

Second Conference of States Parties Arms Trade Treaty

High level segment, opening statement of the Netherlands

Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Thank you Mr President,

Let me begin by expressing our continuous support for you Mr Presidents to bring our deliberations this week to a successful conclusion. Let me also say that we welcome the Finnish candidacy for the chairmanship of CSP 3 and we are looking forward to working with Ambassador Korhonen next year.

The Netherlands would like to once again underline the great importance of the Arms Trade Treaty. The entry into force of the Arms Trade Treaty in December 2014 was a step forward to a safer world. In the meantime the ATT community has grown. The Treaty has now been signed by 130 and ratified by 83 Member States.

Now, the largest challenge for the ATT community is the solid implementation by its States Parties as well as the further universalization of the Treaty.

The obligation for State Parties to establish an export control system will particularly contribute to our efforts to reduce human suffering by, among others, reducing the illicit trade, accumulation and misuse of small arms and light weapons and their ammunition and parts and components.

To further increase the speed and quality of the Treaty's implementation by States Parties and Signatories, a well-funded and properly working *Voluntary Trust Fund* is of the utmost importance. Therefore the Netherlands will make funds available in 2017 to strengthen the Treaty and we express the hope that other States Parties will also be in the position to contribute to this voluntary trust fund.

Greater transparency of arms exports and imports is an important aspect of the Treaty and will contribute to our shared goals. We are therefore pleased to see that many States Parties have submitted their initial report and first yearly report publicly. We

urge those States Parties who have not done so yet, to submit their reports to the ATT secretariat, preferably publicly.

A crucial premise for a properly functioning secretariat shortly after this CSP is the appointment of the first permanent head of secretariat. A decision needs to be taken this week.

Since it came about, the Arms Trade Treaty has been an inclusive treaty with many stakeholders taking part into the process. The NGO community played a vital role and we owe them gratitude for that role. In our view it remains important to maintain that open atmosphere and inclusiveness. The participation of all stakeholders is therefore vital: NGOs, industry, international organizations and states, representing all sides of the coin.

Mr President,

In summary, after we have dealt with the set up of its machinery, we now face the most important challenges, that is to effectively implement the Arms Trade Treaty and to work towards its universalization. We are confident that this conference of States Parties can contribute to those goals.

I thank you.