

S T A T E M E N T

by Ambassador Branka Latinovic – MFA of Republic of Serbia

Thank you Mr. President

Serbia has aligned itself with the statement of European Union.

In my national capacity, let me start by congratulating you and expressing our appreciation to you as a President of the Second Conference of State Parties of Arms Trade Treaty. We value very much your committed work in convening and preparation of this Conference. We share the view that all necessary effort has been made in creating conditions so that our work can be effective and productive.

Also, we would like to thank to the ATT Secretariat for efforts made in organizing and timely distribution of relevant documents.

The presence of a number of High level officials at the high level segment we perceive as a strong sign of continuation of our common endeavor to discuss main substantial matters which are on the Agenda of this Conference in order to further improve and make more stronger and effective the capacities of the ATT for its effective and full implementation as well as a work of its institutions.

We are very grateful to the United Nations, as well as other international organizations, civil societies and industries which attending at this Second Conference of States Parties.

Our appreciation are going to Switzerland also.

Mr. President,

We are gathering here to make an overview of our joint work on the implementation of the Treaty and building other capacities for reaching the objectives established under the ATT, as well as at the First Conference of States Parties, held in Cancun in August 2015.

There has been less than 2 years since the Treaty entered into force. In this period we have been faced with the number of challenges, but also we succeeded to find the adequate solution for them. On this way the State Parties have confirmed strong willingness and readiness to reach objectives and fulfill their commitments under ATT. The adoption of Rules of Procedures, establishment of ATT Secretariat, the beginning of the process of Reporting under the ATT, *inter alia*, proved that the State Parties are capable to build up the ATT structure, develop institutional capacities and start implementing Treaty in the best possible way under present conditions.

Arms Trade Treaty, as the first international legally binding instrument, regulates comprehensively conventional arms trade. One of its goals is to contribute to global security through the adoption of a specific set of measures in the sensitive areas of transfer of arms and to make further efforts regarding suppression illicit trade and prevention irresponsible transfer of arms. Since the time of negotiation and even adoption of ATT, security situation on regional and a global level has deteriorated seriously. Hence, together we are faced with new risks and threats that urged undertaking effective and timely measures.

Under those circumstances, the importance of ATT appears to be more significant than before. The Article 11 – Diversion and necessity to take adequate and timely measures to prevent such activities is of utmost importance. Hence, the full, effective and transparent implementation of the ATT could present the right answer to prevention and suppression of these challenges. Also, it is needed to work on universalization, meaning to attract the wider number of UN member states to become Parties of the Treaty. At the same time it would be desirable to make further efforts to build up and improve overall national capacities of States Parties, which need international support and assistance for compliance of the obligations under ATT.

On this occasion I would like to remind that the Republic of Serbia was among states which supported the adoption of ATT since early beginning. Mr. Ivica Dacic, First Deputy Prime Minister and the Minister of Foreign Affairs of Serbia, was among few ministers that took part at the work of First Conference, held in Cancun in August 2015. His participation at the First conference of SP demonstrated how much importance we give to the ATT.

At the same time, the Republic of Serbia is improving its legal capacities for the implementation of the obligations stemming from ATT – Article 6 (1). The Parliament of the Republic of Serbia has adopted on 5 February 2016 the Law on the implementation of international restrictive measures. The Law setting the procedures for the implementation of the international restrictive measures, establishing data bases due to additional requirements, strengthening

transparency of the process of the implementation, etc. We have currently been working on the additional instruments for the implementation of those measures. We are also considering other means, of national modalities which would contribute to further improvement of the implementation of the ATT. Serbia also adopted recently on SALW which was adopted recently. This law is fully harmonized with European Union standards.

Regarding to the issue of reporting under ATT I would like to remind that Serbia had sent answers on the ATT Baseline Assessment Questionnaire on 7 December 2015. First Annual Report was sending to the ATT Secretariat on 31 May 2016.

We join others regarding the issue to make the reporting process under ATT on more transparent way. We see this, primary as a means of strengthening confidence among States Parties

Mr. President,

The proposed Agenda for this Conference confirms the readiness of the Parties to make further steps in order of improve copliaince and the ability to make adequate contribution regarding to new tasks and challenges.

We are confident that final results of this Conference will contribute to further strengthening of sustainable and effective implementation of the Treaty. Delegation of Serbia stands ready to make active and constrictive approach in reaching this goals.

Thank you.