

Sixth Conference of States Parties of the Arms Trade Treaty

Geneva, 17-21 August 2020 (By written procedure)

Statement for General Debate by the Republic of Korea

First of all, the Republic of Korea extends its most profound appreciation to those who have dedicated their time and efforts to sustain the momentum of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) implementation, including the Secretariat and the Argentinian Presidency, while bearing in mind the importance of including all participants, despite the COVID-19 crisis. Our sincere appreciation also goes to civil society and academia for the continuous interest in these adaptive ATT consultations this year. We firmly believe that our combined efforts have contributed to the substantial growth of the ATT machinery and its community.

The Republic of Korea is convinced that the commitment to establish the highest possible common standards of conventional arms trade by States Parties contributes to maintaining international and regional peace and security and reducing human suffering, as well as violence against women and children.

In light of this, we welcome the work that has been done to establish the Diversion Information Exchange Forum, notably the draft

of the Terms of Reference (ToR) of the Forum which will lay the groundwork for its work. We have no doubt that our discussions during the CSP6 cycle have contributed to moving the ATT to the next level, bolstering the implementation of the ATT Article 11.5.

Unfortunately, due to the COVID-19 outbreak, it was inevitable that we could not have as many interactive consultations on the subject matter as we could have in a normal situation. All the same, the Republic of Korea, as Chair of the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation (WGETI), believes that the State Parties of the ATT chose the best possible option in the given situation, which is to reach consensus on what we can and to leave other issues for further discussions in CSP7 and thereafter. In this regard, we are pleased to put together the “Revised draft multi-year work plans for the three WGETI Sub-working groups,” in close collaboration with our distinguished colleagues; facilitators from Spain, South Africa, and Serbia; and the ATT Secretariat.

However, challenges still remain. First, the annual reporting rates of States Parties are on a continuous decline. Reporting is one of the most important scales to measure transparency and responsible action by States Parties in the international trade of conventional arms. It is predictable that such a decline can directly head off the implementation of the ATT. We urge all States Parties to fulfill their

reporting obligations in accordance with Article 13 and we strongly encourage all ATT stakeholders to continue their efforts to improve reporting rates. Second, we would like to express our concern about the fact that outstanding financial contributions are on the rise. ATT budgets are directly linked to the proper functioning of the ATT and the starting point to secure them is fulfilling the financial obligations by all participating states. The Republic of Korea remains committed to providing its full support with the Secretariat and the Working Group chairs to tackle the challenges facing the ATT.

Finally, we warmly welcome the Republic of Maldives, the Republic of Namibia, the People's Republic of China, the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe, the Islamic Republic of Afghanistan and Niue for having acceded to or ratified the ATT since CSP5. We would also like to express our expectation for the further promotion of treaty universalization in the Asia-Pacific region through the accession of China, Afghanistan, the Maldives and Niue to the ATT. The Republic of Korea, as part of the efforts to do its part, has translated the Treaty Universalization Toolkit and the "Welcome Pack" into 10 different Asian languages this year. We would like to share these documents with our colleagues via the ATT website and hope all stakeholders will find these useful for their own bilateral and multilateral outreach activities. We will continue to work on the universalization efforts.

Once again, the Republic of Korea thanks all ATT stakeholders for their efforts in the implementation and universalization of the ATT. We look forward to fully supporting and participating in the discussions of the next Conference of States Parties of the Arms Trade Treaty. Thank you. /END/