



Twelfth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

24 August 2026
CICG, Geneva, Switzerland

Agenda Item 4: General Debate



Delivered by Mr. Eric Gerardo E. Tamayo
Deputy Permanent Representative of the Republic of the Philippines to the
United Nations and other International Organizations in Geneva

The Philippines congratulates you, Madame President, for taking on the role of CSP12 President. We also thank the Bureau, the Working Group Chairs and the ATT Secretariat for their valuable work and effort that lead us here today.

The Philippines approaches ATT implementation as a whole-of-government responsibility, strengthened by dialogue with civil society, industry, and technical partners. As an archipelagic State situated along major maritime routes, we continue to face risks associated with diversion, terrorism, transnational organized crime, illicit trafficking, and armed violence. In this context, the ATT serves both as a humanitarian instrument and as a practical framework for strengthening national and regional security.

Our national experience has shown that effective implementation requires more than legislation. National controls must also work in practice through clear institutional responsibilities, structured and objective risk assessment processes, technical capacity to identify and classify controlled items, timely and secure information sharing among competent authorities, effective licensing, monitoring, and recordkeeping systems, and sustained engagement with industry and other actors involved in the transfer chain.



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It also means ensuring that information held by different authorities can be brought together when decisions need to be made. No single agency possesses the complete risk picture. Effective inter-agency coordination, as well as interoperability of their systems, is therefore essential to sound licensing, verification, enforcement, and reporting.

These practical considerations inform the four working papers submitted by the Philippines at the CSP₁₂.

- Our first paper addresses responsible arms transfers and the need for rigorous assessment of foreseeable use, civilian harm, diversion, conflict escalation, and violations of international humanitarian and human rights law.
- The second considers drones and other all-domain armed unmanned systems, including autonomous functions, enabling technologies, cybersecurity vulnerabilities, within the context of the obligations under the ATT.
- Third focuses on arms transfers that impact on critical civilian infrastructure and objects indispensable to civilian survival, including hospitals, schools, homes, water systems, dams, energy facilities, and nuclear plants.
- And the fourth paper develops the maritime dimensions of ATT implementation, with particular attention to lawful controls, inter-agency cooperation, diversion risks, logistical actors, and volatile border-adjacent settings, without prejudice to sovereignty, jurisdiction, maritime entitlements, or navigational rights.



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Agenda Item 4: General Debate

The papers are framed within the context of the Treaty's provisions. They propose practical, case-based exchanges grounded in Articles 6, 7, 9, 11, and 16, national control systems, and national control lists.

The Philippines likewise supports a focused five-year strategy that strengthens effective implementation, universalization, transparency, sustainable assistance, and gender-responsive practice. Its success should be measured by safer communities, stronger institutions, reduced diversion, and arms transfer decisions that uphold the Treaty's objectives and purpose.

We look forward to constructive engagement and to working with all delegations toward a practical and credible outcome.

Thank you, Madame President.