



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

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

Implementation

24 August 2016

Thank you Mr President.

Implementation is – along with universalisation – key to the realisation of all our aims and objectives for the Treaty: these need to be the prime focus of our Treaty family.

The paper – thoughtfully prepared for us by Costa Rica and Finland (and we're very grateful for their efforts in this regard) – makes exactly that point too. Their paper invites States to share their experiences, challenges and examples of best practice in the implementation of the Treaty.

With regard to New Zealand's own experience in implementing the Treaty, I note that when it entered into force for us, we were in the fortunate position of already having a well-established strategic goods regime to regulate the export of conventional arms, ammunition and related parts and components within the scope of the Treaty, along with other items. We also had legislation, regulations and Orders in Council governing the import of conventional arms.

The provisions of the ATT helped us, nonetheless, to further strengthen our existing provisions and practices – an on-going task. Minor adjustments to domestic processes and terminology were made to ensure they aligned with the ATT.

I have already mentioned this morning one such minor adjustment with respect to facilitating our ability to report on imports – we needed to shift to from a paper-based, non-centralised system for logging certain firearm imports to a centrally-held electronic database.

More importantly, Mr President, I note our ongoing focus to develop more thorough-going brokering controls and to replace the voluntary registration regime for New Zealand-based brokers with a legislatively-backed system.

Legislation for this comprehensive brokering control regime is in development and should be introduced in Parliament before too much longer. It is expected that the legislation will have extra-territorial application and will require all brokering activity by New Zealand citizens and entities to be authorised in advance.

In terms of the third item in the facilitator's paper we have an ongoing close interest in engaging with our region to promote both universalisation and implementation. I have already covered this in my general debate statements and our intervention on the Voluntary Trust Fund.

Mr President, Facilitators, I note that there is considerable interest in the possibility of some sort of working group on national implementation. My delegation certainly welcomes the more thorough-going focus on this issue that a working group could bring to bear but it remains a fundamental point of principle for us to ensure that the discussions in the working group are open and transparent, including in order to ensure that delegations from small States – who may well not have the resource to take part – can be fully aware and take advantage of the discussions in such a context.