



## **SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENT DURING THE THEMATIC DISCUSSION ON ATT AND SDGS AT THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY**

12 September 2017

We thank the panellists for their informative presentations on the relationship between the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the ATT.

It is noted that one of the objectives of the ATT is to prevent and eradicate the illicit trade in conventional arms and prevent their diversion. Through this objective, the ATT could have a role in contributing to implementation of the SDGs, especially target 16.4 related to a significant reduction in illicit arms flows by 2030.

In South Africa's view, 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. In addition, discussions on the SDGs will also contain a regional dimension and from the African perspective, this will include reflections on the relationship with the African Unions Agenda 2063.

However, as we have heard during the preparatory meetings and subsequent discussions, the views on role of the ATT in helping achieve the SDGs are divergent. In this regard, it is the view of South Africa that the synergies between the ATT and the SDGs need further exploration and discussion in an appropriate platform. In this regard, South Africa proposes that this topic should be included in the work of the ATT working groups.

- The working group on Treaty Implementation could, in more detail, examine the role of diversion prevention and responsible transfers in reducing illicit arms flows.

- As part of its efforts to renew the ATT narrative for better traction, the working group on Treaty Universalization could further explore the developmental and security benefits associated with joining the ATT.
- The working group on Transparency and Reporting could explore further the role of transparency in reducing illicit arms flows.

I trust that the proposal will be deliberated upon by the CSP and I reiterate that South Africa is as always ready to cooperate with all parties for the effective implementation of the ATT.