



**Statement by Nicholas Clutterbuck
First Secretary (Disarmament)**

**9th Conference of States Parties to
the Arms Trade Treaty**

**General Debate
22 August 2023**

Thank you, President.

Please allow me to congratulate you, on the Republic of Korea's Presidency of the Arms Trade Treaty. I wish you every success as your work culminates this week.

I also wish to take this opportunity to thank all ATT office holders, as well as the dedicated ATT Secretariat, for their hard work.

My delegation also wishes to acknowledge the important contributions of civil society, and extend a special thanks to Control Arms, and its donors, for their work producing the ATT Monitor. The Monitor is an important contribution to transparency within our Treaty.

Over the past year, two additional States Parties have joined the ATT family. New Zealand once again extends a warm congratulations and welcome to Gabon and Andorra, as they embark on their first CSP as States Parties.

President, our Treaty hasn't had a straightforward time these past few years. Covid had a disproportionately large impact on our work. We were the first major disarmament meeting to confront its realities in 2020, and in 2021 we were forced to meet in hybrid format. These modalities made our mission more difficult, but we adapted and this should be commended.

However, now we are back to full complement, with an active work programme, it is my delegation's hope that we can come together under an overarching mission.

The purposes of the Arms Trade Treaty, found in Article 1, are worth repeating in this context. They are:

- Contributing to international and regional peace, security and stability;
- Reducing human suffering; and
- Promoting cooperation, transparency and responsible action by States Parties in the international trade in conventional arms, thereby building confidence among States Parties.

It is incumbent on us all to ensure that the humanitarian and security benefits designed to flow from this treaty are realised.

In this vein, we call on all States Parties to comply with their ATT obligations, at all times, without exception.

In order to promote transparency, and build confidence in the Treaty, my delegation encourages States Parties to continue sharing their experience applying the Treaty's criteria, and especially in cases that involve a transfer to contexts involving, or closely linked with, armed conflict.

There can be no doubt that in situations of armed conflict human suffering is especially acute.

We once again call on all States Parties to fulfil their national reporting obligations under the Treaty, and to consider making their reports public, thereby contributing to the Treaty's purpose of confidence-building.

Since we last met in this format, New Zealand has made substantial enhancements to its domestic control regime. I will speak to these changes under the separate agenda item dealing with Treaty Implementation. For now, I simply wish to note that these changes reflect Aotearoa New Zealand's full commitment to our ATT obligations.

President, my delegation is looking forward to a substantive set of discussions this week and I wish us all success in driving forward the Treaty's core mission of reduced human suffering.

I thank you.