

TRINIDAD AND TOBAGO

UNITED NATIONS ARMS TRADE TREATY 12TH CONFERENCE OF STATES PARTIES

SUBJECT: Agenda Item 11 – International Assistance – Voluntary Trust Fund

Mr. Vice President, Excellencies, distinguished delegates,

Trinidad and Tobago is pleased to share its experience in implementing the Arms Trade Treaty Voluntary Trust Fund (VTF) project, “Development of an Integrated Data Management IT System for Stockpiling Management in the Private Sector.” The project demonstrates how targeted ATT assistance can translate Treaty commitments into practical and sustainable national capabilities.

Following a 2020 assessment that identified inefficiencies in firearms data management, Trinidad and Tobago, through the Strategic Services Agency, Ministry of Homeland Security, as National Point of Contact for the ATT, pursued the project to strengthen national firearms controls, reduce diversion risks and improve reporting, traceability and oversight.

With support from the VTF, Trinidad and Tobago successfully implemented an important first phase of the project: the digitisation of the application and approval processes for Provisional Licences and Firearm User Licences. The Trinidad and Tobago Police Service has operationalised an online portal that provides a centralised and auditable system for managing applications and associated licensing information. The system introduces automated workflows, digital records, application tracking and audit trails, improving administrative efficiency, data management, transparency and accountability.

This represents a significant advancement in our national firearms control architecture. By improving the availability, quality and accessibility of firearms licensing information, the system supports more effective risk assessment, oversight and decision-making, while strengthening our capacity to collate timely and accurate data for national purposes and ATT reporting.

Importantly, the VTF-supported phase forms part of a broader and continuing national effort. Building on the foundation established with the VTF, the Government of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago continues to fund the development of the system, with additional functionality being developed for import and export processes, dealer transactions, disposal workflows and associated reporting. These enhancements will progressively strengthen oversight across the firearms lifecycle and improve the ability of competent authorities to identify risks and prevent diversion.

Proposed legislative amendments and strengthened operating procedures complement these developments and are intended to further align our national firearms control framework with ATT

obligations. Enhanced inter-agency collaboration will also support the effective management and use of firearms information across the national control system.

Mr. Vice President, Trinidad and Tobago expresses its sincere appreciation to the ATT Voluntary Trust Fund and our other international and regional implementing partners for their continued support. VTF assistance enabled us to address an identified national capability gap and establish a foundation for continued improvement in our firearms control framework. Our experience demonstrates the value of international assistance that responds to national priorities while building sustainable institutional capacity.

We recognise that effective implementation is a continuous process. Trinidad and Tobago therefore remain committed to strengthening our legislative, technological and institutional capabilities towards addressing those remaining vulnerabilities within the national control framework.

We also stand ready to share the lessons learned and good practices from this project with other State Parties, particularly our Caribbean partners, through peer-to-peer exchanges and capacity-building initiatives. In doing so, we hope that our experience contributes to strengthening national implementation and wider regional cooperation under the Treaty.

Trinidad and Tobago looks forward to continued cooperation with the ATT community in advancing responsible arms controls, preventing diversion and contributing to greater regional and international security.

I thank you.