

**Statement of Romania**  
**at the Ninth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty**

**Madam President,**

At the outset, please allow me to join other speakers in thanking you and the Government of Switzerland for organizing and hosting the Ninth Conference of States Parties. I would like to express my delegation's appreciation for the constructive way you led the preparatory process of this conference and I assure you of our full support and cooperation.

We also extend our gratitude to the ATT Secretariat, to the members of the Bureau and to the office holders, who have worked tirelessly to ensure that progress continues to be made in the ATT.

We align ourselves with the statement of the European Union and we would like to make the following brief remarks in our national capacity:

Romania welcomes the Presidential flag theme on "The role of industry in responsible international transfers of conventional arms". It is our strong belief that the industry should play an essential role in meeting the purposes of the ATT by preventing illicit transfers of conventional arms, including small arms and light weapons (SALW) through a responsible conduct and compliance culture in arms trade. This could be achieved through the Governments' commitment to be proactive, predictable, and transparent in relation with the industry. Therefore, to reach the objectives and purpose of the ATT we believe that industry and Governments should work together, and bear shared liability. We fully appreciate the references contained in the Presidency's working paper. We support their inclusion in CSP9 recommendations and look forward to continuing discussions in future.

We believe that the Diversion Information Exchange Forum (DIEF) can play a vital role as a platform for discussions concerning concrete cases of detected or suspected diversion. We are all aware of the adverse impacts that the diversion of arms and unregulated or illicit arms transfers have on human rights in times of armed conflicts and in times of peace. Women, children and youths are amongst the primary victims of armed violence, including as a result of sexual and gender-based violence, exploitation and abuse. For these reasons mitigating

the risk of diversion is the first priority in our arms export assessment process. We look forward to holding future exchanges on the favourable circumstances for diversion, the routes and entities involved, as well as the causes of diversion as they provide useful elements for consideration by policy makers and arms exports licensing authorities.

**Madame President,**

We welcome Gabon and Andorra as States Parties to the Treaty, and we call on others to join the ATT community. We underline the importance of continuous engagement with those who have not yet joined, not least with major exporters and importers. We very much appreciate the committed work done by the Presidency in promoting ATT's objectives to States not party to the Treaty and signatories. I would like to reiterate Romania's strong support for the universalization of the ATT and its full and effective implementation. I am convinced that these objectives could be achieved through cooperation, dialogue and consistency.

Transparency is fundamental for an effective implementation of the Treaty. It leads to confidence building among States, and consequently reporting becomes one of the cornerstones of the Treaty. The declining rate in annual reporting is a source of concern and we must continue our collective efforts to address this situation persistently. We acknowledge that some States Parties may have difficulties in meeting their reporting obligations. We take this opportunity to encourage them to use the available support tools to prepare their initial and annual reports, or to seek assistance through the existing mechanisms or bilaterally, from other stakeholders. By meeting their obligations in time, States Parties will contribute to our common efforts to build trust and increase transparency. Regarding the future work of the ATT, we support any format that would foster discussions and exchanges on concrete implementation aspects and challenges faced by States and other stakeholders having at the core the principles of transparency and inclusion.

Also, I want to emphasise the significant role played by regional organisations and civil society in strengthening the implementation of the Treaty. Their sustained efforts are part of our collective endeavours to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms, their parts and components and ammunition, and prevent their diversion.

**Madame President,**

Romania stands ready to assist States in implementing any provisions of the Treaty, both in its national capacity as well as part of the team involved in the European Union's ATT outreach program.

Let me conclude by assuring you of my delegation's full support throughout this week.

**Thank you, Madam President!**