



**Statement by H.E. Dell Higgie
Ambassador for Disarmament**

**Second Conference of States Parties
to the Arms Trade Treaty
General Debate**

22 August 2016

Mr President,

May I begin by congratulating you on your leadership over the past year and for the dedicated way in which Nigeria has prepared for this, our second Conference of States Parties (CSP) to the Arms Trade Treaty. It has been an honour for New Zealand to support you in our role as Vice-President and we look forward to continuing to do so throughout our meeting this week.

Your country, Mr President, and indeed much of the African continent, has had to bear direct witness to the devastation and suffering which have long been a hallmark of the unconstrained and unregulated access to weapons. It is no surprise, then, that you have sought so strongly to encourage universalisation and bring the benefits of the Arms Trade Treaty to Africa.

Equally, the preparatory process carried out over recent months for this Conference has also helped place a spotlight on what indeed needs to be the dominant focus for our Treaty family for the present: expanding the reach of the Treaty and promoting its global implementation. It is only through expanding the Treaty's membership that we can tighten the noose around those who seek to avoid or evade the strong standards it has set for the global trade in conventional arms.

You, and your successors as President of our community, can be assured of New Zealand's strong commitment to this cause. This was indeed the focus of NZ's Pledge on the Arms Trade Treaty at the recent World Humanitarian Summit: in Istanbul we pledged to continue to promote the universalisation and implementation of the Treaty- most especially in our own region of the Pacific.

There is clearly much that can be done to encourage greater uptake of the Treaty in our region. With this in mind, we are particularly looking forward to the Pacific Capacity-Building Workshop for the Implementation of the ATT which NZ has sponsored and which Samoa will host next month in cooperation with our UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPD). At that Workshop, we hope also to build on the Model Law which NZ and the Small Arms Survey produced in 2013 and to explore with our Pacific Island partners the development of a Model ATT Control List. Such a standardised List could be used in conjunction with the Model Law to simplify for small States the development of the control system required by Article 5 (2) of the Treaty. We have funded our valued civil society partners, Control Arms, to take the lead in consultations on this proposal.

More generally, we have made clear our readiness to discuss the ATT and its requirements with any of our Pacific neighbours and to help resolve any barriers they see standing in the way of their joining our Treaty family. I would like to reissue this offer again today – aware, too, that there is excellent attendance at this CSP from the Pacific. I note, in this regard, that we were very pleased to have been able to facilitate this attendance this time and that we are in the process of providing a contribution to the Sponsorship Programme for participation by four Pacific Island Countries at our next meeting, CSP3, in 2017.

Beyond our region, and reverting to your own primary geographic focus, Mr President, we have been pleased recently to partner with Control Arms on a project analysing barriers to Treaty participation and implementation in Africa. Their very useful report has now been completed and its launch is part of a side-event being held here this Thursday. This event, entitled "The African Perspective: Challenges and Opportunities to Implementing

the ATT" is sponsored also by the Africa Union and Small Arms Survey and we will welcome as wide an attendance as possible.

Removing barriers to participation and promoting implementation of the Treaty will be an important focus of our new Voluntary Trust Fund. Clearly, the Fund will play a very important role in encouraging States to sign on to the Treaty and we look forward to its formal establishment along with the adoption this week of its Terms of Reference and Guiding Principles. It is my great pleasure to announce today two contributions to the Fund for the coming year – together totalling approximately NZ\$100,000 – one tranche targeted for projects to take place in the Pacific and the other in Africa.

The speed with which the ATT has been taken up around the world – and the attention it continues to receive as one of the few success stories in recent years of rule-making within the United Nations - is evidence of the international community's commitment to achieving its humanitarian and security objectives. Our work this week, and under our next President, will ensure that this momentum is not lost and that the ATT will be just as successful in its focus now on implementation and universalisation as it has been in its initial establishment.

Thank you Mr President.

