



**Permanent Mission of the Independent State of Samoa
to the United Nations and other international organisations in Geneva**

Rue du Pre-de-la Bichette 1
1202 Geneva
Switzerland

Tel. No: (+41) 22 730 17 13
Fax No: (+41) 22 730 17 14
Email: samoageneva@mfat.gov.ws

9th Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP9)
National Statement to be delivered during the General Debate
21st/22nd August 2023

Madame President,

Thank you for your leadership and guidance throughout your Presidency.

We are in agreement, Madame President, that to ensure the full and effective implementation of ATT, the role of industry and the private sector, civil society, and relevant international organisations must be amplified.

Each and every member state has a role to play towards peace and security, regardless of whether we are a global superpower or a non-proliferation state. Geopolitics, continued inter-state aggressions, and the arms race should not shadow other pressing issues occurring in other parts of the world. The treaty, 10 years after its adoption, remains relevant to this day, for Small Island Developing States such as Samoa, as we continue to combat against the growing problem of gender-based violence.

Madame. President,

We draw your attention to the CEDAW General Recommendation 35 and the obligation of due diligence, whereby states must take the necessary steps to prevent human rights violations especially by corporations which they have undue influence over.

Gender-based violence is further exacerbated and facilitated by the ease of accessibility to arms, and the lack of legal and policy frameworks in place to regulate their sale and transfers.

We recognise that the importance of data collection in informing such legislation and policies, and welcome the Argentine working paper on good practices to prevent gender violence presented during the Working Group on Effective Treaty Implementation in May of this year.

Samoa further welcomes the joint working paper by Austria, Ireland and Mexico and its recommendations, in particular the exploration of synergies between ATT and OHCHR on arms transfers and human rights.

We must build a common understanding amongst member states on the root causes of gender-based violence, and work together on how the treaty be utilized to steer a path towards non-violence and concrete solutions.

To conclude, we kindly thank the ATT Secretariat and donor member states for their support provided to Samoa and our Pacific neighbours through the sponsorship programme, enabling more engagement from the Pacific and building our capacities in the universalization and implementation of the treaty.

I thank you