



State of Palestine
Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Expatriates

Agenda Item 6: Treaty Universalization

Thank you for giving me the floor

At the outset, the State of Palestine expresses its appreciation to the Co-chairs of the Working Group on Treaty Universalization for their excellent work. We would also like to once again warmly welcome Andorra and Gabon and congratulate them for acceding to the treaty.

Madam President,

The State of Palestine acknowledges the ongoing need to make significant progress in promoting the universalization of the treaty and preventing the unlawful trade and diversion of conventional weapons. We support all efforts to encourage more countries to join the treaty, and we are pleased to see that the number of countries that have joined has grown to 113.

However, we reiterate our concern that a number of major arms exporters and importers have not yet acceded to the treaty and we call upon them to do so without delay, as the responsible transfer of arms represents a humanitarian imperative and is an essential step towards maintaining international peace and security.

Madam President,



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The Co-Chairs' Draft Report introduces the proposed approach of implementing a multi-year framework for Treaty Universalization efforts. We recognize the potential of this approach, as it holds promise in facilitating a more personalized and effective assistance mechanism for targeted regions and states. In this regard, we emphasise the need to initially prioritize the main exporters and importers of arms, given that violations are more likely to occur in these countries.

We also recognize the specificities of regional arms flow, and recommend considering the MENA region as a priority when conducting universalization activities for ongoing processes. The State of Palestine views the "Regional Champions" proposal as a promising one, as it would offer a platform for states to exchange their experiences, particularly for those in the same region facing similar obstacles.

In closing, Madam President, we stand ready to engage with other countries towards successful implementation and universalization of ATT.

I thank you.