

Statement by Canada
Eight Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty
Agenda Item 5: General Exchange of Views

Monsieur le Président,

Nous tenons tout d'abord à vous féliciter pour votre accession à la présidence de la huitième Conférence des États parties. Soyez assuré que vous avez l'appui total de notre délégation.

Nous tenons également à féliciter les Philippines pour leur ratification du traité cette année. Le Canada reste déterminé à universaliser le *Traité sur le commerce des armes* (TCA), et nous réitérons notre appel à tous les États qui ne sont pas encore parties au traité à y adhérer. Nous remercions la présidence pour la démarche commune menée au début de l'année en faveur de l'universalisation du traité. Nous sommes heureux d'avoir participé à cette initiative par l'intermédiaire de nos ambassades en Haïti, en Indonésie et en Mongolie.

Monsieur le Président,

L'universalisation du traité ne peut s'accompagner que d'un engagement en faveur de sa mise en œuvre effective. À cet égard, le Canada remercie

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le Centre de politique de sécurité de Genève pour le cours exécutif virtuel intitulé « *Building Capacities for Effective Implementation of the Arms Trade Treaty* » qu'il a offert cette année. Nous sommes heureux d'avoir contribué financièrement à cette initiative.

Nous sommes également heureux d'annoncer que le Programme canadien de réduction de la menace liée aux armes a reçu l'approbation nécessaire pour continuer à financer le programme de parrainage du TCA, avec une contribution de soixante-quinze mille dollars (75 000,00 \$) par année pendant trois ans.

I will now switch to English.

Mr. President,

We thank you and your team for the two workshops you have organized this year on post-shipment controls (PSCs). We would like to note that post-delivery cooperation is a complex subject – one with which many States Parties are unfamiliar. We appreciate the opportunity to learn from the experience of others and from the variety of perspectives on the

subject. We also appreciate the fact that the discussions focus on both the potential benefits and the operational requirements, as well as other challenges related to post-delivery cooperation, without prejudice to any outcome.

From Canada's perspective, we have also appreciated the opportunity to learn about the different experiences and views on PSCs, keeping in mind that we want to foster effective implementation of the ATT and not create any new commitments.

In this regard, we thank once more those who responded to the questionnaire we circulated last year. Your input is much appreciated. We have summarized the responses to the questionnaire without attributing the content to any State or organization, and we have provided our summary to the Presidency, with the intent of contributing to Germany's efforts as part of their thematic focus on PSCs. We hope that this will be useful for future ATT discussions.

Mr. President,

Regarding the worsening financial situation of the Treaty, we can only express our strong concern. We are highly disappointed that no state with payments in arrears has made a request to enter into a payment arrangement, despite the fact that we have spent the last two years investing a great deal of effort in clarifying the application of Financial Rule 8.1.d. Once more, we urge all States Parties to pay their annual contributions in full and on time. Fulfilling this legal obligation is essential to the survival of the ATT.

In this context, but also with a view to ensuring meaningful participation of all delegations in ATT meetings, we believe it will be important to carefully assess how we organize our work in the next years. Indeed, we note the increasing saturation of the disarmament calendar, which makes it more and more challenging, especially for smaller delegations, to effectively contribute to our multilateral work. We also note that the ATT has a particularly high number of days of Working Groups and Preparatory Meetings every year. Other conventions manage to carry on their work with less days of meetings and it would make sense to align the ATT with these models, noting what can be reasonably achieved with the nature of this Treaty.

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Mr. President,

Almost eight years after its entry into force, the ATT is now at a crucial point where it needs to take the necessary means to ensure its sustainability. This is key to achieving our common objectives of reducing human suffering and contributing to peace, security and stability.

Thank you.