



## **SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENT ON INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE TO THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY**

14 September 2017

[check against delivery]

Mr President,

South Africa welcomes the speedy operationalization of the Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) in such a limited period of time. We also take this opportunity to recognise the good work of the VTF Chair, the Selection Committee and the Secretariat in its capacity as the administrator of the VTF. We welcome the financial support from the states that have voluntarily contributed to the VTF as well as those who have pledged their further support to the VTF during this CSP.

Mr President,

The VTF is an important international tool to support Treaty implementation, an aspect critical to the realisation of the Treaty object and purpose. In South Africa's view, the continued viability of the VTF is dependent on, amongst others, the continued financial contributions, good administration and realisable improvement in the implementation of the Treaty by States that have applied for and received the VTF grants. We take note of the initial lessons learnt from the process and the recommended interventions meant to improve the effectiveness.

Having said that, South Africa fully supports the recommendations by the VTF with respect to, firstly, the envisaged VTF outreach programme and, secondly, the mandate to consider and pursue the most appropriate option to address the capacitation of the VTF administration.

Mr President,

South Africa welcomes the report of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) on the ATT sponsorship programme. South Africa encourages the continued

use of the sponsorship programme to assist States, though we consider that there would need to be more emphasis placed on having experts attend the preparatory meetings as this is where technical issues are discussed in depth. This we believe would provide the most opportunities for experts to highlight issues of concern to their countries.

Mr President,

We are confident that as we move towards CSP4 and beyond, the benefits of the international assistance will start to become evident and as per the spirit and purpose of the Treaty these benefits will not be limited to only the recipients but will actually accrue to all.

I thank you.