



SIERRA LEONE

ARMS TRADE TREATY THIRD CONFERENCE OF THE STATES PARTIES

Agenda Item 7: Treaty Implementation

12 September 2017

STATEMENT BY SIERRA LEONE

Mr. President,

I thank you for giving me the floor under this Agenda Item.

Sierra Leone is a non-exporter of Conventional Arms as it does not manufacture arms for sale, with the exception of arms manufactured locally for domestic use by traditional hunters.

Following its ratification of the Arms Trade Treaty, Sierra Leone has taken initial steps to ensure compliance with the ATT implementation.

With funds from the Arms Trade Treaty Voluntary Trust Funds, Sierra Leone has undertaken a programme of identifying gaps between her national laws and requirements of the Arms Trade Treaty with the view to ensuring that the necessary differences are domesticated into the national laws for full compliance with the Treaty.

Prior to this programme, Sierra Leone had enacted the New Arms and Ammunition Act which provides for the control of the Transfer of Small Arms and Light Weapons, Their Ammunitions and Other Related Materials, from, to or through Sierra Leone, provide for the regulation of the manufacture of Small Arms and Light Weapons: provide for institutional and operational capabilities to regulate possession and use of Small Arms and Light Weapons within Sierra Leone

Sierra Leone has also established a National Arms Registry after marking all the weapons belonging to the primary forces. This registry is used to regulate all transfers of arms in and out of the country

To date, Sierra Leone has worked closely within ECOWAS on the implementation of the ECOWAS Convention ON Small Arms and Light Weapons, their Ammunition and Other Related Materials. Sierra Leone sees a need for ECOWAS Commission to expand the Scope of the ECOWAS Convention to include Conventional Arms and will promote this development as a member of ECOWAS.

In conclusion, my delegation would like to stress the need for States Parties to be encouraged to domesticate the provisions in the Arms Trade Treaty into their national laws in order to ease the implementation of the Treaty. The Implementation Committee should give this priority.

Mr. President, I thank you.