



PHILIPPINES

**9th Conference of States Parties to the
Arms Trade Treaty (ATT)
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Treaty Implementation

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Madam President, Excellencies, Ladies and Gentlemen, good afternoon.

The Philippines is fully committed to ensuring the full and effective implementation of our international obligations as we acknowledge that it is crucial in upholding national security, international peace and security, and the rule of law.

The Strategic Trade Management Act (STMA) and the Comprehensive Firearms and Ammunition Regulation Act (CFARA) serve as mechanisms to implement these requirements even before the ratification of the Treaty. These two pieces of legislation cover the activities stated under the treaty, particularly: export, import, transit, transshipment, and brokering.

In assessing licenses covered by our export control laws, the Philippines, through its Strategic Trade Management Office (STMO), developed a Risk Assessment Matrix that aims to increase efficiency and provide a uniform method of evaluating a license application. It integrates different risk assessment criteria as stated under the STMA as well as define the likelihood of a risk happening vis-à-vis consequence. The risk assessment criteria cover aspects of national security or foreign policy interests of the Philippines, in particular, respect for international obligations and commitments under the UN Security Council sanctions, or relevant international treaties and nonproliferation agreements. These are aligned

with the licensing criteria found in Articles 6, 7 and 11 of the ATT. This in-house developed tool provides informed conclusions and appropriate/evidence-based decision-making, as well as a structured course of action for all parties to the transaction.

As such, the Philippines, through the STMO, does not authorize the transfer of conventional arms unless cleared under the risk assessment matrix. The Philippines also recognizes the crucial role of intelligence and information exchange between States for risk assessment/ due diligence. Given this, we hereby affirm the constructive knowledge standard for Article 6(3) as it can boost State Parties' capability to conduct assessments.

In terms of transit and transshipment controls, information exchange and cooperation take center stage since several actors are at play. The Philippines agrees with the recommendations to provide advanced notification, alerts on risks of diversion, and intelligence and information sharing from the exporting State to the transit and transshipment States. Similarly, exporting and importing States have to coordinate to ensure that both comply with their obligations. Post-shipment controls serve as an important mechanism in safeguarding the trade of conventional arms.

Lastly, we welcome the work of the WGETI in issuing guidelines on how MSPs can implement the different provisions of the ATT. We look forward to discussing how this could be included in our existing processes to fully comply with the requirements of the ATT to address the current issues surrounding the trade of conventional arms within the country, within the region, and globally.