



**South African Statement to the
Second Conference of States Parties to the
Arms Trade Treaty
22 August 2016**

Mr President,
Excellencies,
Distinguished delegates,
Ladies and Gentlemen,

At the outset allow me to congratulate you for your leadership and the hard work that you and your team have put in to prepare for this Second CSP. This is the first of many Conferences of States Parties that will be hosted in Geneva at the location of our Secretariat.

It's been one year since we last met in Mexico to take a decision that operationalised the Treaty. Now it's time to take decisions that will help with the implementation of this international instrument. To achieve full treaty implementation, we require the treaty infrastructure to be properly resourced. As we focus on treaty implementation, it is important that we don't allow the multiplicity of subsidiary bodies to detract from actual treaty implementation.

At the national level, it is imperative that the necessary support and assistance be extended to those States Parties and Signatory States that may require assistance to fulfill their obligations under the Treaty.

South Africa is supportive of the establishment of a Trust Fund but wishes to advise that the composition of the selection committee should be balanced and ensure that the representation is diverse that it extends beyond its donors.

Mr President,

Target 16.4 of the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals calls for significant reductions in illicit financial and arms flows. The ATT seeks to combat the illicit

trade in conventional weapons which exacerbates conflict and crime especially in Africa. The full and effective implementation of the ATT can tangibly contribute to promoting international and regional peace, and stability as well as to reduce human suffering, by addressing the scourge of armed violence, much too often directed at innocent women and children.

Mr President

We are grateful for your paper on universalization. For this Treaty to be truly effective we must work hard to make this Treaty a universal one. With this in mind, we welcome Guatemala to the ATT Family as the 83nd State Party. We would like to take this opportunity to call on all signatory States to ratify the Treaty as soon as possible.

Mr. President,

On the issue of reporting, South Africa wishes to caution against causing undue burdens on smaller states or states that do not export or import large quantities of arms.

Lastly we wish to once again thank you, the Bureau, the Management Committee and the Secretariat for the work that they have done to get us to the CSP2.

I thank you