



Statement delivered by South Africa Universalisation on Chair's Report to Twelfth Conference of State Parties (CSP12), CICG Geneva, Switzerland 24 to 28 August 2026

Thank you, Chair.

The ATT has made its global mark as a framework that advances international standards in the trade of conventional weapons and contributing to global peace and security. The Working Group on Treaty Universalization remain an integral part of the goal. South Africa therefore welcomes the report of the Co-Chairs of the Working Group on Treaty Universalization and commends the efforts undertaken during the intersessional period to advance universal adherence to the Arms Trade Treaty. We emphasise that universalisation remains essential to strengthening the effectiveness, legitimacy and global impact of the Treaty.

We welcome the progress made since CSP11, including continued outreach activities by States Parties, regional organisations, civil society and the ATT Secretariat, as well as the accession and ratification efforts undertaken by non-States Parties. We particularly welcome Ecuador's ratification of the Treaty and encourage all Signatory States and States that have not yet joined the ATT to take the necessary steps towards accession and ratification.

South Africa supports the implementation of the WGTU Workplan on ATT Universalisation and agrees that structured, targeted and regionally focused engagement remains one of the most effective means of promoting adherence to the Treaty. Regional organisations, regional champions and peer-to-peer exchanges can play an important role in addressing concerns, sharing implementation experiences and encouraging broader participation in the ATT.

We further support the emphasis placed on sharing national experiences relating to ratification, accession and domestication processes. Such exchanges provide practical examples that can assist States considering joining the Treaty and help demonstrate that implementation can be tailored to national circumstances while remaining consistent with ATT obligations.

South Africa believes that universalisation efforts should continue to be linked to practical implementation support, capacity-building and international cooperation. Assistance available through mechanisms such as the Voluntary Trust Fund, as well as bilateral and regional initiatives, can help address capacity constraints that may hinder accession and effective implementation.

We also encourage all ATT stakeholders to enhance information-sharing and coordination regarding planned universalisation activities in order to maximise impact, avoid duplication of efforts and ensure that outreach initiatives respond to the needs and priorities of recipient States.

In conclusion, South Africa reaffirms its commitment to the universalisation of the Arms Trade Treaty and supports the recommendations contained in the WGTU Chair's Report. We remain convinced that broader participation in the Treaty will contribute to more responsible international arms transfers, the prevention of diversion and illicit trafficking, and the promotion of international peace, security and stability.

Thank you, Chair.