



Arms Trade Treaty
3rd Conference of States Parties
Geneva, 11 – 15 September 2017
Agenda Point 8: Universalization

H.E. M. Erwin Bollinger
State Secretariat for Economic Affairs SECO

Working Group on Universalization

Mr. President

First and foremost, let me thank you and ambassador Imohe for having taken forward the work of the universalization working group. Associating the past presidency to ongoing universalization efforts has been an interesting, successful and welcome development in this area.

Switzerland considers dedicated outreach activities by the President a key driver in promoting universalization. In this regard, Switzerland would like to express its sincere gratitude to you for all the steps you have taken during your presidency to promote universalization, including the trips conducted in different regions and sub-regions of the world. We hope that these efforts will be furthered.

Also, we believe that the vice-presidencies may also have an important role to play to promote the treaty in the region they represent.

Regarding the Working Group on Universalization, it should give the President the necessary forum to report on progress and to discuss relevant issues with interested States Parties and other stakeholders. We believe that the proposed framework for discussion strikes the right balance between structure and flexibility in order to allow the future President to set his own priorities within the given set-up.

Thank you, Mr. President.