The Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva presents its compliments to the Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat, and in reference to the note published on the Arms Trade Treaty Website, entitled “Israel’s position regarding the Palestinian participation at CSP9”, the state of Palestine has the honor to clarify its position regarding the above mentioned note posted on the ATT website. The State of Palestine rejects the cynical attempt by Israel, the occupying power, to politicize the work of the CSP9 by bringing issues that have no relevance to its work and divert focus from the important work and challenges we all face particularly in relation to the universality of the ATT. This is especially true when it comes from a state that did not ratify the treaty and is a leading arms exporter known for its arms exports to conflict zones, including governments accused of war crimes.

The issue of Palestine's statehood and membership is not up for discussion and have been decisively resolved by the appropriate bodies. This is certainly not up to Israel, the occupying power, to determine.

Finally, as a State party to the Arms Trade Treaty, the State of Palestine will continue to uphold its provisions and contribute constructively to its objectives as an indispensable instrument for promoting international peace and security.

The Permanent Observer Mission of the State of Palestine to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva avails itself of this opportunity to renew to the Arms Trade Treaty Secretariat, the assurances of its highest consideration.