



**STATEMENT BY THE PERMANENT MISSION OF  
THE REPUBLIC OF TÜRKİYE**

**ARMS TRADE TREATY  
9TH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES**

**Geneva, 21-25 August 2023**

**CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY**

Thank you, Madam President,

-Since this is the first time we have taken the floor under your Presidency, we would like to thank you, facilitators and ATT Secretariat for relentless efforts throughout the preparatory process and for organizing this Conference in order to fulfill ATT's mandate and objectives.

-We would also like to express our appreciation to Excellencies, the Minister of Foreign Affairs of the Republic of Korea and the UN High Representative for Disarmament Affairs for sharing their views with us.

Madam President,

-Türkiye is among the countries most affected by illicit arms transfers and appreciates what the Arms Trade Treaty offers to enhance transparency and prevent unauthorized arms transfers.

-ATT is an important milestone in the international community's commitment and effort to fight the unauthorized arms trade and eradicate illicit trafficking.

-As you know, Türkiye actively and constructively participated throughout the negotiations of the ATT and signed it in 2013. Since then, we have been participating in the meetings of the Treaty.

-Türkiye continues to observe the objectives and principles of the Treaty and attaches importance to the exchange of best practices.

-As a dedicated supporter of disarmament, arms control and non-proliferation, Türkiye is a responsible member of the major export control regimes.

-We meticulously implement our commitments stemming from international export control regimes, including those related to conventional arms.

-Türkiye complies with all UN Security Council arms embargoes to prevent arms transfer to unauthorized users.

-We consistently contribute to other international efforts to combat the illicit trade in arms, such as “the Programme of Action to Prevent, Combat and Eradicate the Illicit Trade in Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) in All Its Aspects” and “the International Tracing Instrument”.

-Annually, Türkiye continues to submit reports about its transfers of major conventional arms and SALW to the UN Register of Conventional Arms (UNROCA), Wassenaar Agreement and the OSCE. As a contribution to transparency, we sent our 28th annual report to UNROCA last June, which could be reached by all stakeholders.

-We enjoy a robust national export control system, regulated by the relevant national laws with a functioning interagency dialogue.

Madam President,

-Diversion of conventional arms, especially excessive accumulation and uncontrolled spread of Small Arms and Light Weapons (SALW) and their ammunition to unauthorized end users, pose a major threat to peace and security as well as to the economic and social welfare.

-Terrorist groups often engage in illicit trafficking and diversion of small arms and light weapons and have access to the latest technology, as well as acquired weapons from poorly secured stockpiles and transfers from the illicit market or States themselves.

-With this opportunity, we would like to call for all States not to sell or grant weapons and their delivery means to any terrorist organizations.

-Türkiye will continue to spare no effort to counter terrorism in all its forms and manifestations and contribute to international cooperation in this field.

Madam President,

-It is essential to recognize the negative impacts of SALW and ammunition on women and children and to develop measures to mitigate the devastating consequences on vulnerable groups via fostering international and regional cooperation.

-We welcomed the open-ended working group’s final report last June, established according to UN General Assembly resolution 76/233, which recommended a set of voluntary political commitments as a new global framework for through-life conventional ammunition management.

-We would like to remind the States Parties of the importance of determining the next steps delicately in CSP and call to seek a balance between fulfilling obligations stemming from the ATT and not to impede the legitimate international trade in conventional arms.

Madam President,

-Before finalizing my statement, we would like to thank you for your efforts to increase awareness of the industry’s role in responsible international transfers of conventional arms and wish you success in your upcoming endeavors.

Thank you, Madam President.