

MAG Statement

Agenda Item 10 – International Assistance

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Thank you, Mr. President.

MAG supports the development of technical and institutional capacities, especially on weapons and ammunition management, in different parts of the world and we daily witness the importance of international cooperation and assistance in the fulfilment of the ATT's goals of maintaining security, reducing human suffering, and building peace.

We welcome the objective of exchanging practices and lessons learnt characterising the new multi-year work plan and the space given to international cooperation and assistance in it. This new arrangement can only effectively work by guaranteeing a meaningful contribution and participation of all states parties and other critical stakeholders, including regional organisations such as ECOWAS and CARICOM.

Useful experience and expertise are present at every latitude, and these should be valued to provide contextualised implementation that remains faithful to the provisions and principles of the ATT.

In our experience, multilateral frameworks work well only when they are receptive to the needs and views of all states parties and are responsive to regional and global challenges. For example, our work with CARICOM IMPACS led us to work on the link between climate change and weapons and ammunition management, presenting a working paper on the topic at the review conference of the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons last June.

Synergies and linkages between the ATT and other international instruments, such as the UN Programme of Action on small arms and light weapons and the new Conventional Ammunition Framework should also remain in the agenda of the ATT community, as also indicated on the Small Arms Survey's report on the Indo-Pacific region. Such synergies guarantee a more meaningful engagement of all states with the ATT and relieve national authorities from unnecessary burdens.

Mr President,

The VTF remains a unique instrument of international cooperation and assistance. MAG has been supporting several states that applied to the VTF. Our latest experience was in Belize, where we supported hands-on-training sessions with representatives of different agencies of the country and the ATT focal points of Bahamas and Guyana, who shared their experiences and practically applied their expertise to draft a national action plan and a control list.

At the same time, we would like to encourage states parties to think critically about the functioning of the VTF, as well as other international assistance mechanisms. Ambitious goals need to be matched with proper means and resources to achieve tangible results.

The full potential of the ATT can only be realised by continuing to develop the capacity of this treaty to act as an inclusive cooperation framework, and its ability to keep the pace with current and future challenges in a fast-changing international community guaranteeing the meaningful participation of every member of the ATT community.

I thank you, Mr President.