



Statement delivered by South Africa on International Assistance at the Twelfth Conference of State Parties (CSP12) , CICG Geneva, Switzerland 24 to 28 August 2026

Thank you, Chair.

South Africa welcomes the report of the ATT Secretariat on the implementation of the ATT Sponsorship Programme for the 2025/2026 period and expresses its appreciation to the Secretariat, the Management Committee and all donor States for their continued support of this important mechanism. The report demonstrates the significant role that the Sponsorship Programme plays in facilitating the participation of developing States in ATT meetings and processes, thereby strengthening the inclusivity, transparency and effectiveness of the Treaty.

South Africa notes with appreciation that the Programme has enabled sponsored delegates to participate in Working Group meetings and Conferences of States Parties, contributing to broader regional representation and more informed discussions on Treaty implementation. We believe that meaningful participation by developing countries remains essential for advancing the objectives of the ATT and promoting its universalization.

We commend those States that have made voluntary contributions to the Sponsorship Fund and encourage all States Parties that are in a position to do so to contribute to the Programme in order to ensure its sustainability and predictability. The continued availability of sponsorship support is critical to maintaining balanced geographical representation, building capacity and strengthening knowledge and enabling broader engagement from developing regions, particularly Africa.

South Africa welcomes the transparent administration of the Programme in accordance with the Administrative Guidelines adopted by States Parties and reiterates the importance of continuing to ensure fairness, impartiality and efficiency in the selection process for sponsored participants.

We further encourage continued efforts to maximise the impact of available resources and to ensure that sponsorship opportunities contribute to strengthening national capacities for ATT implementation, reporting, international cooperation and assistance.

In conclusion, South Africa supports the continued operation of the ATT Sponsorship Programme and reaffirms its importance as a practical tool for promoting inclusive participation, enhancing Treaty implementation and advancing the universalization and long-term effectiveness of the Arms Trade Treaty.

Thank you, Chair.