



PERMANENT MISSION OF PORTUGAL
GENEVA

Twelfth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

Geneva, 24 – 28 August 2026

General Debate

Statement by Portugal

Madam President,

Portugal aligns itself with the statement delivered by the European Union and would like to add the following remarks in our national capacity.

At the outset, allow me to congratulate you, Madam President, on taking on the role of President of the Twelfth Conference of the States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty, and to assure you of my delegation's full support.

We would also like to express our appreciation to the ATT Secretariat for its committed work in support of the Treaty and its States Parties.

Madam President,

Portugal reaffirms its commitment to the ATT and to the common standards to international arms trade that it sets out. The Treaty is a cornerstone of international arms trade and Portugal reiterates its commitment to upholding the legal obligations and political commitments of this and other regimes, including the European Union Common Position on arms exports.

My delegation would like to warmly welcome Vanuatu and Ecuador, which have acceded to the ATT since CSP11, raising the membership to 118 States Parties. Portugal encourages all countries, especially signatory States, to engage with the ATT and to ratify

the Treaty as soon as possible. The ATT's effective implementation goes hand in hand with its universalisation.

We welcome the draft Five-Year Strategy and the open, transparent process that led to a positive and balanced text. We look forward to the debate on this document later this week, with a view to endorse its elements and set the path for States Parties to adopt the strategy by CSP13. This will be an invaluable document to allow for greater focus and prioritization of the ATT's activities. Portugal welcomes the positive involvement of States Parties, Secretariat and relevant stakeholders.

The success of the Treaty is dependent on its financial sustainability and predictability. We urge all States Parties to fulfill their financial obligations on time and in full, in order to supply the Treaty structures with the necessary means to implement their mandates. Portugal is a contributor to the Voluntary Trust Fund and to Sponsorship Programme, and we encourage all States Parties in a position to do so to also consider contributing.

Madam President,

The Treaty's success is testament to the international community's commitment to a safer world. Portugal remains fully committed to this goal and to continuing to uphold and promote the ATT.

Thank you.