

Vanuatu

Statement on International Assistance

Thank you Chair,

Since this is the first time for Vanuatu to take up the floor, I would like to join the others in congratulating you on your role and the Secretariat on all the logistics support provided to facilitate our participation to this CSP.

Thank you also to the President and all involved in making this session and CSP possible and successful.

Vanuatu is grateful for the assistance through the latest VTF round which means over the year ahead we can take the remaining steps to fully implement the ATT.

At the national level we have already made significant progress by:

- holding national ATT workshops;
- arranging legislative analysis and review;
- developing a roadmap;
- progressing coordination through our National IHL Committee; and
- continuing to participate in Pacific regional initiatives and conferences on the ATT. For that I would like to seize this opportunity to thank the Governments of Australia and New Zealand for the tremendous support and work that they are doing in the Pacific region to achieve the universalization of the ATT.

We will in the coming months submit a Council of Ministers Paper to enable Parliamentary approval;

Vanuatu will be implementing the VTF project with our long-term partner, the Centre for Armed Violence Reduction. The remaining steps include installing ArmsTracker software to better track arms transiting through our large maritime area as well as managing imports, licenses and other record-keeping and reporting obligations. We will also be progressing ratification and legislative changes as well as providing further training and awareness raising.

Again Vanuatu is grateful for international assistance through the VTF which will enable us to complete implementation. We believe that there is also a lot that the international community can learn from Vanuatu and other Pacific Island Countries. Vanuatu has a proud history of minimal armed violence and restrictive arms regulation and are keen to share this experience.

Thank you.