



PHILIPPINES

**9th Conference of States Parties to the
Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)
21-25 August 2023**

General Debate

*Delivered by Atty. Hazel I. Joves, Deputy to the Special Envoy,
Office of the Special Envoy on Transnational Crime,
Office of the President of the Republic of the Philippines*

Thank you very much, Honorable Chair.

Excellencies, Distinguished Delegates, good morning.

As this is our first time to take the floor, we would like to thank you Madam Chair for providing the ATT with your leadership, and for the Secretariat's effective management of the conference.

We would like to congratulate Gabon and Andorra for their ratification of the ATT.

With this statement, we would like to note some of Philippine's ongoing efforts in the implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty.

The ATT has come into force for the Philippines and have submitted our initial report, which will be publicly available, and we look forward to its eventual availability on the website.

Our preparations for the ATT implementation started on November 13, 2015, when our legislature approved the Strategic Trade Management Act, which forms the basis of the Philippines' national control system. It is supported by

the Comprehensive Firearms Act (2013) and the Customs Modernization and Tariff Act (2015).

The ATT assessment criteria is already embedded in our domestic law and its implementing rules and regulations. As a result, if there is a substantial risk of any of the negative consequences listed in Article 7.1 and Article 7.4, the Strategic Trade Management Office, or the Philippine National Police - Firearms and Explosives Office, which are the agencies responsible for the issuance of export and import permits for conventional weapons, are required to deny the permit application.

We view our recent ratification of the ATT as an opportunity to further enhance our trade controls and therefore chose to apply the ATT criteria not only to proposed exports, imports, brokering, transit or transshipment of ATT items, but also to all dual-use items. And in line with the theme selected by our Chair, we acknowledge that it is essential for the government and private sector entities to forge a strong partnership in order to ensure that the supply chain is secure, and the transfer of arms is done securely and responsibly.

The Philippine government has taken strides to ensure transparency and accountability in implementing our legislations on arms transfers by conducting public consultations before issuing guidelines, publishing these guidelines and conducting outreach to both government and private sector, among others.

We continue to work with the ATT Secretariat in furthering the vibrant participation of Asia and the ASEAN region to international instruments in conventional arms by our commitment to share our domestic legal framework to support other countries in the region in establishing policy and regulatory infrastructures consistent with the principles of the ATT. Further, the Philippines sees its implementation of its responsibilities under the ATT as a part of the synergies with other instruments and have embarked on bilateral and multilateral consultations with some states in Southeast Asia, South Asia and Pacific region, from 2018 to 2023 and have fostered dialogue, facilitating the exchange of experiences and developing a regional road map for weapons regulation under the UNSCAR facility. And we look forward to continuing this work with one of our civil society partners, NISEA.

We would like to assure you and the Presidency of our full support throughout this meeting and in your efforts of leading this Ninth Conference of the States Parties.

Thank you.