



Republic of Serbia

**MINISTRY OF TRADE,
TOURISM AND TELECOMMUNICATIONS**

Arms Trade Treaty

Sixth Conference of State Parties

Geneva, 17-21 August 2020.

GENERAL STATEMENT – REPUBLIC OF SERBIA

Mr. President,

We would like to express our deep appreciation to your Excellency, your team and ATT Secretariat for outstanding efforts in regard of organization of this Sixth Conference of State Parties of the Arms Trade despite the difficulties caused by the global pandemic Covid-19. Having in mind challenging, unexpected circumstances, we highly appreciate work on preparation of this Conference in a highly effective and transparent manner.

Mr. President,

Republic of Serbia fully aligns itself with the Statement delivered by the European Union, and in addition we are using this opportunity to express our perspective in a national capacity.

Prevention and eradication of the illicit arms trade is the global issue, and we need simultaneous action of different actors to prevent diversion and have a positive feedback in this field. International cooperation is considered as one of the most important instruments, and information sharing is of the crucial importance for this process.

Improvement of both multilateral and bilateral cooperation, engagement of civil society and industry, as well as improvement in transparency and effective implementation of the Treaty's obligations will for sure lead to more secure and safe international arms trade.

Mr. President,

It is encouraging that the number of ATT State Parties are increasing this year, and we hope that countries who still not accessed to the Treaty will consider this opportunity in the near future. At the same time, we believe that countries who are in the process of Treaty ratification, will complete necessary procedures as soon as it possible.

Mr. President,

Republic of Serbia has significant export of arms since we are one of the greatest producers in our region. In that sense, we are very committed to raise the export controls to a highest possible level, and we closely follow international standards. Republic of Serbia is strongly dedicated to full and effective implementation of the ATT, and our legislative framework is fully aligned with criteria and principals of the Treaty and EU standards.

Republic of Serbia considers reporting and transparency as the global interest in order to prevent diversion, and we are very committed to this work. Consequently, we are concerned that numerous countries do not fulfil the annual obligations on reporting, and we are using this opportunity to urge on them to a better transparency and information sharing. At the same time, we are calling for publicly available reports, as we consider that privately submitted reports are not leading to a full transparency.

Mr. President,

Republic of Serbia using this opportunity as the facilitator of the Sub-working group on diversion for this CSP6 cycle to express full commitment to contribution to the work of ATT, and to make our capacities available in the future work of organization.

Thank you.