

**Statement by the Delegation of Thailand
H.E. Mr. Thani Thongphakdi
Ambassador and Permanent Representative**

The Second Conference of State Parties of the Arms Trade Treaty - **General Debate**
22 August 2016, Geneva.

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Mr. President,

At the outset, my delegation wishes to join others in expressing our appreciation to you and your Bureau for facilitating the inter-sessional meetings, and to the Government of Switzerland for providing the necessary support to the Secretariat and for hosting this Conference. I also wish to commend the Secretariat for the active engagement and preparation of this meeting. Please rest assured of my delegation's full cooperation and support for the success of this Conference.

Thailand shares the view expressed by other States that illicit trade in conventional arms and their diversion to the informal market could be an aggravating factor of conflicts, violence, instability and that transnational crime networks, including those involved with terrorism, benefit much from such a situation. We also believe that the ATT could contribute significantly to the achievement of Goal 16 of the SDGs to promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development by reducing all forms of violence and illicit arms flow.

We have therefore remained actively engaged and committed to global efforts to narrow the gap and pursue universally recognised standards and practices for regulation of conventional arms.

We believe that the ATT can contribute to the further strengthening of human security by preventing illicit weapons from falling into the hands of unauthorized end-users. Responsibility lies with individual States to put in place adequate measures to ensure that international arms transfer is controlled in a transparent and effective manner, in line with treaty obligations.

Additionally, partnerships with stakeholders, such as civil societies and international organizations, should be encouraged as their expertise on these issues and in the field will be beneficial for the global arms regulatory system, including information-sharing and capacity-building measures. Awareness raising on the importance of the Treaty and its objective should also be promoted among the youth and general public.

Mr. President,

Thailand is in the process of becoming party to the ATT. Since we signed the Treaty in November 2014, an inter-agency consultation mechanism has been established, with the Office of the National Security Council as the focal agency. Work is still ongoing and my delegation will elaborate upon the progress made with the Conference when we discuss the agenda item on universalization of the Treaty on Wednesday.

On this issue, we note with appreciation the documents prepared by the Secretariat on the promotion of ATT universalization and the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund.

Thailand believes that international cooperation and assistance play a crucial role in ensuring early ratification, effective implementation as well as promoting the universalization of the Treaty. In this regard, we appreciate that the fund is accessible not only for States Parties, but also other States that have shown clear commitment to accede to the ATT. This will help countries in need to expedite their ratification process.

Regional cooperation should also be encouraged where possible. Among the members of Association of South East Asian Nations (ASEAN), we have established the ASEAN Single Window for exchange of trade related information to help assess the risk of diversion and strengthen prevention among agencies concerned. In terms of mutual legal assistance, the ASEAN Forensic Science Institute has been established in 2015 under the framework of the ASEAN Chiefs of Police (ASEANAPOL) to enhance collaboration on evidence gathering for transnational crime investigations.

In April this year, Thailand also co-hosted the Southeast Asia Regional Workshop on the Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty with the UN Regional Centre for Peace and Disarmament in Asia and the Pacific (UNRCPPD). Many good practices were shared and challenges faced discussed by participating countries which will undoubtedly be useful for our future ratification and implementation process.

Let me conclude by reiterating my delegation's readiness to further engage and participate actively in the discussions this week.

I thank you.