

NATIONAL STATEMENT BY THE REPUBLIC OF SINGAPORE

9TH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO

THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

GENEVA, SWITZERLAND, 21-25 AUG 2023

Mdm President,

Distinguished Colleagues,

1. Singapore expresses our appreciation to Ambassador Seong-mee Yoon of the Republic of Korea, President of the 9th Conference of States Parties (CSP9), and Mr Dumisani Dladla, Head of the Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) Secretariat, for your work in steering the preparatory process for CSP9.

Mdm President,

2. Singapore recognises the importance of regulating international trade in conventional arms, and supports global efforts to prevent and eradicate illicit trade and diversion. In addition to our yearly participation in the CSP since 2015, Singapore has contributed to other international initiatives to combat unlawful arms trade, such as the Programme of Action (PoA) and the International Tracing Instrument (ITI) on Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW).

3. Singapore is also committed to promoting transparency in the conventional arms trade. We have regularly submitted returns to the UN Register of Conventional Arms (UNROCA) since 1993, and have been actively engaged in the Group of Governmental Experts (GGE) on the UNROCA in 2019 and 2022. Singapore will continue to work with the international community to curb the illicit trade in conventional arms.

4. Singapore reiterates our commitment to the objectives and purpose of the ATT. As a global transit and transshipment hub, we are cognisant of the important role we play in international regulatory efforts. To regulate the transfer of strategic goods and curb illicit trade in conventional arms, Singapore has a robust export controls regime underpinned by three main pieces of legislation, namely the Strategic Goods (Control) Act 2002, Regulation of Imports and Exports Act 1995, and the Arms and Explosives Act 1913. Singapore also enforces all UN Security Council arms embargoes to prevent the illicit diversion and transfer of arms to unauthorised users. We regularly review and update our export controls regime to ensure that Singapore remains fully compliant with our international obligations on arms transfers.

Mdm President,

5. As the illicit trade of conventional arms is a transnational challenge that undermines international peace and security, States must collectively work towards the eradication of such trade. At the same time, we firmly believe that every State has the sovereign right to acquire conventional arms to exercise its right to self-defence, and we cannot disregard States' legitimate interests in this regard. We must therefore strike a fine balance between fulfilling our obligations pursuant to the ATT and enabling legitimate international trade in conventional arms.

6. As the ATT enters its tenth year, Singapore remains resolute in our commitment to the treaty's objectives. We look forward to learning from States Parties' implementation experiences, and to engage constructively in the coming discussions.

Thank you.