

Arms Trade Treaty – CSP10

General Debate Statement

Australia

President,

When we met last August, we remarked on the tragedies brought about by Russia's illegal and immoral invasion of Ukraine. Regretfully, this year we must add the tragedy of the Hamas-Israel conflict. And in our own region, as our Foreign Minister said last month, the worsening situation in Myanmar is deeply concerning. We support ASEAN's leadership in seeking a sustainable resolution to the crisis and a pathway to stability in Myanmar.

President,

Our work here is vital, particularly in the context of the deteriorating and complex global security environment. We thank you and your team for your guidance and assure you of Australia's support, including as Vice-President of this CSP cycle.

Thanks also to the Secretariat, the Management Committee, and the Working Group Facilitators for their commitment to supporting the ATT's implementation. We were saddened to hear of the tragic passing of Secretariat member, Stefan Ott, and offer our sincere condolences.

This year we mark 10 years since the ATT's entry into force – an opportune time to ask how we can best move forward together to ensure the Treaty's effectiveness and full implementation. Australia has partnered with the Stimson Centre on a project to look back at the origins of the ATT, its performance to date, and to contemplate pathways to sustain the health of the treaty. We welcome delegations to a launch event of the Project's final report on Tuesday evening.

President,

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Australia is proud to have supported the Stimson Centre's Project which provides valuable insights into possible ways forward for the ATT. The benefits of a project conducted by an impartial think tank drawing on high-level expertise of those who were involved in the early days of the ATT are shown in the recommendations. We need to be agile to keep pace with the evolving environment and the challenges posed by new technology, and act to support effective implementation of the ATT. We encourage States Parties to consider and discuss the recommendations.

We commend the UK's initiative to mark the 10th anniversary through a Political Declaration and urge States Parties to joining in restating our commitment to responsible trade in conventional weapons.

President,

The ATT contributes to international peace and security. Ensuring strict compliance with all ATT provisions is vital for the Treaty's integrity and to fulfilling its object and purpose. Australia takes its obligations under the ATT seriously and contributes to global efforts to regulate the trade of conventional weapons. We are committed to working with States Parties to strengthen implementation of the Treaty and build capacity of those states requiring assistance to implement the Treaty.

That's why we are a longstanding donor to the ATT's Voluntary Trust Fund, which supports a diverse range of projects, from training to provision of equipment, to legislative review.

President,

Australia is gravely concerned by the flow of arms to Russia. Russia's brutal invasion of Ukraine is a gross violation of international law, including the UN Charter. We join other states in calling for all arms transfers to Russia to cease immediately.

President,

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Australia is committed to transparency and has published its ATT Annual Reports every year since the Treaty's entry into force in 2014.

We commend the Republic of Romania for its focus on interagency cooperation. Australia has a federated system of governance. Our effective overarching structures and civil service culture, as well as people to people links between departments helps create effective interagency cooperation. Our efforts on inter-agency cooperation facilitate the production of accurate, timely, and high quality reports.

Australia calls on all major arms importers and exporters to join the ATT. Increasing engagement with the ATT among our Indo-Pacific neighbours is a key priority for Australia.

We applaud the consensus outcome at the Review Conference in June for the Programme of Action on Illicit Small Arms and Light Weapons. We, the international community, worked together to achieve an effective outcome. The PoA complements the ATT's regulation of the trade of licit small arms and light weapons and highlights the ATT's important role in preventing diversion to illicit arms markets. Likewise, the political commitment on the through-life management of ammunition, provides additional synergies working in support of our common interests in effective arms control. We look forward to a similarly positive outcome here.

Finally, I would like to thank Mr Dumisani Dladla for his substantial contribution and dedication to the work of implementing and advancing the Treaty. We are indebted to him for his leadership over the past ten years.

Thank you.