

Ninth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty (CSP9)

General debate

Intervention by Deputy Director General Lukáš Prokeš,

Ministry of Industry and Trade of the Czech Republic

At the outset, let me express our sincere appreciations over your endless efforts, Madam President, and those by all officeholders.

We fully align with the statement by the European Union. In national capacity, we would like to add a few remarks.

I will start by saying that – from the perspective of the Czech Republic – the Treaty has been functioning well, while crucial aspects remain the same – transparency, universalization and implementation.

Commencing with the latter, we understand that many states, which are not traditional exporters, have to build their national control systems from scratch. At the same time, implementation and enforcement are both continuous processes, which are never completed or finished. We all have to adjust our national control systems to be ready to face new challenges. As a country with a robust export control system and extensive expertise in export controls, we are willing to continue to share our experience. We appreciate exchange of implementation and enforcement practices.

To support implementation, we also regularly contribute to the Voluntary Trust Fund that remains a unique instrument in this respect.

Madam President, civil society – NGOs and industry – can bring in expertise and insight, which we as governments can use in implementing the Treaty. The multistakeholder approach can only be beneficial. The authorities of the Czech Republic exercise the policy of an open dialogue with industry to underline its responsibility in arms transfers. We are interested in post-shipment cooperation and are ready to exchange experience from its practical implementation.

Together with civil society, we are planning to reach out to our partners who are signatories or have not yet joined the Treaty to advocate for doing so and thus support ATT universalization.

Year by year, we remain concerned about the financial situation of the Treaty. It is of crucial importance that its effective functioning is preserved, and that the accumulation of arrears does not put our joint efforts at risk. We urge all States to pay their contributions in full and on time.

Last but not least, Madam President, in the ongoing unprovoked and unjustified Russian war of aggression against Ukraine, we reiterate that any transfers of arms to Russia must not be happening. We call upon all to refrain from providing Russia with any arms.

We look forward to working with you, Madam President. You can continue to rely on our support.

Thank you.