



PHILIPPINES

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

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The ratification of the ATT is expected to boost the international cooperation and trade of arms for legitimate and peaceful purposes, giving assurance to industry and private sector stakeholders that transfers are governed by clear criteria fully respecting international human rights and humanitarian laws. As reiterated during the Working Group Meetings, there is a contradiction between the number of States by region and the membership to the ATT, and the Asian region has the least number of State Parties.

Being the first ASEAN country to ratify the ATT, the Philippines sees itself as a partner in the region in encouraging membership in the ATT. Following the regional workshop in Jakarta to promote the ATT in the ASEAN region, the Philippines reaffirms its 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. The proposal to establish regional champions will also support the universalization efforts of the CSP President and provide an easier mechanism for State Parties in the region to share information regarding their own experience with the national ATT ratification/ accession process.

The Philippines is grateful to be a recipient of the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) Project, the ATT Sponsorship Programme, and EU ATT Outreach Program and notes that these internal support mechanisms are valuable tools that States can apply for to support their efforts in joining the ATT. As

we recognize that each Party have different circumstances that may affect their capacity to implement the ATT or impact their decision to join the Treaty, the Philippines supports the possibility of tailored assistance in order to effectively target the individual needs of States.

Lastly, in line with the thematic focus of the CSP9, we highlight the important role played by the industry and the private sector in promoting the universalization of the ATT. Cooperation between States, as well as between governments and private sector, will help minimize the risk of conventional weapons diversion due to the illicit trade of arms. Outreach, capacity-building, and international assistance work hand-in-hand in assisting non-State Parties to sign, ratify, or accede to the Treaty in accordance with their national laws. Establishing a common database will not only enhance efforts to monitor the flow of conventional arms, but also support the proposal for a tailored approach.