as per the UN Charter, my delegation pledges its support to the implementation of the ATT.

In conclusion, Madam President,

Namibia has identified areas where assistance and action is required and will therefore continue to make use of the available platforms and resources to address these obligations.

I thank you!