

United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland - Industry

Firstly, let me start by thanking the Presidency for using their tenure to highlight this important issue and for their considered paper on the role of industry which makes welcome recommendations for how we can reengage with industry partners. I would also like to thank the panel speakers for their insightful and thought-provoking presentations.

We also welcome the working paper submitted by Austria, Ireland and Mexico on Responsible Business Conduct and the ATT. We consider this an important element of the broader discussion we should be having with industry, and the paper makes a number of recommendations that we feel should be considered further.

The United Kingdom believes that a closer engagement between the ATT and the arms industry would bring benefits to both. We hope that we can use the opportunity of this debate to explore how best to utilise the expertise and knowledge that industry brings, and how to support States Parties in their relationship with the industry to promote the full implementation of the ATT at national and international level. It is our hope that this focus will support the embedding of this engagement into our processes and outreach.

The United Kingdom takes its responsibility to support British business compliance with the ATT very seriously, producing and regularly updating our Export Control Compliance Code of Practice. Moreover, we have established engagement, at a national level, to both support the highest standards of compliance and facilitate information sharing.

We believe that there are also other areas where a closer working relationship would be of benefit, such as preventing diversion and enabling greater universalisation.

To build on these discussions and ensure that all opportunities are realised, the UK will, with partners, be funding a conference at Wilton Park in early 2024 focusing on the role of industry in the ATT. This conference will aim to explore industries' relationship with and priorities for the ATT, and how best we can realise opportunities from closer engagement and collaboration. It is our intention that this will support and inform our both our engagement and processes as the ATT enters its second decade. We hope to share a report of this event with State Parties during the CSP10 cycle.