



Twelfth Conference of States Parties to the Arms Trade Treaty

27 August 2026
CICG, Geneva, Switzerland

Agenda Item 11: International Assistance



Delivered by Atty. Baltazar Asadon
Deputy to the Special Envoy on Transnational Crime

Madame President,

The Philippines thanks the Chair of the Voluntary Trust Fund Selection Committee and the ATT Secretariat for their reports. We speak from the perspective of a beneficiary State, an implementing partner, and a contributor to the Fund.

VTF support has enabled the Philippines to move from Treaty commitment toward practical implementation. Through successive projects implemented with civil society partners, national and subregional activities have strengthened awareness, inter-agency coordination, weapons-lifecycle analysis, and discussion of import, export, brokering, transit, trans-shipment, transparency, and reporting. These processes bring together agencies whose mandates intersect, but whose information and procedures may otherwise remain fragmented.

The Philippines has also benefited from technical cooperation through the EU P2P ATT Programme, which has delivered vital national training workshops on licensing, risk assessment, and advanced commodity classification for our border control and regulatory agencies. Looking ahead to our scheduled technical capacity-building sessions in 2027, we remain focused on institutionalizing these advanced classification standards and licensing assessments to further bridge domestic capability gaps.



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The Philippines welcomes efforts to update the VTF Terms of Reference and Administrative Rules and supports continued outreach leading to CSP₁₃. We encourage procedures that remain rigorous yet accessible to States with limited administrative capacity and resources. Assistance should also be capable of addressing emerging and context-specific needs.

We encourage stronger matching of needs with expertise, regional peer learning, and coordination among the VTF and other assistance mechanisms.

The Philippines' voluntary contribution to the Fund reflects our belief that States can be both recipients and contributors to a shared implementation system. And as part of our commitment to the Treaty, we look forward to contributing to the VTF in a more involved role for the CSP₁₃ to CSP₁₄ cycle.

The Philippines remains fully open to sharing its national experiences and regulatory best practices, and we look forward to working collaboratively with the international community to foster a transparent and secure global arms trade.

Thank you, Madame President.