



Statement delivered by South Africa under the General Debate at the ATT Twelfth Conference of States Parties (CSP12), CICG Geneva, Switzerland 24 to 28 August 2026

Thank you, Chair.

At the outset, South Africa commends the excellent cooperation of the ATT Secretariat, the Management Committee, Working Group Chairs and all stakeholders and for their work undertaken during the intersessional period. This statement aligns itself with the African Group statement delivered by the distinguished delegation of Sierra Leone.

South Africa aligns itself with the objectives and principles of the Arms Trade Treaty and reaffirms its commitment to the effective implementation of the Treaty, the promotion of responsible international arms transfers, and the prevention of the illicit trade and diversion of conventional arms.

South Africa welcomes the continued progress made under the Treaty framework, particularly the work undertaken by the various Working Groups on effective treaty implementation, transparency and reporting, and treaty universalization. We believe that these processes contribute significantly to strengthening implementation, fostering cooperation, and enhancing confidence among States Parties. We further welcome the growing participation in ATT processes and congratulate Vanuatu and Ecuador on becoming state parties. All States that have not yet joined the Treaty are encouraged to consider ratification or accession.

South Africa underscores the importance of maintaining national control systems that are consistent with the obligations of the Treaty while considering national circumstances. We support practical implementation measures, capacity-building initiatives, and voluntary guidance tools that assist States Parties in fulfilling their obligations. In this regard, we welcome discussions aimed at strengthening inter-agency cooperation, improving risk assessment methodologies, and enhancing efforts to prevent diversion.

For our part, South Africa continues to attach great importance to transparency and reporting. We encourage all States Parties to fulfil their reporting obligations in a timely manner and to make use of available assistance mechanisms where necessary. Improved reporting compliance contributes to transparency, accountability and confidence-building, which are essential for the Treaty's long-term credibility and effectiveness.

We further welcome efforts to strengthen ATT universalisation and believe that regional engagement, peer-to-peer exchanges and practical implementation support remain critical tools in encouraging broader adherence to the Treaty.

South Africa also expresses its appreciation to those States that continue to support the ATT Sponsorship Programme and the Voluntary Trust Fund. These mechanisms play an important role in facilitating the participation of developing countries and supporting effective implementation of Treaty obligations.

South Africa supports the adoption of the proposed agenda, programme of work, procedural arrangements and the continued conduct of the Conference and emphasise the importance of preserving the consensus-based nature of decision-making within the ATT process. Such an approach strengthens ownership, promotes inclusivity and contributes to balanced outcomes that enjoy broad support among States Parties.

As we approach the development of the ATT's future strategic direction, South Africa welcomes the development of the first strategic framework for the Treaty as it represents an important milestone in its evolution. We support the strategy as forward-looking framework that can help guide our collective efforts to strengthen implementation and have the greatest impact.

In conclusion, South Africa reaffirms its commitment to the objectives and principles of the Arms Trade Treaty and looks forward to working constructively with all delegations during CSP12 to advance responsible arms transfer controls, prevent diversion, strengthen international cooperation, and promote international peace and security.

I thank you, Chair.