



SOUTH AFRICAN STATEMENT ON TREATY IMPLEMENTATION TO THE THIRD CONFERENCE OF STATE PARTIES TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

12 September 2017

[Check against delivery]

Thank you Mr President.

My we extend our gratitude to the Co-Chairs Ambassador Whyte of Costa Rica and Ambassador Dallafior of Switzerland for their hard work and leadership in this Working Group conducted during the intersessional period.

The establishment of the Treaty Implementation Working Group by CSP2 was primarily informed by the need to create a platform for states to discuss, share experiences, challenges and practices on national measures adopted or to be adopted in implementing Treaty obligations. In this regard, South Africa welcomes the proposals put forward on the possible structure and working methods of the working group in the period leading up to CSP4.

Mr President,

South Africa supports the proposal for the establishment of a Standing Working Group on Treaty Implementation with its mandate set out in the Terms of Reference contained in Annex A of the report. We are of the view that the Terms of Reference of all ATT working groups should, except for their specific mandates, be consistent on all common aspects like composition and working methods. Our comments on the proposed Terms of Reference contained in the report currently under consideration should be considered of relevance to all the other working groups' proposed terms of reference.

Mr President,

During the intersessional period, many delegations highlighted a need for the ATT process to be enhanced for increased participation, not only by diplomats, but by arms control specialists. The use of other Treaty languages in addition to English was identified as a question to be considered by the CSP for purposes of promoting participation and to enhance the inclusive nature of the Working Groups. South Africa believes that this question deserves careful consideration by this conference as an important element across all Working Groups. The CSP4 budget estimates submitted by the Secretariat to this conference reflect costs estimates that would make it possible for this conference to discuss the language question in context.

With respect to the proposed working group priority areas of work as contained in Annex B of the report, we express support for the list of proposed priorities. In light of the Treaty's level of maturity and our understanding that Treaty implementation is long term, we express support for the prioritisation of matters (aspects) related to the establishment of national institutions and processes for Treaty implementation, starting with those foreseen under article 5 (General Implementation) of the Treaty.

I thank you