



**PERMANENT MISSION
OF THE PRINCIPALITY OF LIECHTENSTEIN
TO THE UNITED NATIONS
NEW YORK**

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CHECK AGAINST DELIVERY

FIRST CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES TO THE ARMS TRADE TREATY

GENERAL DEBATE

STATEMENT BY MR. RENÉ HOLBACH

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Mr. President,

Let me first of all thank Mexico for hosting this first Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty and for having served as the Treaty's Provisional Secretariat since its entry into force. My delegation also appreciates your personal efforts in guiding the preparatory process. We are confident that you will help steer us to a successful conclusion of this conference.

The adoption of the Arms Trade Treaty was a watershed moment – the first binding international instrument to regulate the trade in conventional weapons. If properly implemented, it will serve to save lives currently put at risk by the unregulated trade in conventional arms. It will strengthen human, as well as national security. The trade in conventional arms is now firmly placed in the context of international law, as exporting States are obliged to consider whether the conventional arms they export may be used in the commission of atrocity crimes, in the violation of international humanitarian law or human rights law, or in the commission of gender-based violence or violence against women and children. Perhaps just as importantly, reporting on arms imports and exports – which many States already undertake voluntarily – has been elevated to the level of a treaty obligation, enhancing transparency and accountability.

The large number of ratifications in the two and a half years since the Arms Trade Treaty's adoption is a testament to the importance that States attach to it. However, as impressive as it may be that 72 States have ratified the Treaty to date, our goal must be its universality. In this regard, we call on all States that have not already done so – especially arms exporting States – to ratify the Treaty.

Liechtenstein already implements the highest standards for the import, export, transit and brokering of arms. Our participation in the Baseline Assessment Project and regular reporting to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms demonstrates our commitment to transparency. We stand ready to fulfil our reporting obligations under the Treaty in line with the templates to be adopted at this Conference.

Mr. President,

In order for the achievements in the negotiation of the Treaty to be meaningful, it must be properly implemented, on the basis of the work that we do at this conference. On some topics, our work is well advanced: The Rules of Procedure, which will be adopted soon, provide for an open and transparent conduct of the CSP, and contain decision-making provisions that, while fostering consensus, do not force non-consensual decisions to be deferred *ad infinitum*. The reporting templates to be adopted later this week must reach a level of ambition that is commensurate with the importance of this treaty, while also allowing for easy reporting for small States without armed forces, such as Liechtenstein.

A number of open questions remain regarding the Financial Rules. The financial burden should not be unduly shifted through the use of minimum and maximum payments. The size of the oversight machinery to be established should also be commensurate to the “minimized structure” of the Secretariat. As for the Secretariat itself, we favor utilizing synergies through co-location in an existing international organization. As a small State with a limited diplomatic network, we would prefer the Secretariat to be located in an established center of multilateral diplomacy.

I thank you.