



# IRELAND

Intervention on Universalisation

Statement by

Colonel Jim Burke

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at the

Fifth Conference of States Parties to the

Arms Trade Treaty

Geneva, 28 August 2019

Chair,

I wish to align Ireland with the statement made by the European Union and add some remarks in a national capacity.

My delegation would like to express our appreciation for the important work that you and Ambassador Takamizawa have carried out over the past year to promote universal adherence to the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT). The difference the Treaty can make is impacted by its scale of adherence, and I would like to acknowledge the important work undertaken by the Working Group on Universalisation (WTGU) and thank the Co-Chairs for their dedication and commitment in the preparatory process leading up to this meeting.

Chair,

The illicit and poorly regulated trade in conventional arms has devastating effects and continues to fuel armed conflicts, human right abuses and economic instability in many parts of the world. The importance of universalisation cannot be overstated. Universal adherence to the ATT would positively contribute to global peace and security and create better conditions for sustainable development.

We welcome the fact that there are now 104 States Parties to the ATT. We congratulate and welcome Suriname, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, Lebanon, Palau, Botswana and Canada as new State Parties to the ATT. While this is a number we can all be proud of, we are also conscious that we remain some way off the full universalisation of the Treaty.

As long as States remain outside of the Treaty, stemming the flows of illicit arms, reducing the number of irresponsible arms transfers and creating a more accountable global arms trade will remain a significant challenge.

Ireland, like many States in this room, does not have an arms industry. But we consider a safe, responsible and transparent global arms trade necessary for our security and for the security and wellbeing of all States. It is particularly important to acknowledge that many of the States with large numbers of arms exports remain outside this Treaty and Ireland deeply regrets the US decision to revoke its status as a Signatory State earlier this year. More needs to be done to encourage these States to sign and ratify our Treaty.

We remain committed to promoting universalisation of the Treaty and welcome the efforts made by fellow States Parties, intergovernmental organisations, civil society and industry to continue to promote the universalisation of this Treaty as a priority.

Chair,

We thank the WTGU for its draft report and endorse the recommendations therein. We believe these recommendations outline an effective strategy for reaching and engaging with states that have not yet joined the Treaty. The Universalization Toolkit as well as the ‘Welcome Pack for New States Parties to the ATT’ are valuable instruments to further promote our common objectives.

Thank you.