



**PERMANENT MISSION OF SIERRA LEONE TO
THE UNITED NATIONS AT GENEVA**

**Arms Trade Treaty 9th Conference of States Parties
Geneva, 21- 25 August 2023
Agenda Item 7: Treaty Implementation**

Statement by Sierra Leone

Madam President,

Sierra Leone congratulates you on your assumption of the Presidency of the Ninth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty. We commend you for your strong leadership, and for the successful preparatory work leading to the CSP9.

Sierra Leone aligns itself with the theme of CSP9, “The Role of Industry in Responsible International Transfers of Conventional Arms”, and with the statement of the African Group as presented by Nigeria. We support the Joint Working Paper submitted by Austria, Ireland, and Mexico on the theme of this Conference. We strongly believe that there is no better time to recognize the significant role of Industry in ensuring the treaty’s effectiveness and universalisation.

Madam President,

Since 2011, Sierra Leone was actively involved in most of the ATT negotiations and meetings leading to its adoption by the General Assembly on 2 April 2013. Sierra Leone signed the ATT on the 25th of September 2013

and ratified it on the 12th August 2014, making us one of the first 50 states that ratified the ATT before it entered into force in December 2014. We are delighted to welcome Gabon and Andora on their accession to the Treaty following the last conference, and look forward to the Gambia joining us as the only country in West Africa that is yet to ratify the treaty.

Sierra Leone has been fully committed to the principles of the ATT since its ratification. This is demonstrated by our commitment to meet all our reporting obligations since 2015, starting with an Initial Report. We are grateful to the ATT Secretariat for recognizing Sierra Leone's consistent reporting, on an annual basis, by appointing her as the Regional Champion for ATT Reporting in Africa.

Sierra Leone remains very grateful to the Voluntary Trust Fund of the ATT for supporting the implementation of ATT activities at the national level. We received our first funding in 2017 which supported the assessment of Sierra Leone's relevant legislations to ensure ATT implementation compliance, leading to the production of an ATT Assessment Report and an ATT National Action Plan. In 2019, we received support to expedite the passing into law of the "Sierra Leone Commission on Arms and Ammunition Act of 2023". This important legislation repeals and replaces the Sierra Leone National Commission on Small Arms Act of 2010 and the Arms and Ammunition Act of 2012. We take the opportunity to officially inform you that our Commission is now the "Sierra Leone Commission on Arms and Ammunition" (SLeCAA). Sierra Leone is the second West African State, after Liberia, to have reviewed its relevant laws to ensure ATT implementation compliance, for which we are grateful to the ATT Secretariat for the kind support.

Our third funding was in 2020, which supported the conduct of Capacity Building Workshops for the Implementation of the ATT at Regional Level.

150 security personnel deployed at border crossing points, drawn from the military, police, immigration, customs, Office of National Security, as well as civil society and the media, were trained on tracking arms at our border crossings.

Sierra Leone has also received support from other sources to implement ATT activities. One such source is the Organized Crime: West African Response to Trafficking Project, co-funded by the European Union and the German Federal Foreign Office, and coordinated by the German Cooperation Agency (GIZ) and implemented by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in collaboration with SLeCAA. The project has supported the training of Security Committees, the military, the police, Civil Society and the media on some of the legal instruments used in the implementation of the project, such as the ECOWAS Convention on Small Arms and Light Weapons, the UNPoA and the ATT. Currently, the project is supporting a team of parliamentarians, SLeCAA staff and representatives of the Civil Society to conduct an assessment of border communities focusing on arms proliferation and trafficking.

In conclusion, Madam President, Sierra Leone wishes to thank the ATT Secretariat, the European Union, the German Government, and all other donor agencies that generously support Sierra Leone to implement activities that ensure ATT implementation compliance.

Madam President, my delegation assures you of its full support for a successful Conference, and implementation of the programme of work of the ATT.

Thank you very, Madam President.