

General Debate (Switzerland's written Statement)

Mr. President, Excellences, Ladies and Gentlemen. First and foremost, I would like to express our gratitude for your stewardship of the treaty over the past year and for your strenuous efforts for taking our work under the convention forward. I would also like to commend the work of the four vice-presidents and the members of the management committee alongside of yours.

Switzerland is very pleased to see the steady development of the ATT from an idea to a robust Treaty over the past decade. My country has actively supported the Treaty from the beginning, advocated the inclusion of Small Arms and Light Weapons into the Treaty's scope and fostered the standing of International Humanitarian Law as well as Human Rights Law in the Treaty's core provisions. But we also know that a lot remains to be done. To underline what has been said by the President of the Swiss Confederation in his opening remarks earlier today: the main structures in support of the treaty have been set up. Our task is now to focus on substantive matters and tackle the challenges of implementation and universalisation. Only if a high number of States accede to the treaty and all States Parties manage to fully comply with all provisions of the treaty, we can reach its object and purpose, in particular to contribute to international peace and stability and to reduce human suffering. To this end, Switzerland remains fully committed to implementing the treaty obligations on a national basis as well as to support other States parties in implementing the treaty, as we have done so far. Additionally Switzerland continues to promote the universalization of the treaty.

M. President, We have a full agenda for our conference this week. We welcome in particular that we will be in a position, for the first time since the entry into force of the treaty, to address the issue of its implementation. We also note that we have a number of important decisions to take that are crucial for the future consolidation and relevance of the treaty. Our common objective must be to finalize and adopt them by the end of the week. Switzerland will work tirelessly towards a successful conference outcome under your guidance. Let me also thank the secretariat and its head, Mr. Dladla, for assisting you in the preparations of this CSP.

I thank you Mr. President