



Arms Trade Treaty 5th Conference of States Parties

Geneva 26-30 August 2019

Australia – Statement on Treaty Universalisation

Mr President

First, we wish to thank you and Ambassador TAKAMIZAWA (Japan, former CSP4 President) for your leadership of efforts on Arms Trade Treaty universalisation and holding the first Working Group on Treaty Universalisation in January this year.

Mr President, we welcome the advocacy and outreach efforts in support outlined in your report, namely a broad program of awareness raising, stakeholder engagement and experience-sharing. We feel it is important that the ATT and its benefits are well articulated, and misconceptions about the ATT are dispelled.

The compendium we produced in 2017 with the Centre for Armed Violence Reduction *Reinvigorating the Narrative: The Broader Benefits of the Arms Trade Treaty* remains a useful primer on the global benefits of a universalised ATT.

Again this year, we were pleased to co-sponsor with New Zealand a second Pacific Conference on Arms Trade Treaty, which sought to advance the implementation of the ATT in the Pacific and we encouraged countries to ensure appropriate gender balance in their delegations.

Conference participants agreed that the ATT could foster regional security by underpinning responsible arms storage, manufacture and trade. The Treaty was also seen as reducing illicit and uncontrolled movement of weapons in communities and contributing to reducing armed violence and gender-based violence, more broadly.

Participants identified impediments to broader ATT accession in the South Pacific, including resource capacity constraints, competing priorities, lack of

political will, limitations to data collection and, in some jurisdictions, the need for legislation.

Australia firmly believes a widely-endorsed and implemented ATT has the potential to evolve into one of the most important normative initiatives supporting global efforts to prevent the illicit trade in conventional arms.

We encourage all States Parties to take all opportunities presented to them to promote the universalisation of the ATT, as it can only reach its full potential if all countries become States Parties – particularly those who have large arms industries.

Thank you Mr President.