



## **Statement by the Netherlands**

### **Fourth Conference of States Parties of the Arms Trade Treaty**

#### **Matters pertaining to Financial Contributions**

Thank you Mr. President.

The Netherlands aligns itself with the statement delivered by the EU and would like to make additional remarks in its national capacity.

We thank the ATT Secretariat for the presentation on the current financial status. It was a very detailed and helpful presentation. We also thank the Secretariat for assisting the Management Committee with its tasks it got mandated by CSP4. We thank the Management Committee for its report on the issue of financial liquidity and we also like to commend it for recommending the President to ensure that the current Financial Rules, which were adopted by consensus at CSP2, are fully implemented with regard to the issue of non-payments.

To start on that note, we support the President and Management Committee's approach to focus on the implementation of the current Financial Rules in full, rather than to come with further proposals on how to deal with non-payments. Including the

invocation of Rule 8.1.(d). These rules were agreed by consensus. It also states that the CSP may nevertheless decide to deviate from this rule, if it is satisfied that the failure to pay is due to conditions beyond the control of the State Parties. So states that are in a serious internal conflict and hence are incapable of paying due to the lack of effective government, for example, could ask the CSP to deviate from this rule. This rule closely mirrors Article 19 of the UN Charter, which we all signed up to as well, that stipulates that Member States in arrears of two or more years will lose their voting rights in the UN General Assembly. This Article has been upheld in the UNGA since the coming into existence of the UN Charter in 1945.

Mr President,

Concerning the recommendations of the Management Committee on the issue of financial liquidity, we can support the gist of the proposal, but have some additional points to make:

- 1) The reason why we need to take an exceptional measure, as stipulated in paragraph 15, in order for the Treaty not to go into serious deficit, needs to be explicitly mentioned. We therefore support a clear reference to the need to fully implement Rule 8.4 which merely states that 'the uncommitted balance of appropriations from the previous financial period shall be rolled-over, thereby reducing the

States' contributions for the next financial period'. We therefore support the UK's proposals in relation to including a new paragraph explicitly mentioning this and to include it in the recommendation of paragraph 15.

- 2) We would like to ensure that the funds are returned not at once at the end of the 5 years, as that might put the Treaty into jeopardy then or force us to extend this measure. We therefore support proposals to ensure that the money will be rolled-over in **equal parts annually over a period of five years starting with the 2020 invoice**.
- 3) With regard to the Terms of Reference of the Voluntary Trust Fund, we can support it in broad terms, including its establishment, but would like to make one minor suggestion. Namely in the last bullet point of the ToR, the Head of the ATT Secretariat is referred to as a 'he'. Of course, we acknowledge the fact that the current Head is a 'he', but in terms of gender neutrality, we prefer it being replaced with 'The Head of the ATT Secretariat'.

With these amendments, we can support the recommendations. We are happy to provide them in writing to you if useful.

We hope that these proposals will bring the ATT on a healthier footing and that in the end we spend less time discussing administrative issue, so we have more time for substantive work,

even though healthy finances are the backbone of a healthy treaty.

I thank you.